

Accumulate Evaluation 2020

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Introduction and context

About Accumulate

Accumulate, [The Art School for the Homeless](#), uses creativity to empower and increase the wellbeing and mental health of young people who are homeless, living in hostels and temporary accommodation, or with experience of homelessness. It works with hostels and housing organisations to deliver workshops in visual art, photography, fashion and other creative disciplines. Accumulate delivers its activities in partnership with leading cultural and creative institutions including Tate, BBC, The Guardian and Barbican. The work of Accumulate's participants is showcased in an annual exhibition. Accumulate also provides scholarships for its participants to progress their creative education and embark on the one-year Access to Higher Education course at Ravensbourne University London.



Homelessness, the pandemic and the arts

2020 was a disruptive year for everyone, but especially those at risk of homelessness. It is notoriously difficult to measure homelessness. However, we can be sure that the shock to the economy and social fabric of the country brought about by the pandemic and lockdowns has increased the likelihood of people becoming isolated, unwell, neglected, stressed, unemployed and homeless in London.

An unprecedented effort has been made to address the acute needs of rough sleepers. The Mayor's office reports that almost 1,700 rough sleepers were accommodated in hotels arranged by the GLA and supported by rough sleeping charities since March 2020. At the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the GLA worked to make available 14 hotels at any one

time for over 1,400 people. As well as a safe place to self-isolate, hotel guests received all their meals and any medical care as required, along with other types of immediate support.

The visible homeless who are sleeping rough on the streets are just the tip of the iceberg. Those who are homeless include people in temporary accommodation like hostels, B&Bs and refuges. Young people are especially vulnerable to homelessness caused by family breakdown, abuse and neglect, mental health difficulties and financial distress. Young people have been especially disadvantaged by the policies designed to suppress the Coronavirus pandemic. Services have been suspended or constrained and the infringements on people's liberties have been especially challenging for those with fragile mental health.

Making art and being generally creative is widely understood to be a vital mechanism for improving health and wellbeing, making friends and connections, building skills and capacities, as well as the sheer joy that comes from self-expression. It has never been more important. Accumulate has worked hard to deliver their vital services in a way that provides continuity of contact in a safe and impactful way.

How Accumulate makes a difference

The overall aims of Accumulate are to:

- empower and increase the wellbeing of young people who are affected by homelessness
- reduce negative stereotypes and misunderstanding about people experiencing homelessness
- help alleviate the ill effects of homelessness on individuals and communities

Accumulate does this through providing high-quality meaningful, structured and purposeful creative activities that culminate in a focused goal and celebration. This was the mission of Accumulate prior to Covid and it has become even more important through the pandemic.

How Accumulate evaluated activity in 2020

This report is based upon the following sources of data:

- Project documentation – reports to funders, photographs, videos, blog posts, etc.
- Participant feedback – surveys completed by some of the people taking the Accumulate courses
- Media coverage – write-ups of events and activity in newspapers, magazines and online
- Project outputs – the photographs, books, podcasts, and other creative work generated by learners themselves
- Ad hoc feedback – correspondence between participants and Accumulate staff sent during or after the courses
- Reflective interview with Marice Cumber: Director and Founder

Activity in 2020

The year began in spectacular style with a catwalk show to celebrate the culmination 'No Judgement' – a fashion project began in late 2019 and discussed in last year's evaluation report.



