



Report
compiled on
behalf of
IROKO by
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HOME FROM HOME

Evaluation Report

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Introduction

Overview of IROKO & Home from Home

The IROKO Theatre Company was founded in 1996. The company uses African theatre arts and heritage incorporating oral storytelling, drama, music, dance, arts and craft, as a vehicle to enhance learning, skills, health and wellbeing of members of the public from different backgrounds and abilities.

Their aim is to raise awareness, preserve and enhance knowledge of African arts, culture and heritage by taking its services to the wider community, especially to areas where arts and heritage would normally not be seen. They achieve this through research, exhibitions, workshops, performances, and providing resources and accredited training programmes.

Home from Home (HfH) tells the stories of British-Nigerians and their forebears, researching, preserving, sharing and celebrating British-Nigerians' (hi)stories, focusing on London and Peckham particularly. The project aims to contextualise the presence of British-Nigerians in the UK; exploring the British/Nigeria colonial relationship; Nigerian migration and life in London over the years; settlement; adaptations and inter-generational issues.

The project highlights the contributions of British-Nigerians to the cultural, political, educational, artistic, spiritual, and sporting life of Britain and London, particularly. It celebrates the community's strength, struggle, commitments, perseverance, achievements and ingenuity as they navigate their existence in the UK.

The project was originally planned to run for just over a year from October 2022 to the end of May 2024. In March 2024 NHLF agreed to extend the project to the end of July 2024.

How Home from Home fits with IROKO's history and mission

The Home from Home project fits well with IROKO's history and mission to use African arts, culture and heritage as a vehicle to enhance learning, skills, health and overall wellbeing of people of all backgrounds, age groups and abilities. From inception, IROKO's aims have been to use the creative arts to promote cross-cultural and intercultural understanding. It also aims to use the arts and heritage to educate, empower, motivate and at the same time, provide opportunities that are stimulating and fun for the benefit of the personal development of the individual and community as a whole.



Figure 1. HE. Ambassador Adamu O Shuaibu from the Nigeria High Commission, Prince Mike Abiola & Princess Golda Abiola attend the 'Home from Home' Launch at The Old Stratford Town Hall. Photography: Joseph Obasi @ jaybrightmedia_studio1.

The Home from Home project, funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF), builds on research from a previous NHLF-funded project, [‘Speaking Without Voice.’](#) This identified disproportionately high levels of low morale and confused sense of identity amongst British-Nigerians, with the community feeling under-valued and uncelebrated. Speaking Without Voice highlighted the need for further research and accessible presentation of the contributions of British Nigerians, and the Home from Home project responds directly to this need.

Compost’s role in this evaluation

Compost London CIC supports not-for-profit organisations to grow, develop and thrive, offering a range of services including evaluation and research. We supported IROKO with an evaluation for their previous NLHF funded project and before this they participated in an Evaluation Exchange programme delivered in partnership with UCL.

In early 2023 Compost was commissioned by IROKO to support the evaluation of their Home from Home project. With the IROKO staff team we co-designed a logic model, evaluation framework and suite of tools. These measures were put in place near the start of the project with feedback collected by the IROKO team. Compost also interviewed the staff team, the project work experience placement, committee members and performers.

We collated and analysed this evaluative evidence and matched it against the project plans and intended outcomes for this end of project evaluation report. The report is based on a range of qualitative data described below. It also includes quantitative data captured through IROKO's monitoring systems.

What HfH aimed to achieve

With support from Compost the IROKO team prepared a logic model (see Appendix 1) based on the NLHF Evaluation Guidance. This outlines how project inputs and outputs relate to the outcomes and indicators listed in the NLHF application:

Heritage in better condition:

- Heritage of British-Nigerians better documented and preserved.
- Heritage activities in Newham enhanced.
- Awareness of the heritage raised & celebrated.
- Negative images of Nigerians overturned.
- Self-esteem raised for those from Nigerian backgrounds, particularly young people.
- British-Nigerians seen as a positive presence in British society.

