

I LIKE
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Impact report 2022

I LIKE NETWORKING

**I LIKE NETWORKING IS THE
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 IN NUMBERS

- **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

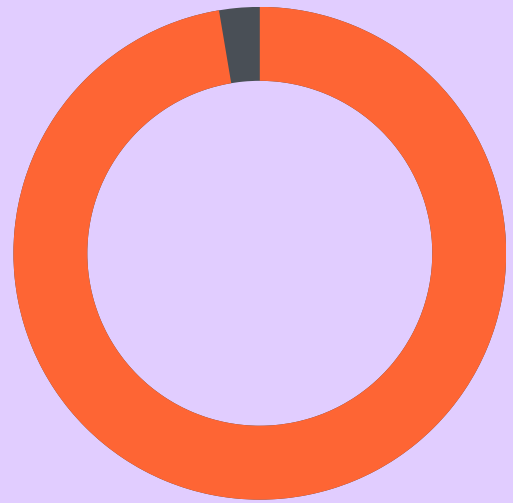
“Many mentoring schemes and programmes were created during the pandemic but I Like Networking is the best. It survived, and has flourished, because it has been built to last. ” - mentor

How we support the Creative Communities

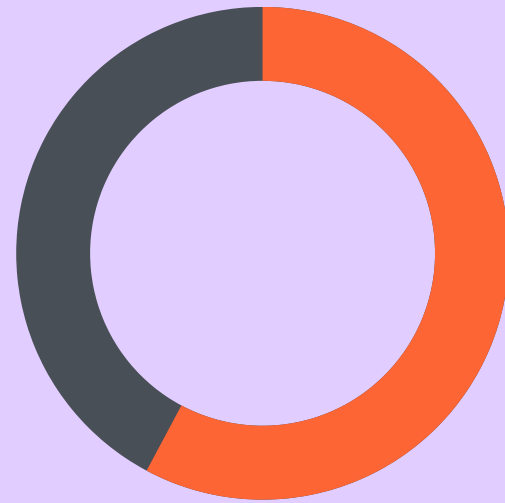
- **Job Board and Talent Collective:** The Job Board and Talent Collective is a place to showcase the incredible talent from our community, so organisations can get in touch with them directly. This innovative recruitment platform helps companies post job ads directly to their target audiences and allows 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

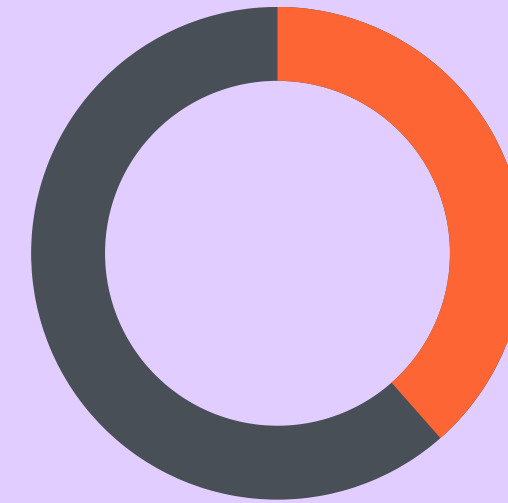
During the **2022 ILN Mentoring Programme**, we **reached all targets** set across **demographics** supporting the **underrepresented groups** of the industry.



97.35%
identified as
women or non-
binary



57.8% identified
as ethnic
minorities



38.5% identified
as part of the
LGBTQI+
community



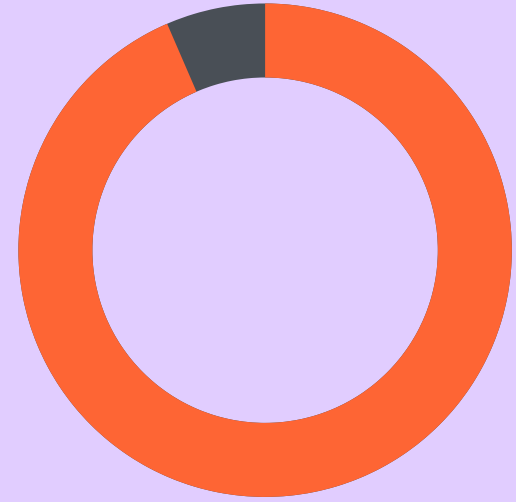
35.8% of the
mentees
reported having
come from a
low-income
background