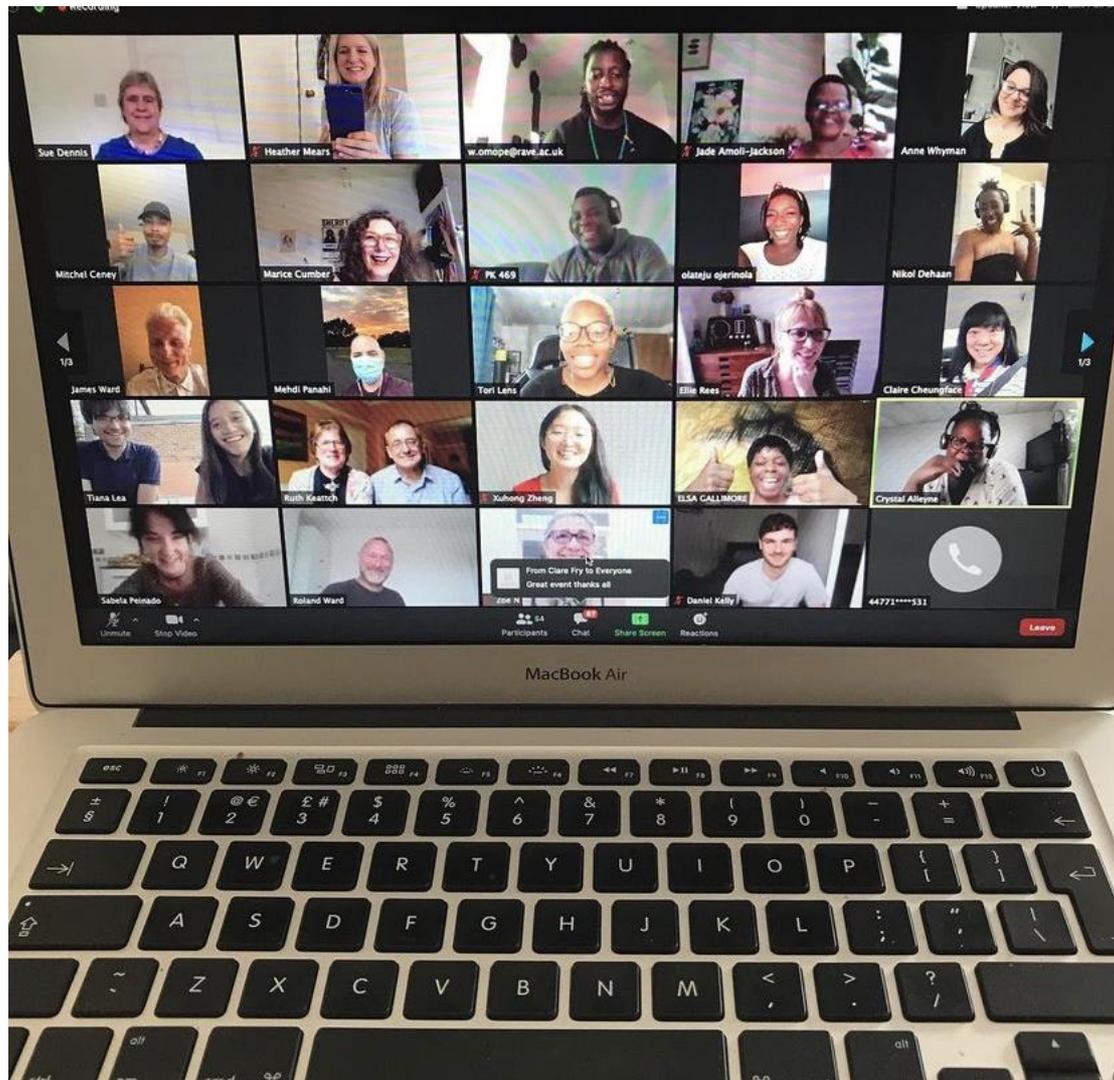
Lawyer from Briffa law firm modelling an outfit designed by an Accumulate participant made from Ted Baker surplus stock. No Judgement fashion show was held at the Briffa offices during London Art Fair week.

By late March it was clear that the Coronavirus pandemic and government lockdowns were going to cause huge disruptions in the lives of people experiencing homelessness and the activities that Accumulate deliver.

Very quickly, Marice and the Accumulate team of supporters and volunteers re-engineered their ways of working to continue to deliver their services over digital platforms or via safe and socially distanced means. The regular Accumulate curriculum of learning went ahead but in a modified form to take account of the pandemic and the government restrictions that were imposed at various points in the year. Maintaining an impactful programme of work that was progressive and rigorous was not easy given the added challenges faced by people (many of whom live with fragile mental health) who were forced to live alone for weeks without visitors or outside activities.

Like other parts of the schedule, the Accumulate 'end of year show' moved online this year. Nonetheless it was a genuine reason for celebration, with readings from the Book of Homelessness, an inspiring talk from Jay Blades (presenter of BBC hit television programme The Repair Shop), and the awarding of six scholarships to Ravensbourne University London

(with further support for those scholars thanks to newly developed mentorships with Hawkins\Brown architecture practice).



The Accumulate Showcase 2020 via Zoom

Two new projects in 2020 demonstrate the quality and leadership of Accumulate during a time of crisis: the Book of Homelessness and the Accumulate Art Kits. The phenomenal success of these projects (receiving high praise and expanding as a result) shows the agility and commitment of Accumulate paying off for its participants and supporters.

This short report documents the activity that took place in 2020 and gathers some reflections on how Accumulate was able to respond with energy, agility and compassion during this very challenging year.

Some headline stats:

There were 39 unique learners who made 77 course registrations with a 76.5% completion rate across the curriculum offered in 2020. The remaining learners attended part of the courses or withdrew altogether after registration.

17 learners progressed onto other courses within Accumulate/Greenwich Digital Skills (community adult learning provision provided by Ravensbourne University London).