Heritage (of British-Nigerians) identified and better explained

- Project Co-ordinator acquires further transferable and heritage skills useful for future work in heritage sector.
- Heritage sector strengthened by giving research, training and learning opportunities to young people who wish to work in heritage.
- Heritage experts have the opportunity to interact and share knowledge with each other through conference.
- Heritage experts make new contacts and create new interest in their work through conference.
- Tours of museums enable members of the public and young people to appreciate the Nigerian and other collections within them and inspire them to visit again.
- Tours of museums open new way of accessing heritage for those not visiting a museum before.
- Working alongside community journalists enables the researchers, to benefit from their expertise in the heritage field.
- Participatory performances and workshops reach public and young people in an accessible format, enabling them to easily understand and learn about British-Nigerian heritage.

People developing skills

- Volunteers gain invaluable experience and transferable skills through specialist training in archiving and oral history, which can be used to enhance their career in the heritage industry.
- Young people given unique opportunity to document and edit oral history videos and acquire transferable skills for further work in the heritage industry or to access higher education opportunities.

- People (teachers, museum staff, lecturers) trained through One Award (now AIM Qualifications) programme acquire performative art skills to enable them to deliver heritage knowledge in a more accessible format.
- RNIB training enables IROKO team to appreciate accessibility issues and ensure IROKO's work is made more accessible for those with accessibility issues.
- Workshops, tours and public sharing days are enhanced and delivered efficiently by input and support of people trained to deliver heritage activities.
- Transferable heritage support skills given to 20 people.

People learning about heritage

- Educational and learning programmes deliver knowledge and information about those of British-Nigerian heritage.
- Positive image of British-Nigerians promoted and negative stereotypes of British-Nigerians overturned.
- Conference elevates image of British-Nigerians and spreads positive information on their contributions to British society.

People have greater wellbeing:

- People telling their stories have unique opportunity to talk in depth about their experiences (sometimes for the first time).
- Invaluable knowledge gained first hand from those who have lived the heritage experience.
- British-Nigerians, people of Nigerian descent and other migrants have enhanced emotional wellbeing, self-esteem, confidence, sense of identity and belonging.

Organisation more resilient:

- New ways of working trialled.
- More Newham-based heritage trainees and volunteers
- Greater collaboration.
- Joint development of heritage activities for the local community.
- IROKO sustainability enhanced through the work of the Marketing/Comms Consultant and also, as the company uses the External Evaluators report to seek future funding.
- IROKO's reputation heightened as leading organisation in the field of African heritage and culture in London
- Reaching new audiences in new areas
- Community panel, partner organisations & researchers shape project.
- Enhanced skills of IROKO team: RNIB training, heritage skills
- IROKO team inspired to work on their heritage skills and deliver more heritage projects.

The main intended project outputs were:

Events and activities:

- (Hi)stories of 30 influential British Nigerians researched and documented
- One public conference, two public sharing events, exhibition tours in 12 libraries in 7 London boroughs (300 people engaging in heritage through public performances)
- Workshops in 5 schools in 4 boroughs (1050 pupils)

- One community arts and crafts event with targeted older people's group
- 75 people taken on guided museum tours
- 15 Nigerian Londoners sharing oral histories
- eResources on project microsite for long term use

People and partnerships:

- 20 new partnerships developed
- Marketing/Comms Consultant engaged
- 15 volunteers trained and helping to document histories
- 6 community journalists work alongside researchers
- 15 volunteers trained in practical research skills
- 5 young people trained to document and edit oral history videos
- 20 people from different sectors trained in using performative art to make heritage accessible
- 5 members of IROKO project team equipped to manage project website and ensure accessibility
- 20 people from different sectors equipped to help deliver activities
- 15 Nigerian Londoners share oral histories
- 85 people from different cultural and professional backgrounds participate in training which boosts confidence and enhances wellbeing

Approximately 95,000 people in total were anticipated to experience heritage through this project in some way.

Additional activity

Some project activity occurred in addition to the proposed delivery plan, often because IROKO responded to opportunities or requests. Much of this additional activity is covered elsewhere in the report but one example that illustrates how the IROKO team were able to add value relates to one of their partner schools.

