

Impact report 2022 I LIKE NETWORKING



LEADING CAREER PLATFORM FOR UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS IN THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES.

We set-off in 2020 as a response to the growing need of diversifying the industry.

Since then, we've been on a mission to help individuals thrive in their creative careers.

Today our community is made up of **35k+ women and non-binary people** in the creative industries, focused on creating a better and more inclusive sector for all.



2020 — 2022 INNUMBERS

- **700+** Mentees
- **150+** Mentors
- 200+ Jobs advertised
- 35K+ Online community
- 10m+ Press reach
- 5000+ People upskilled
- 93.5% of participants reported a massive increase in confidence





Why do we continue to do this work?

At the current rate of progress,

Europe won't reach gender

parity for 50 years.

A 2021 study supported by the DCMS showed that only 16.2% of people working in creative jobs are from working class backgrounds despite the industry employing over 2 million people.

According to the DCMS, the creative economy 'employs a lower proportion of women than the wider UK economy with 37.1% of jobs in the creative industries filled by women compared to 46.9% in the UK as a whole'.

The creative sector contributes over £42bn a year to the UK economy and accounts for one in six jobs in the capital, however, **only 13% of creative jobs are filled by BAME groups**. In addition, only 8% of senior positions have BAME representation.



"ILN is an ever-growing, incredible supporting network that is inspiring and collaborative. I am grateful for Isabel and the team for bringing such talented, ambitious and driven mentors and mentees together." - mentor

"Thank you for creating such an amazing programme and for all the care put into it! I can't wait to recommend it to all of my creative friends!" - mentee

"Many mentoring schemes and programmes were created during the pandemic but I Like Networking is the best. It survived, and has flourished, because it has been built to last." - mentor



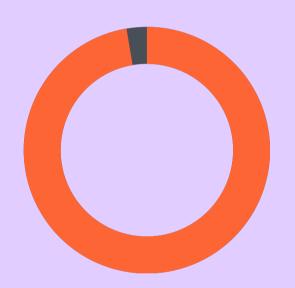
How we support the Creative Communities

- Job Board and Talent Collective: The Job Board and Talent Collective is a place to showcase the incredible talent from our community, so organisations can get in touch with them directly. This innovative recruitment platform helps companies post job ads directly to their target audiences and allows recruiters to find awesome people straight from our community.
- Mentoring Schemes: We believe in the power of connection. Our relationships open doors in our professional lives and our personal growth. That is why we launched our own mentoring programme. In collaboration with their mentor, mentees define their goals, finesse their skill set and expand their networks.
- **Resources**: We offer insights into the creative industries through our podcasts, guides, and more on our website, social media and newsletter.
- Events: We run and host events regularly.

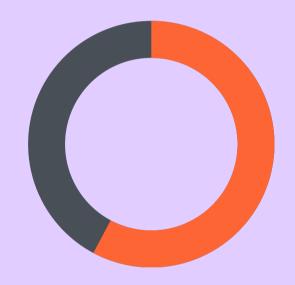


THE 2022 ILN MENTORING PROGRAMME

During the 2022 ILN Mentoring Programme, we reached all targets set across demographics supporting the underrepresented groups of the industry.



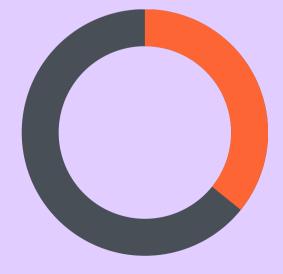
97.35% identified as women or non-binary



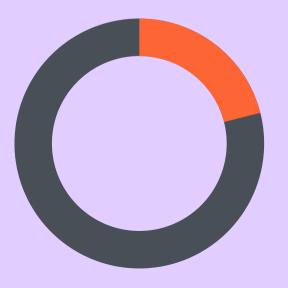
57.8% identified as ethnic minorities



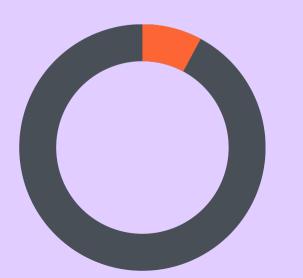
38.5% identified as part of the LGBTQI+ community