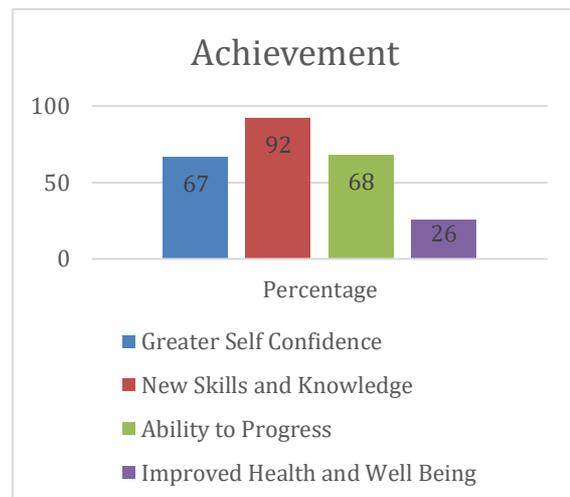
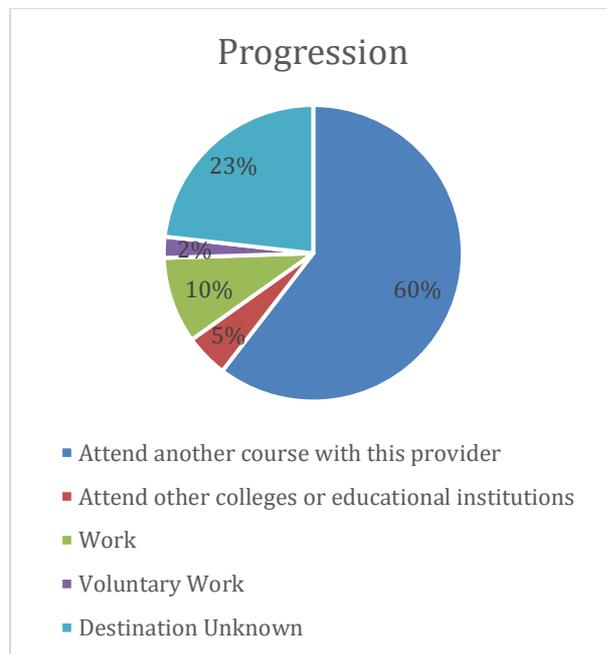
Learners that completed feedback forms reported that:

- 100% felt safe
- 95% felt they were able to contribute
- 100% felt they were part of the group
- 95% felt they received support guidance throughout the course

94% of learners that completed the feedback reported that they had achieved the goals they set for themselves.

After attending the courses:

- 67% reported that they had achieved higher self confidence
- 92% reported that they had achieved and improved new skills and knowledge
- 26% reported an improved health and wellbeing
- 68% reported an ability to progress to the next step



When asked what learners intended to do after their course had finalised:

- 60.4% intended to attend another course with the same provider
- 9.4% intended to work
- 4.7% intended to attend other college or education institutions
- 2.3% intended to do voluntary work
- 23.2% did not know what they would do next

Learners rated the courses as follows:

- 65% rated the courses as excellent
- 35% rated the courses as good

Learners rated the teaching quality as follows:

- 63.5% rated the courses as excellent
- 34% rated the courses as good
- 2.5% rated the courses as satisfactory

In reviewing the art kits, participants:

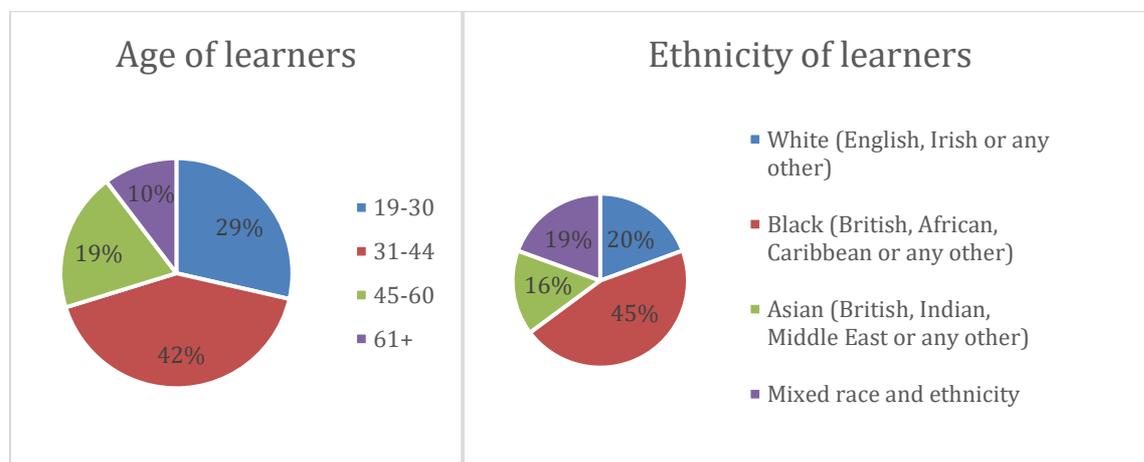
- 84.6% rated the quality of the materials as high or very high
- 38.4% said it made them feel 'a lot less isolated' during lockdown
- 38.4% said the art kits improved their mood by 'a lot'