Kaizen Primary School belong to the EKO Trust, a conglomeration of about six schools from different parts of the Southeast. As EKO Trust was celebrating World Music in collaboration with Kaizen Primary, IROKO built on the planned series of workshops at the school over three days, exploring Nigerian/West African musical heritage. The workshops led to a showcase performance by participants at the EKO Trust AGM in Suffolk, attended by over 300 people (teachers, pupils, governors, parents and guardians) from all the EKO Trust schools.

Evaluation framework and measures

Overview

HfH was an ambitious project with a range of different activities. Some were one-off events designed to engage people new to IROKO and the focus of heritage; others were aimed at people with an existing interest in heritage. Some involved engagement over several days.

Compost worked with the IROKO team to create a suite of evaluation tools to use across their activities, tailoring these to suit the audience and situation. See Appendix 5 for an overview of project activity with evaluation and monitoring methods used for each event and the number and proportion of participants engaging in evaluation activity.

Learning from our previous evaluation experience together, this time we created a clear framework (Appendix 2) linking evaluation tools and questions to outcomes and indicators and making data analysis easier and potentially more useful.

The evaluation data gathered was extensive and rich, and represented feedback from a significant proportion of the project participants, especially those attending smaller activities such as museum tours and workshops.

Qualitative measures

Feedback forms were used alongside other measures such as video interviews, testimonies and an online survey. The forms (see Appendix 4) were tailored to the specific activity or participants and focused on outcomes such as the development of skills, learning about heritage and enjoyment of the experience. They also gathered demographic information. Forms for children and for activities targeting people not fluent in English were short and simple, using smiley faces rather than text for scaled responses. Where language, understanding or lack of time meant capturing feedback more formally was challenging, IROKO's Rhythmic Evaluation Games were incorporated into activities to capture participants' experience.

With all evaluation measures there is an element of self-selection in terms of who engages with them. People are more likely to engage if they have strong positive or negative experiences or views. Feedback gathered from all stakeholder groups was overwhelmingly positive.

The completion rate for feedback forms varied. At larger events and activities, feedback forms were given out but not everyone completed or returned them. It was not possible to capture feedback

Some people involved in HfH activities spontaneously contacted IROKO to offer feedback, usually by email. These comments were collated by the team and are included in the report alongside feedback from planned evaluation measures.

Quantitative measures

Levels of participation were measured through registers at in person events, views of online resources (articles, interviews, blogs, videos and other digital analytics). Exhibitions that were open to the public in libraries relied on data provided by library staff, based on the average number of visitors to the library during the exhibition.



Figure 2 Community Members view the ' Home from Home' Exhibition at Rokesly Junior School. Photography: Joseph Obasi @ jaybrightmedia_studio1.

Results

Using the co-designed evaluation tools, the IROKO team amassed an extensive collection of quantitative and qualitative data from all key stakeholder groups and across a broad range of project activity.

What follows is a summary of monitoring and evaluation evidence against each of the project outcomes.

This report includes quotes from those engaging with the evaluation. Those in “double speech marks” are verbatim quotes, written by the person or transcribed from a video. ‘Single speech marks’ are used for interviews where notes were taken.

Heritage in better condition

Heritage of British-Nigerians better documented and preserved

There is considerable evidence that the HfH project has contributed to the better documentation and preservation of British-Nigerian heritage.

The exhibition that toured 13 libraries showcased the positive contribution of 100 British Nigerians, expanding from the 30 planned at the start of the project because so many significant examples were discovered. This exhibition reached more than 50,000 people, and its impact will extend beyond the funded project. IROKO has agreed to exhibit the project resources for a month in October 2024, anticipating more than 10,000 additional people having access to these as a result.

Feedback from participants at Sharing Days and exhibitions commonly included comments about discovery and learning in relation to British-Nigerian heritage. Asked about the three top things gained or learnt, more than half the adults feeding back about all three Sharing Days mentioned Nigerian culture or heritage:

“An insight into Nigerian heritage.”

Participant, Sharing Day at Black Cultural Archives

The breadth of contribution captured through the exhibition surprised and impressed many who saw it:

“Didn't know there were quite so many great people of Nigerian descent.”

