

Intercultural Youth Scotland: Festival of Colour

A huge thank you to Blair Wycherley and the young people from Intercultural YouthScotland on sharing their experiences of participatory grant making with Corra.



[Intercultural Youth Scotland](#) is the only major organisation that is both youth-led and Black and People of Colour (BPOC) led, with our programmes all having developed from direct consultation with our network of Youth Ambassadors. IYS services cover a wide range from youth work, education, employability, advocacy, and mental health.

Corra Foundation's Equity Fund provided a £10,000 grant to facilitate a participatory grant-making scheme facilitated by Intercultural Youth Scotland and serviced by seven BPOC Young people aged between 16-20 years.

We are a community, a service, and a voice for BPOC young people, providing a safe space and a place to nurture their talents. This, I believe, was the reason Corra were happy to look at us as potential facilitators of the process. Enabling youth to 'sit at the table' and make impactful change.

The Participatory Grant Making Process

An initial meeting between the seven BPOC young people and 1 IYS representative helped establish the parameters, and we enjoyed sitting down and discussing ways in which young people could invest in their communities - which they had never had the opportunity to do before. It was about having fun and being with young people who were sharing similar experiences and then discussing ways in which they can help others in their situations with the funding available. Comradery and friendship were clearly being developed over the seven-week decision making process.

Four of the sessions were just the young people as my role was solely to guide and advise, no ideas/suggestions came from the Intercultural Youth Scotland side of things. The youth decision-making panel came up with ideas on how to invest and discussed the merits of each idea. Whilst there were many good ideas, they settled on one which would have the most impact.

The Decision

The group, self-named as 'The Corra Investment Group,' by process of elimination, decided to invest in the annual Scotland in Colour Festival.

Scotland in Colour (SiC) is a celebration of the culture and creativity of Black people and People of Colour from around Scotland. The free youth festival took place on 4th September 2021 from 12pm - 6pm, programmed by the young people involved through Corra's Equity Programme.



The event brought together a range of Black and POC artists, and Race Equality activists delivering talks and performances. The performances included dance, urban spoken word, music, DJ skills, rap, and more. The funding from Corra supported performance fees for 20+ BPoC young people, workshop leaders including, Krav Maga, Dance, Henna, Facepaint, LGBTQ+ sessions as well as proving stalls/ marquees for this additional programming. The youth panel also helped to run the entire festival and had elected two group leaders to assist with the 'on the day' running of the festival.

WORKSHOPS

SCOTLAND
IN COLOUR



SCOTLAND
IN COLOUR

NAMBELA
FACE PAINTING

WORKSHOPS



AISHA
HENNA

SCOTLAND
IN COLOUR

SCOTLAND
IN COLOUR

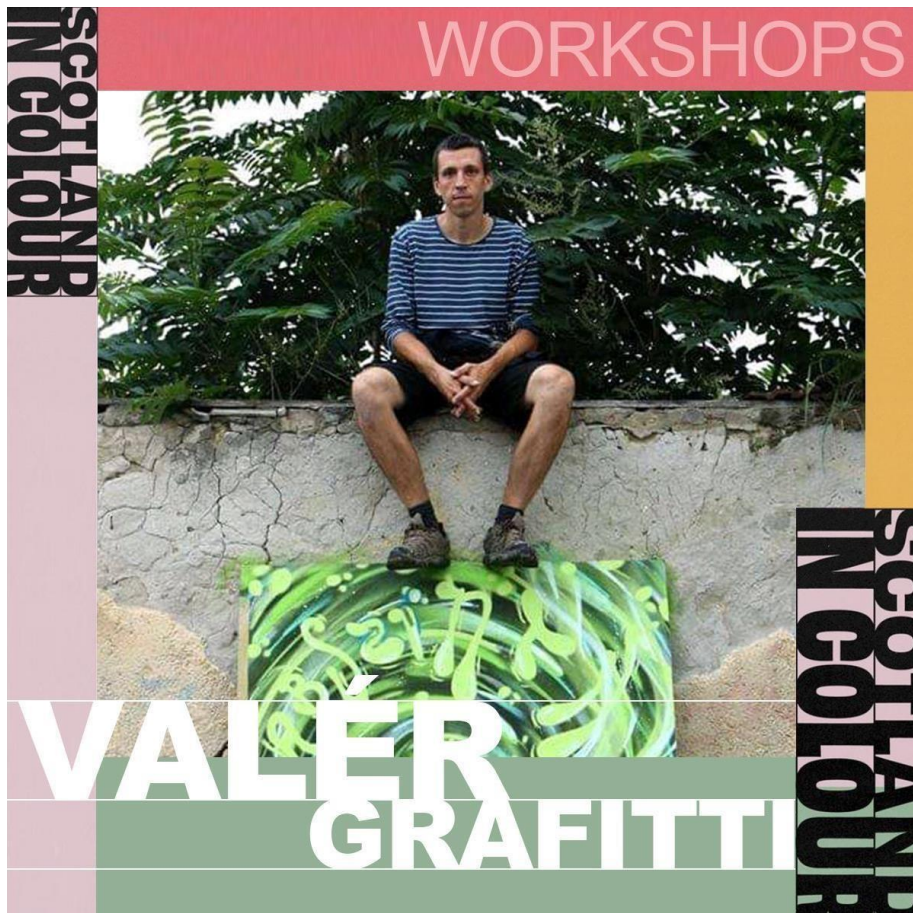
WORKSHOPS



RENCOUNTER
KRAV MAGA

SCOTLAND
IN COLOUR

SCOTLAND
IN COLOUR



The process

Feedback from the young people involved in the participatory grant making process:

'I think the event was very successful. We managed to bring so many workshops and entertainment to the community in a fun and enjoyable way. The only negative side of the event was that it wasn't advertised enough and so not many young people came through.

The few that came only stayed for their friend's performance.' GRACE

'Yeah, I think it was good that we had a lot of control over the project and could choose basically anything to spend the money on.

For why could have been better: if everyone who was on the coming up with ideas part could have got to put the ideas into action. Also, maybe slightly more contact/support with the people at CORRA. But overall really good experience' HAZEL

'Really liked the process and opportunity of organising the event and breaking down the costs. Enjoyed presenting and seeing the results. I only wish we met the people before organising so that we could ask some of the questions directly to them, other than that it was a really fun process.' ANGELINA

Takeaways

The project facilitated an opportunity for the young people to make important decisions, based on their own findings. This provided valuable experience for all those involved and enabled the young people to experience working as a team with a common goal - to support their community. I think this goal was met and the event went fantastically well with the ideas and support of the Corra Investment Group. On a personal level, I believe the young people really enjoyed this process and helped them to feel empowered and enabled them to create deep rooted friendships as well as an understanding of participatory grant making and its effects on the community. They would all like to do this again.

Corra wants to thank the young people from IYS for giving so much of themselves through this process, and for helping us to continue our learning in what works well and how we might offer support differently in future. It was an honour to work with the group, and we too learnt a lot about how to navigate this way of grant-making, which we'll be reflecting on both through this month and in the coming year.