About the course participants

The demographics of the 77 learners in 2020 was as follows:

39% of total learners were male and 61% were female

44% reported experiencing any disability or mental health condition



Project Partners and Funders in 2020

The 2020 Accumulate calendar

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
General Accumulate activity	Fashion show "No judgement" at London Art Fair					Smartphone photography course			Climate Change workshops	Hawkins\Brown mentoring programme			
	Sound Judgement follow-on podcast course and Radio Station for the Homeless						Youth Culture Your Voice	Haringey Red House workshops				Barbican community residency programme	
Book of Homelessness	Visual Story Telling workshops						Accumulate End of Year Show via Zoom			Publication			
Art Kits	Delivery of kits to hostels in London												
					AHMM Architecture workshop						AHMM Architecture workshop		
	Accumulate Visual Design (self-portraits, mask-making, 100 sketch challenge, etc)												
Lockdowns in London			Lockdown 1									Lockdown 2	

Project: Art Kits in Lockdown

Primary funders: Crisis, London Funders, RSA, Nesta, Adobe Foundation, AHMM architects, Kalonge Foundation, Land Aid.

The first Accumulate Art Kit launched at the start of lockdown on 23rd March. It was sent to the Accumulate participants who had been attending the weekly Book of Homelessness workshops and it got a really positive reaction. The participants were excited to get something akin to a special gift in the post. Because of how the Art Kit was curated and put together, along with the design of the kit itself, it made them feel valued and an important part of Accumulate and motivated them to engage. The Accumulate Art Kits included collage, animation, felt making, tapestry, self-portrait and drawing activities.



An Accumulate Art Kit with snacks included

WhatsApp was used to keep in touch with the group, coupled with Skype and Zoom for workshops throughout the period. The team also created step-by-step films online and every kit also had full instructions so the participant could take part in their own time. The creative workshops meant far more than just a weekly activity for the Accumulate participants. They represented a community, friendships, purpose and learning for people

who were very vulnerable, at risk, isolated and living in very dire situations. Rather than cancel these workshops when the pandemic hit, Accumulate pivoted very quickly and decided to move to online activities. They also sent out Art Kits with all the materials and instructions for specific art activities to all the participants so that creative workshop activity could continue remotely and through external funding the project expanded to hostels and emergency accommodation across London. Community volunteers delivered these to the hostels during the most intense periods of lockdown.

Through their involvement in the Accumulate Art Kits the participants could continue to engage, belong and progress on their creative learning journey and be part of the Accumulate creative community. The feedback from participants and hostel managers reveals how the Art Kits gave people something structured and creative to do, and that many looked forward each week their arrival.

Media coverage

[The Big Issue](#) – ‘Accumulate are sending 500 art kits a week to homeless people in London’



The screenshot shows a news article from the website bigissue.com. The article title is "Accumulate are sending 500 art kits a week to homeless people in London". The sub-headline reads: "The homeless art charity have had to put workshops on hold due to Covid-19, but that hasn't stopped them from helping people express themselves". Below the text are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, Email, Pinterest, and a plus sign. An image shows a red gift bag with a colorful cross-stitch kit. The article is by Liam Geraghty, dated May 19, 2020. The main text of the article states: "The coronavirus lockdown has not stopped homeless arts charity Accumulate from giving people on the margins the chance to get creative. Dubbed 'The Art School for the Homeless', Accumulate had a busy year planned, with the first-ever radio station operated by homeless people in London." The article title is repeated at the bottom of the screenshot.

bigissue.com

Accumulate are sending 500 art kits a week to homeless people in London

The homeless art charity have had to put workshops on hold due to Covid-19, but that hasn't stopped them from helping people express themselves