Participant at Uxbridge Library Sharing Day

“I had not heard of some of the people displayed in the exhibition. They are very distinguished.” Black British-Nigerian participant at Stratford Library Sharing Day

One Sharing Day participant saw the heritage curation achieved through the HfH project as worthy of wide dissemination:

“IROKO Theatre company has a very, very well-established reputation as an excellent African drama and cultural performance and educational organisation. With its ‘HfH’ programme, it has now opened up a huge new area of competence by identifying, describing and presenting Nigerian ethnic history and individuals making an important contribution to life in Britain. The quality of IROKO’s curation of its ‘HfH’ work is outstanding. This work should be shared with universities and other educational institutions. The young people of our world deserve this. What a resource!” Participant at Stratford Library Sharing Day



Figure 3. A performance of 'The Stone of Destiny', 'inspired by the 'Home from Home' project, performed by Iroko Theatre Company. Photography: Joseph Obasi @ jaybrightmedia_studio1.

Although it wasn't possible to capture a lot of feedback from people engaging just with the exhibitions, library staff provided useful feedback from their perspective, commenting positively on the engagement of library customers and staff:

"The exhibition was looked at by many customers and verbal feedback was positive, some people scanned the QR code and took pictures of your details." Library Manager, Botwell Green Library, Uxbridge

The touring exhibition was so popular it sometimes led to additional project activity at the request of library staff:

"I'm so pleased that the exhibition was well received, I did see it myself and it was very good and informative. It would be great to have the exhibition again at another library for Black History Month." Community Hub Library Manager, London Borough of Lambeth

In April, at the request of Willesden Green Library, and approved through the Contingency Fund, they hosted an additional presentation by IROKO on "The Legacy of musicians of Nigerian descent in the UK's music eco-system":

"It was a very enlightening presentation. More detailed knowledge about Nigerian music and its influence on the British music scene." Participant

"Excellent presentation – a lot of important information which needs to be widely disseminated about the Nigerian influence which is, in some cases, hiding in plain sight." Participant

“We really enjoyed meeting you and listening to your event. In addition to the audience, our staff also enjoyed your talk and musical interludes.” Library Development Officer, Libraries, Arts and Heritage, Resident Services, Brent Council

Two thirds of conference attendees completing feedback forms agreed or strongly agreed that the HfH project helped to better document and preserve the heritage of British-Nigerians.



Figure 4. Florence Olatúndé, Educator & Author of ‘Coconut’ and ‘My Culture Yoruba’s gives a presentation on “Race and Identity.” at the Conference of ‘The Legacy of People of Nigerian Descent in Britain. Photography: Joseph Obasi @ jaybrightmedia_studio1.

A number described specific plans to use knowledge they had gained through this event to inform or engage others:

- *As part of advocacy with my platform Beyond Nollywood*
- *By connecting with others who are keen to reconnect with their roots and seeing how we can help each other to fully embrace what it means to be home from home even if that means restarting the unions that helped those that came before us to stay rooted regardless of the inherent biases that exist.*
- *I will use my knowledge to inform younger Nigerians of our contribution to the UK so that they will take pride in their Nigerian heritage*
- *I will support Newham based Nigerians to develop a weekend complementary/supplementary school teaching Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa and other Nigerian languages in east London. I will support follow-up of your conference as a non-Nigerian by supporting initiatives linking IROKO and introducing educational/school/cultural dimensions at Queens Market [...], by promoting academic research to explore and expand on some HfH themes that emerged [...]*

One performer talked about their pride in the project’s ability to raise people’s awareness of the contribution of British Nigerians:

'I'm proud of the project. It's helped make the contribution of British Nigerians more visible. Even the t-shirts helped – seeing the British and Nigerian flags together. It gets people asking questions and talking about the heritage. It will have a lasting impact. It brings the importance of the heritage to people's consciousness because it's being displayed outwardly.' Performer

Project partners were asked whether and how they thought Home from Home was helping to better document and preserve the heritage of British-Nigerians. Every partner responding to this question did so in the affirmative:

"Yes, by providing visibility, engagement and spreading awareness in the community." Community Neighbourhood Senior Officer, Stratford and West Ham

"Yes. Home from Home is encouraging British-Nigerians and people of African and Caribbean heritage more broadly to look into different aspects of heritage, including organising tours of different museums, including ours. They have documented the trip with photos and blogs." Senior Curator of Anthropology at the Horniman Museum and Gardens