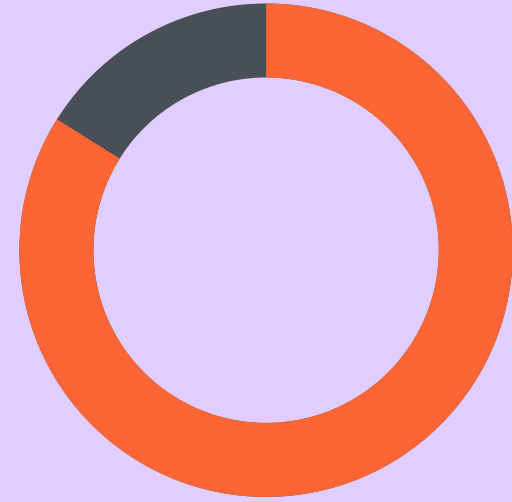
21.05% signalled
to having a
disability or a
health condition



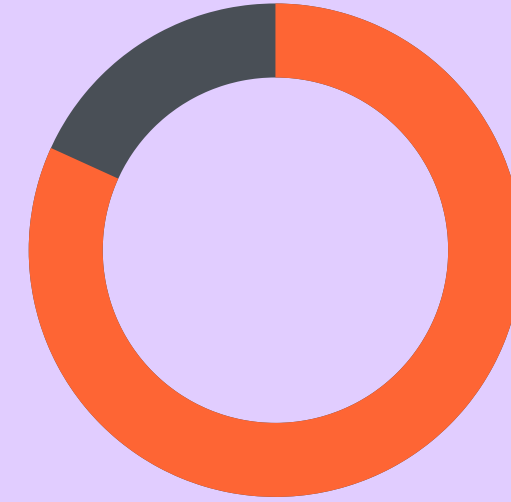
7.85% have caring
responsibilities



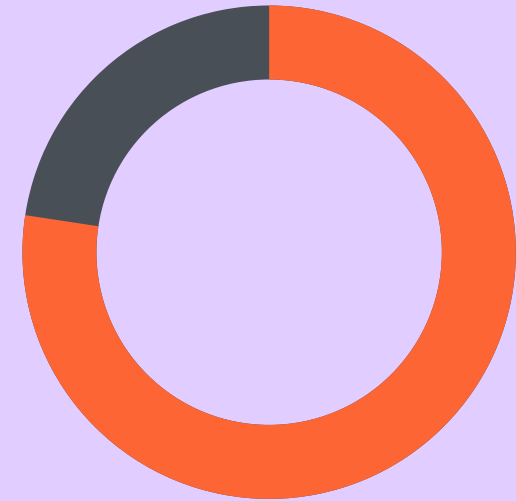
93.5% of mentees reported increased confidence



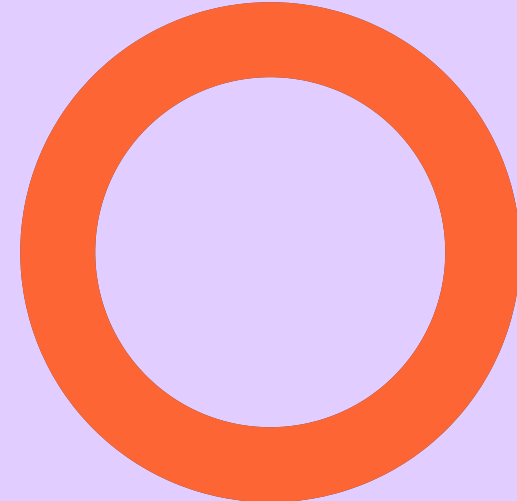
83.9% of mentees reported having a better understanding of the creative industry



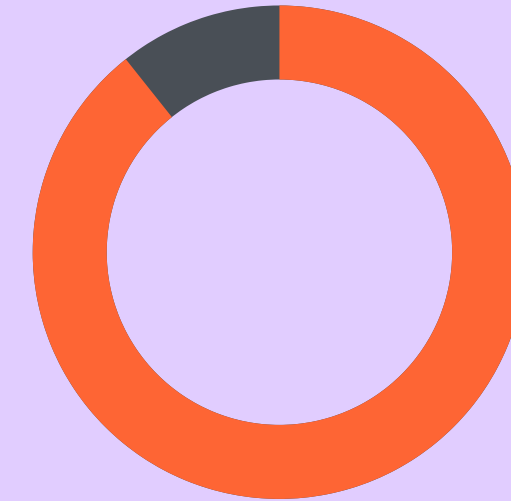
81.8% of participants reported having pursued new opportunities or taken up new initiatives



77.4% of mentees reported a growth in their network



100% of the mentors are willing to recommend being a mentor with us to someone else



89.3% of the mentors are keeping in touch with the mentees after the programme ended