f t e p +



By Liam Geraghty [@LGeraghty23](#) May 19, 2020

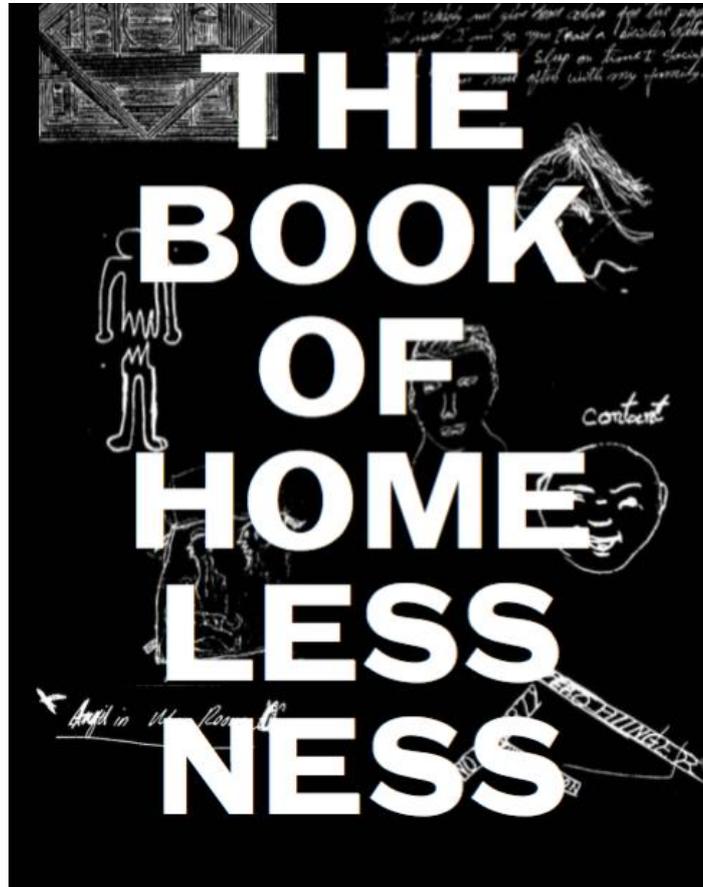
The coronavirus lockdown has not stopped homeless arts charity Accumulate from giving people on the margins the chance to get creative.

Dubbed "The Art School for the Homeless", Accumulate had a busy year planned, with the first-ever radio station operated by homeless people in London.

Accumulate Art Kit Coverage in The Big Issue

Project: Book of Homelessness

Primary funder: Crowdfunded



Front cover of The Book of Homelessness

The Accumulate Book of Homelessness project started in January with a series of writing, drawing and illustration workshops that were held at the Autograph gallery in Shoreditch. These workshops enabled the Accumulate participants (who came from hostels, shelters and temporary accommodation) to explore their own narratives and build up the skills and confidence to communicate their stories and experiences visually and in the written form.



A Book of Homelessness creative workshop

The group very quickly began to bond and form a community. Every single participant was eager to tell their story and how it affected who they were. The stories that they produced are personal, raw and honest. They are of pain, of abuse, of dysfunction, of families, of war, of rejection, of misplaced love, of overcoming difficulties and of fighting and succeeding.



Image by Ria Wallace from The Book of Homelessness



WHEN HOMELESS I ENDED UP SPENDING A LOT OF TIME AT MCDONALD'S. FREE INTERNET, CHEAP FOOD - BUT I WASN'T HERE FOR ANY OF THAT. I'D LEFT MY GIRLFRIEND THE DAY BEFORE. IT'S 7.30AM AND I'M WAITING FOR A DRUG DEALER.

Image by Mitchel Ceney from The Book of Homelessness

The Book of Homelessness was published in October 2020.

It has been described as ‘the world's first-ever graphic novel created by people affected by homelessness’.

All profits from sales of the book were shared with its authors and Accumulate, so this project has continued to support creative workshops for people who are homeless. Because sales were so impressive, Accumulate have been able to provide a fully funded scholarship for someone to progress their creative education and study on the Access to Higher Education course at Ravensbourne University London and so the creativity of one group of people who are homeless will change the life of another homeless person by enabling them to study and progress their creative education.

Media coverage

[The Guardian](#) – ‘This is our truth: the world's first graphic novel made by homeless people’
[It's Nice That](#) – ‘The Book of Homelessness is the first graphic novel made by homeless creatives’

[The Reuters Foundation](#) – ‘Something to be proud of: UK graphic novel highlights homeless’
[Creative Review](#) – ‘Experiences with homelessness retold in graphic novel form’

[The Big Issue \(interview with Mitchell Coney\)](#) – ‘Creating a graphic novel transformed the life of a formerly homeless artist’

[Dezeen](#) – ‘The Book of Homelessness is the first graphic novel created by homeless people’