"Yes. Home to Home was connecting young British Nigerians to their culture and heritage through museum collections." Engagement Manager, Museum of London Docklands

"[...] the Home from Home exhibition, which plays a crucial role in documenting and preserving the heritage of British-Nigerians. This exhibition offers a collection of "biographies" of British-Nigerians, highlighting individuals of Nigerian descent in Britain. By doing so, it brings their stories and contributions to the forefront, benefiting both the British-Nigerian community and the broader local communities." Development Librarian – Celebratory Projects and Health & Wellbeing Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure - Libraries

"Heritage projects like Home from Home are important in helping to share and document cultural heritage not only with British Nigerians but wider communities as well." Head of Community Partnerships, British Museum

"Yes, it's raising awareness and sparking conversations." Community Hub Library Manager: London Borough of Lambeth

Despite difficulties recruiting and retaining research volunteers, and scheduling the oral interviews with Nigerian Londoners, 13 were completed and uploaded to the microsite in July. IROKO also decided to carry out written interviews of more British-Nigerians alongside the oral interviews and completed 23 of these. The written interviews were easier to carry out and feedback from IROKO followers was that they enjoyed reading the interviews on social media platforms. The interviews can also be accessed via [this link](#) on the project microsite.

Where feedback was received about the interviews it was extremely positive:

“Thank you for your amazing work featuring the brightest and the best of our talent IROKO Theatre Company . Professor Frank Chinegwundoh MBE is an inspiration to many of us diaspora doctors in the UK and beyond. A true role model and a leading light! – Feedback on social media

Heritage activities in Newham enhanced

The following heritage activities took place in Newham as part of the HfH project:

EVENT	NUMBER PARTICIPATING
Conference at University of East London	93
Launch at Old Town Hall Stratford	86
Sharing Day at Stratford Library	67
Nigerian Day: Creative workshop at Canning Town Library	42
Workshops at Ranelagh Primary School	37
Ranelagh Primary School Showcase at The Great Gate with Abbey Gardens	154
Exploring Nigerian Music & Heritage workshops at Kaizen School	240
Exhibition at Beckton Globe, East Ham & Stratford Libraries	2114
Exploring Nigerian Ritual Music & Heritage workshop at Barking Road Community Centre	84
Storytelling, Photography & Videography Training at Rosetta Arts	3
TOTAL	2920

With activities targeting different age groups and organisations across Newham, HfH will have reached many people new to IROKO and to heritage. Where demographic information was captured, participants reported a range of ethnic backgrounds, gender and age groups.

Project partners local to Newham, or at events where participants came from Newham, all thought Home from Home had made a difference to interest or engagement in heritage locally:

“Yes, it generates pride and a feeling of belonging within the community.”
Community Neighbourhood Senior Officer, Stratford and West Ham

“The tour was accompanied by a large group of people local to Newham who were interested in finding out more about our museum and the African collections.” Senior Curator of Anthropology, Horniman Museum and Gardens

“Yes. It was lovely to see two Nigerian supplementary schools connect to their histories and the museum through the bridge IROKO had created through the Home from Home project.” Engagement Manager, Museum of London Docklands

The conference, held at the University of East London which is based in Newham, brought almost 100 people together to focus on heritage, including a number of high profile speakers who were very well received:

“Thank you so much for putting together the conference ‘The Legacy of People of Nigerian Descent in Britain’. It was a rich, inspiring, educative conference enriched with incredible calibre of speakers and talents.” Conference Participant

Almost every participant at Stratford Library Sharing Day who responded to this question said the event had improved their understanding of British-Nigerian heritage and that they were more interested in heritage as a result of their involvement. Asked about the three top things gained or learnt, more than half mentioned Nigerian culture or heritage.