35.8% of the mentees reported having come from a low-income background

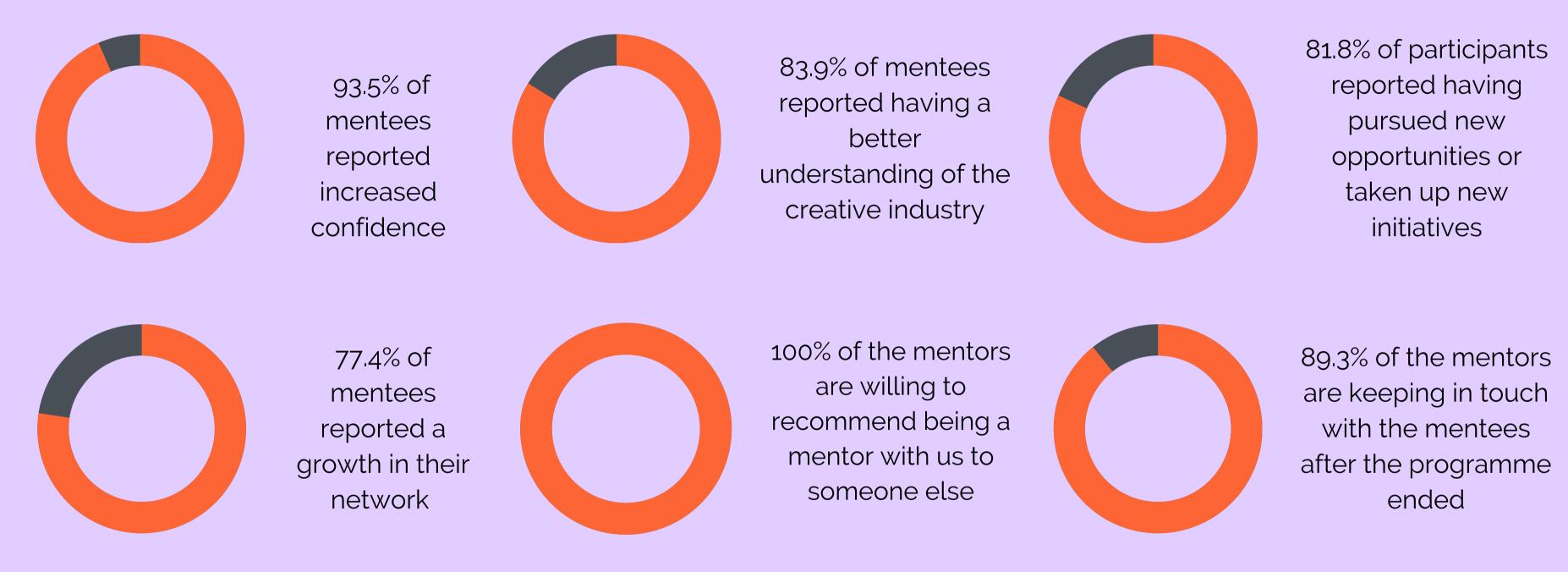


21.05% signalled to having a disability or a health condition



7.85% have caring responsibilities





Additionally, 146 badges were awarded at the end of the programme, with which mentees can showcase their participation online and on their CVs. The badges, recognising accomplishments outside of formal educational structures, are written using the Cities of Learning Badge Standard, which is endorsed by City and Guilds and the RSA.



"Mentoring with ILN is always an eye and mind opening experience.

Being able to guide someone through their career and utilise your

experience in new ways is hugely satisfying." - mentor

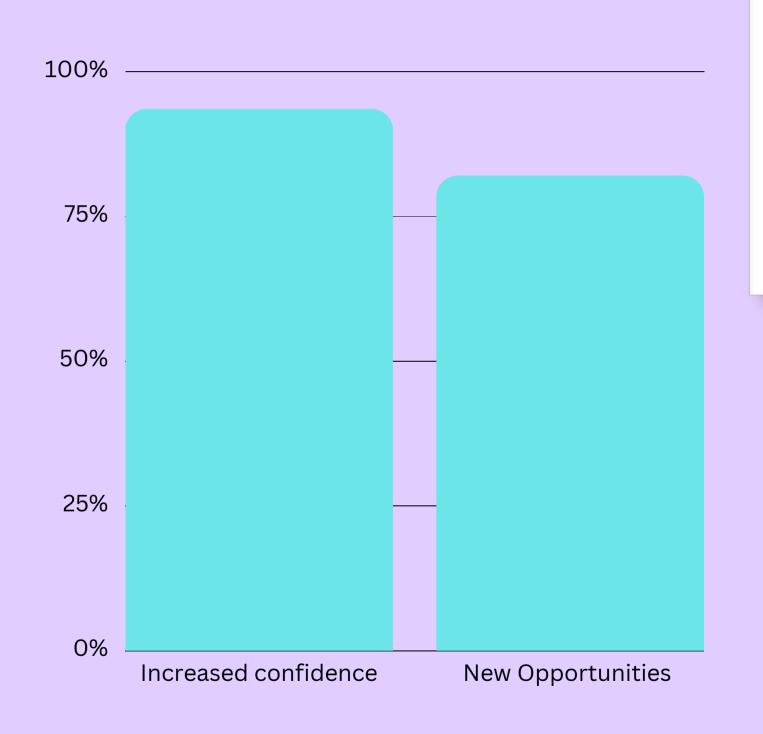
"I wish I had discovered ILN when I was first navigating a career in the creative industries." - mentee



"The programme was brilliant. It really helped to demystify the creative industries and remind me that conversations with others is the key to success." - mentee

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Just finished another session of @networking_i mentorship scheme! Thrilled to be part of a scheme that gives women artists essential guidance on how to navigate the #creativeindustries. I'm looking forward to connecting with artists across disciplines with this opportunity!