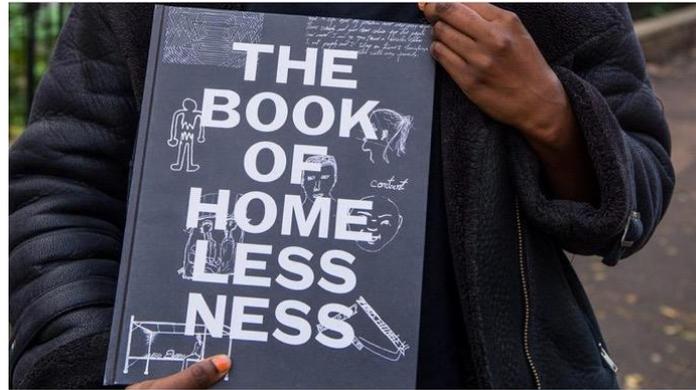
The image is a screenshot of a news article on The Guardian website. At the top, there is a dark blue navigation bar with 'My account' and a 'Subscribe' button. Below this is a menu with categories: News, Opinion, Sport, Culture, Lifestyle, and a 'More' button. Underneath the menu, there are sub-categories: UK, World, Business, Coronavirus, Football, and More. The main content area features a graphic illustration of a person's face in a dark, watery environment with the word 'HELP' written in red above it. Below the illustration is the article title: 'Homelessness "This is our truth": the world's first graphic novel made by homeless people'. The subtitle reads: 'A new crowdfunded book aims to challenge perceptions of homelessness - and change the lives of the people who wrote it'.

Homelessness
"This is our truth": the world's first graphic novel made by homeless people

A new crowdfunded book aims to challenge perceptions of homelessness - and change the lives of the people who wrote it

The Guardian, November 2020

Feature on The Book of Homelessness in The Guardian



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Liked by pavement_magazine and 76 others

accumulate_idn We received the most wonderful message today about Book of Homelessness all the way from Philadelphia, USA. Sent by the incredible team at @fridgesandfamily and we just had to share it with you.

'We at Fridges & Family just want to say that "The Book of Homelessness" was a big motivation for us starting our community fridge. I ordered the book and felt moved to do something for the people around us. We look forward to making an impact and being an inspiration for other projects just like you were to us.'

Instagram message about the impact of The Book of Homelessness on a community in Philadelphia

Other Activities in 2020

Marice and the team kept busy through 2020, delivering projects for the Accumulate cohort (some delivered digitally or remotely, meaning people tended to dip in and out according to their schedules and access to technology) as well as new sets of learners. Some highlights include:

Activity: AHMM Every Day Object City architectural drawing workshop (May)

With Covid lockdown, plans for an architecture workshop led by volunteers from AHMM moved from in-person at Autograph Gallery to WhatsApp. At that time some Accumulate participants did not have access to a laptop or tablet. Luis Torres from AHMM made short videos demonstrating three steps transforming everyday objects into an architectural drawing. Participants were asked in advance to gather objects they wanted to draw. They

were then sent written instructions with illustrated examples. The videos were added to WhatsApp at set intervals during the session with participants photographing each stage of their drawings on their phones and adding them to the WhatsApp group. During the session there was a real sense of connection with everyone undertaking the same task at the same time – although in different locations.

Activity: Haringey Red House C-19 creative project (August)

Accumulate ran five art workshops at the Red House hostel (a sixth was planned but was cancelled due to poor weather) for residents and staff. These were not the regular cohort of Accumulate students and had particular needs associated with living at an emergency hostel during Covid as part of a temporary accommodation initiative for rough sleepers. The workshops covered digital photography and graffiti art skills. At the end of the project the 14 residents and 8 members of accommodation staff had created a mural on the side of the building. Those responsible were very proud of their work. During the sessions, a sense of unity was created, and people were brought people together (residence staff joined in and there was a good parity between staff and residents during the project and for this time, they were on the same ‘level’). The staff felt that it was positive to bring in new people into the project from outside – it showed the residents that people cared. It was also one of the rare chances for activity to take place face-to-face during the Covid lockdowns.



Graffiti workshop at Red House Emergency Accommodation

Activity: Create Change Workshops (September)

Funded by Nesta and based at an Accumulate ‘pop up’ at the Union Chapel in Islington. The Accumulate learners gathered as a group to collectively discuss the climate change crisis and its impact, as well as the way in which poverty directly affects the choices you can make from an environmental point of view. Using art, illustration, poetry and creative writing, the group built up a creative expression of opinions and points of view. Working with an amazing group of tutors (Tori Taiwo, Williamz Omope and Liv Wynter), the group was able to form a creative community with the freedom to discuss ideas of how to create change.



Climate Change Workshop

Activity: Barbican Residency (October).

This comprised three workshops and site visits in which the Accumulate cohort responded to various exhibitions and works being shown in the Barbican. There was a spoken word session, one on mono-printing and another on drawing with collaborations formed with Rosetta Arts and Headway London. The positive experience of all the staff involved has resulted in Accumulate becoming a 'Community in Residence' at the Barbican.