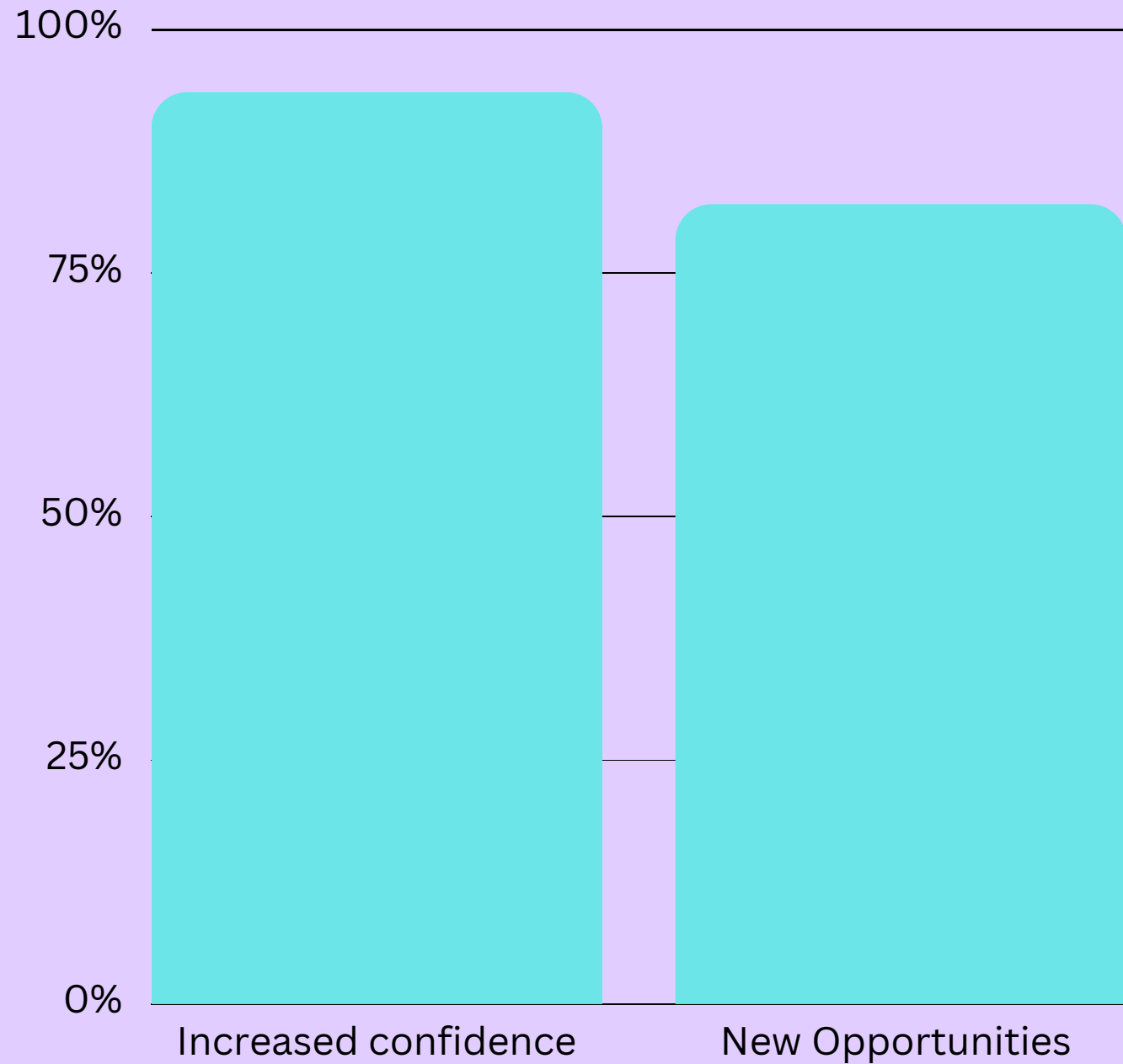
Additionally, 146 badges were awarded at the end of the programme, with which mentees can showcase their participation online and on their CVs. The badges, recognising accomplishments outside of formal educational structures, are written using the Cities of Learning Badge Standard, which is endorsed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

Testimonials



 **nautchyourgirl**
@nautchyourgirl

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

Testimonials

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

Bespoke
Mentoring

“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.

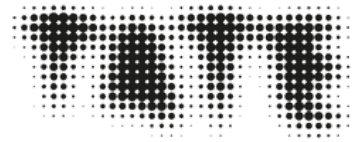
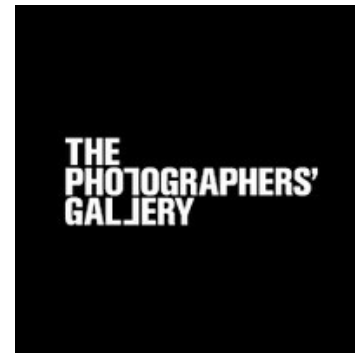
Bespoke
Mentoring



Mentee Nicole Walters covered by the Peckham Peculiar

I LIKE
NET
WORK
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SOME OF OUR PARTNERS & CLIENTS



I LIKE
NET
WORK
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GET IN TOUCH



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