The I LIKE NETWORKING mentor program has been so wonderful to be a part of for these past 3 months I'm grateful for what I've learned, both about myself and the creative industries, and I'm even more grateful for the amazing creative people I have had the pleasure to meet. Such a great experience



"Thank you all so much for this brilliant scheme you have created - all the group sessions I have learnt something from. Very grateful and will sing your praises out in the world whenever I can." - mentee

"The wealth of information and virtual networking was priceless." - mentee



"Taking part in the mentoring programme was a blast in itself, let alone leading to involvement with this promising new careers community!" - mentor



We developed two bespoke mentoring programmes for **Somerset House** and **Market Peckham**:



"Working with the I LIKE NETWORKING team over the last nine months and has been a pleasure! They have always taken the time to think about the needs of the project and have gone above and beyond to help myself, the mentors and the mentees when needed." — Natalya Best-Forbes, Inclusive Talent Programmes Manager at Somerset House Trust

"We've doubled our revenues and hired our first employee" Peckham Rise mentee

"Having the free desk at Market has been hugely valuable and my mentor has been really helpful." - Peckham Rise mentee

"Our MVP is now in Alpha testing and we'll be launching soon."
Peckham Rise mentee



Case study:

In 2022 we partnered with MARKET to launch the **Peckham Rise programme,** a year-long accelerator for Peckham-based Creative and Tech start-ups.

The programme allows successful applicants to be partnered with a mentor, receive business advice, training and exposure from industry leaders and call Market's professional co-working space 'home' for 12 months.

With over 200 applicants, we hit all DEI targets.

Bespoke Mentoring

PECKHAM PECULIAR



Rise to the top

Market Peckham and I Like Networking – a career platform for women and non-binary people in the creative industries – have selected a handful of entrepreneurs to take part in their Peckham Rise scheme, which aims to support people from traditionally underrepresented groups by supplying them with a professional workspace, skills and other connections to help them build their businesses.

Around 300 businesspeople applied for the scheme and 22 were chosen. Among those selected is Brockley-based Nicole Walters, founder of Wellekin, a digital marketing agency that specialises in social media services for small businesses.

"The main thing I found really attractive about applying for Peckham Rise was the fact that mentorship and networking were part of the programme," Nicole said.

"I started my business alone during lockdown and no one can really prepare you for what it's like running a business by yourself from home. It's very lonely. I thought applying for this scheme was a great way to re-enter the real world and connect with other businesses."

Nicole said she was elated to be selected. "It elt amazing. I'm very grateful to be a part of this phort.

"So far it's been going really well. I've already net everyone else on the programme at one of ur first workshops a couple of weeks ago. The workshop was really insightful.

"There's such a variety of people on the pro-

gramme so I'm sure we will be able to share a lot of skills and experiences with each other. "Everyone has been really friendly and so far it has been an overwhelmingly positive experi-

Nicole is also relishing being able to use the vorkspace and facilities at Market Peckham, which is based in central Publishers.

"Peckham is a real creative hub," she said.
"There's a great mix of people and experiences. I
don't want to speak too soon, but I could definitely see Wellekin finding a more permanent home
here in Peckham."

Other entrepreneurs selected for the scheme include Oliver Brenman of food subscription service Butter & Crust; Maame Opoku, who launched natural beauty and wellness company MamaSia; and Lin Vong, whose education charity Ignite Hubs provides innovative ways for children and volung people to lears grow and progress.

ket Peckham, Simon Thorpe, co-founder of Market Peckham is said: "When we first opened Market Peckham is



d. 2019 we offered a small group of entrepreneurs
free desk space for a year.

"Although we didn't have any funding, it was

Although we don't have any funding, it was a really successful initiative. We wanted to do something similar again post-Covid, but this time we wanted to add an active training element in as on serson serson we partnered up with I Like Networking and also managed to get some funding from an organisation called Stride.

"We're very excited and think it's going to be a d great scheme which gives these entrepreneurs a genuine opportunity to grow their businesses. UI timately we'd love to run Peckham Rise every yea

Mentee Nicole Walters covered by the Peckham Peculiar



SOME OF OUR PARTNERS & CLIENTS













The New York Times





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TIBBARTEA MOD.





TaxScouts





















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