Community in Residence workshop at The Barbican

Activity: AHMM introduction to architecture workshops (November)

The first workshop started with an introduction to perspective in three short steps with participants encouraged to photograph and share their work after each step. Participants were shown examples of architectural collage and then given the challenge to use collage to design their ideal lockdown space/ place using architectural and design magazines sent out in advance from AHMM to each participant within art kits. The second session began with the AHMM modelmakers showing examples of architectural models of all scales and explaining how architects use models within the design process. The modelmakers then introduced the modelmaking kit sent to each participant. It contained pre-cut card and other materials as well as 3D printed objects 1:20 scale including human figures, appliances and furniture. The modelmakers demonstrated how to make the base template and participants then split into three separate breakout groups with the brief to 'make a model of your ideal lockdown space'.

What people say about working with Accumulate

This section presents a few examples of the feedback that is typical from learners and project partners.

What learners say:

'I have achieved time keeping, how to design a layout and practical things like communicating my ideas and not judging myself, so being more aware of my skills. I've been able to build confidence and learn design.' Amalia – Accumulate Visual Storytelling

'I think I've done well. I'm proud of my work and thankful for the opportunity to tell a bit of my personal story.' Shianne – Accumulate Visual Storytelling

'I have acquired a vast improved knowledge on mindset and theory behind photography to start a professional smartphone photography career.' Ola – Accumulate Smartphone Photography

'The tutor made sure we know what we're doing and also help us to achieve our goals. Keep helping people to meet their goals!' Jade – Accumulate Podcasting

'I have definitely improved recording my own voice and putting all the content together. I think I did really well on the course, and I am so excited to continue on working this in the future.' Anne – Accumulate Podcasting

'The best thing I've done in a year and a half; it's stopped me running back to my room to drink; we should have had this in rehab; I can't wait to show my support worker what I've done, loved it. It helped fill the days. It also brought everyone together. Wouldn't change anything.' Laura – Red House Resident, Haringey

What project partners say:

'It was lovely to see everyone from Accumulate getting involved and bouncing off each other's energy even when adapting to the session being online.' Corinne – Events coordinator, AHMM

'Considering the difficulty of trying to demonstrate and assist the participants with making a model remotely, it was rewarding to see people getting creative about their own room space. Paul – Model shop manager, AHMM

'I found it incredibly exciting to share architectural sketching with a very committed group of people who don't come from an architectural background and showed so much talent!

Working with people in the community with different situations in terms of their dwelling environment made me reflect on how important it is for designers to have a more open vision when thinking about place-making for everyone.'

Luis – Sketch Club lead, AHMM

'Accumulate is such a fantastic organisation and what I love is that you provide a "bridge" between the skills we have at AHMM and this group of people who are so interested to engage creatively. I think we all came away from the workshop feeling cheerful and uplifted because there is engagement and two-way knowledge sharing with the participants – even through the dreaded Zoom.' Claire – Partnerships Lead, AHMM

'The Book of Homelessness is beautiful, so well produced and a great output. I think it will be impactful for a lot of different people. For the participants, I see them grow and develop over the time that they are with us. They clearly become confident and their self-esteem improves. I think the cultural space we provide works well. The space and support led them to produce work that they are confident and proud of.' Ali Eisa – Autograph ABP

'We then wanted to run an event with homeless and disadvantaged people, which was the start of our engagement with Marice. We ran our first event whereby we used our archive to find media backdrops, of which Accumulate attendees could then personalise with their own images and style. This workshop was with seven attendees, which Marice led and educated us on how to deal with this group. Issues were in terms of safety and overall education objectives. This was a fantastic workshop, probably the best one we have ran with this audience and it set us on a journey. This journey has allowed us to work with others, such as Creative Jobs, a charity that works with disadvantaged youths, and we have run similar workshops with 250-300 attendees/participants. We have also started to work with another group who approaches youths in hospitals and tries to get them to improve their lives through joining groups and the medium of photography. I believe all this has been possible because of Marice.' Jamie Brett – Youth Club Museum of Youth Culture

'I really do like the work Accumulate does and how Marice manages the programme. I have witnessed course attendee's self-confidence grow significantly over a relatively short time. Whilst we have not undertaken any formal research, it is my job to observe and I believe it is a well-founded and productive initiative. Going forward, I believe we will be in a position to help more. My lasting thought is that what Marice is doing within the art world is convincing them that this is not poor artist content and can rival others. Marice is championing all her students and the students that have been given scholarships clearly demonstrate their pride.' Jessica Hodge – the Barbican

'The standout of this project is the focus on creativity and helping people through life. Students can work on the project with aims and objectives in mind, i.e., getting a place on a university undergraduate course. We have met with Accumulate students, the likes of Luke, on several occasions, and he is a great ambassador for the programme. The programme does not focus on just one area of creativity; it looks at fashion, art, design, poetry and others. The programme accepts a wide audience from different backgrounds, age groups and skillsets. Accumulate is very proactive and is engaging with various stakeholders/publics.' Margaret Briffa – Briffa Intellectual Property Lawyers

'We are noticing that participants are committed to the course and self-improvement. We can tell that participants are all interested in design and committed to design for the longer-term to support their career choices. Some of the backgrounds of the participants have meant they have been classically trained in other areas, but they have moved into design at a later stage of life. We also feel that there are benefits back into our organisation, principally staff benefits. This is all around improving employee experiences, job satisfaction and self-worth. I certainly get a lot of satisfaction from working with this group and I suspect this will continue.' Zuhong Zheng & Tzoulia Baltsavia – Hawkins\Brown

Conclusion

This has been an incredible year for everyone, but especially those working in the arts and those working with the homeless. Since Accumulate does both, it has been at the centre of a confluence of disruption. The growth in provision, income and partners should prompt those with responsibility for the management and governance of Accumulate to consider how it can sustain this growth. Demand for its services is clearly very high, but capacity and quality can often be a finite resource.

There has never been greater need to consider strategic direction of Accumulate and its operating model. It may or may not be prepared to fully expand and scale-up beyond London and to take advantage of the possibilities of online provision.

It's clear that Accumulate has responded with energy, agility and compassion in the face of the pandemic. It has kept the interests of its learners front-of-mind at all times. A reflective interview with Accumulate's Founder and Director Marice Cumber reveals that there are clearly lessons for the organisation, and others in the homeless arts ecology, from Accumulate's experiences in 2020.

One lesson is that expectations need to be managed when it comes to hostel management and digital skills:

'When you're working with what is called a "hard to reach" audience, this whole digital stuff makes it even harder to reach them, because they've got to have access, access to WiFi, they will follow the workshop on their phone, it's a really big struggle.'

'Putting these workshops on, emailing out to all the hostels... but the hostels, they're not working digitally, they print out a poster or something. I was facing so many struggles.'

'They all seem to have phones, but following a workshop on your phone, or creative workshop on your phone. It's very different from, like, watching YouTube. And I think people have got to understand that.'

The second lesson is that the pandemic and lockdown was especially costly for people living in hostels and shared temporary accommodation.

'We're talking March, April, May time... it was like pandemonium. Nobody knew what the hell was going on. It was a really disruptive time. Now, a hostel is a disruptive place with disruptive relationships. And then you've got them being shut down, no external visitors allowed it, people feeling under lockdown, having their food put outside their room, because they couldn't go into the cafeteria as it's a shared eating place. You know, you can imagine what that environment is like; it's like prison, literally.'

The third lesson is that an ongoing duty of care and contact with hostel residents makes a huge difference to their welfare, and the Art Kits were a perfect example of that continuity of care.

‘We started the Art Kits. We were sending them out to just the Accumulate participants, these little Art Kits, when activities had all gone online. And we decided what would happen if we expanded this project and sent them out to more hostels, so that their residents could also get the Accumulate experience, like in a box. And so that's how it started, with us literally pivoting and going online very quickly. And then we expanded from there and got funding from the London Community Response Fund and Crisis and some other funds. So, when we went online very quickly, it was because we realised, you know, we were stopping all of our learning, and our participants really needed us, and we sort of had disappeared.’

‘There was a buddy group, we set up this WhatsApp group right at the beginning, and they were supporting each other. When somebody felt down there was someone saying, “You know, I felt like that, just go outside or, you know, come to the workshop, you really will feel better after it.” There was all of this stuff going on, which was really fantastic.’

The fourth and final lesson is that the pandemic has prompted a renewed and invigorated engagement with social injustice and homelessness, and that might mean more support and recognition for the work of organisations like Accumulate:

‘I think people became really aware of homelessness, you know, they were much more conscious of it. I think people who were conscious became more conscious, and that really impacted positively on the success of The Book of Homelessness, because people really responded to it. People all of a sudden lost their jobs, they were stuck at home, you know, it was all that stuff that was going on, it wasn't in the life plan. And they started thinking maybe a little bit differently. So, The Book of Homelessness did really, really well, we got a lot more financial support last year, and I think more than we'd ever done before. There was a lot more available, especially for us when we were doing this Art Kit project.’

The challenge for Accumulate in 2021 will be sustaining that interest and support while delivering a high-quality experience to a cohort of young people who will continue to be disrupted by the aftershocks of pandemic and lockdown measures for many years to come.