Project partners were asked whether they thought Home from Home had made a difference to interest or engagement in heritage locally to them, and all said it had:

“The people who attended enjoyed themselves, chatted among themselves and shared stories. The events also generated interest from several of our British-Nigerian library staff and a couple of them were able to join one / both of the events. They very much valued this library programming which is relevant to them.” Libraries Development Manager, Brent Council

“Increased awareness of the presence and contributions of British-Nigerians has encouraged interest in heritage locally. People engaged well with the exhibition which was informative and thought-provoking. By bringing the stories of British-Nigerians to the forefront, the exhibition hopefully encouraged viewers to think about the presence, history and contributions of Nigerians to the local areas and communities.” Development Librarian, Celebratory Projects and Health & Wellbeing Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure

“In respect to the visit to the British Museum [...], the participants who attended were engaged and interested and welcomed the opportunity to learn more.” Head of Community Partnerships, British Museum

“In Lambeth we do lots of work with Black people of Caribbean heritage due to the demographics, but not as much about people of African heritage, so it was refreshing to have this.” Community Hub Library Manager, London Borough of Lambeth

Awareness of heritage raised and celebrated

There is considerable evidence from all stakeholder groups that the HfH project succeeded in raising awareness of, and celebrating, heritage.

44 adults attending a Sharing Day completed a feedback form that asked about the impact of this activity on their understanding of British-Nigerian heritage, their interest in heritage and whether they were likely to use what they'd gained or learned. 91% said they had improved their understanding, 93% had increased their interest and 84% were likely to use what they'd gained or learned from the experience.



Figure 5. Emmerline Smy delivers an Arts & Crafts workshop for children at the Willesden Library Sharing Day.

11 children aged 2 – 8 years completed feedback forms at two Sharing Days. They all enjoyed the activities, wanted to learn more and said they would like to do the activities again. Almost all had learned something new.

“I learned what nigerean people wear. I realy realy enjoyed it. [sic]” 7-year-old girl at Uxbridge Sharing Day

All 18 Somali women feeding back on a creative arts workshop that was part of the Uxbridge Sharing Day indicated that they really enjoyed the activity, had learned something new and would like to learn more.

These are high levels of engagement and impact, and evidence that public engagement through Sharing Days and exhibitions succeeded in raising awareness around and celebrating heritage.

Feedback from the Senior Archivist at Black Cultural Archives supported the high levels of interest and engagement in their Sharing Day:

“It was an absolute pleasure to be a part of the event on Saturday, and I'm thrilled that my talk sparked such engaging discussions. I was truly delighted to see the interest in British-Nigerian materials.”

Several people visiting the touring exhibitions took the time to provide feedback about its impact on their sense of identity:

“I come from Africa. Senegal. If I see African like me, it makes me so proud and happy. This one will help me to push my children to be same people like them. Every time I tell my children you come from Africa. You were born here but you come from Africa”. Participant, Willesden Green Library

Committee members and performers, often with a long history of involvement with IROKO and an established interest in heritage, all increased their awareness or understanding through HfH. One committee member said it reinforced their knowledge about heritage and they learned new things. HfH made this committee member more aware of the fact that some Nigerians are born in the UK and some in Nigeria so experiences will be different:

‘As a white woman I am now much more aware of the differing countries and cultures within Africa and have a better understanding of the lived experiences of the communities in the UK. It's easy to refer to people as ‘African’ but we wouldn't do the same for ‘European’. IROKO Secretary

Another committee member said the project had enhanced their understanding of their personal heritage:

‘I've learned about my own background, and the contribution of people in the diaspora. I've learned personally how long Nigerians have been in the UK – about Windrush and who's been here the longest – people from the Caribbean or Africa. Even different hair styles and what they mean.’ “Lots of things I never knew.” IROKO Chair

This committee member felt the project had been “an enlightenment” for people, including committee members, connecting people with their roots, enabling bonding with others:

‘HfH has created a lot of awareness of who Nigerians are in the UK. Nigerians have impacted this country positively through the economy, food, culture. We've come to appreciate ourselves more. It helps define who people are. It's brought things to life – I've understood things about my parents, my uncles.’ IROKO Chair

Every performer involved in the evaluation said their involvement in HfH had increased their awareness or understanding of British-Nigerian heritage:

'Learned about Nigerians in the UK. The exhibitions included lots of people I didn't know about.' Performer

'I've learnt a lot. I'm Yoruba – our cultures are different. I've learnt from others. I've learnt things about our culture that I've never heard of in my life. Like symbols of communication – women of Uli see giving an orange as intention to marry.' *"It's opened my eyes."* Performer

The project's work experience placement, a young Nigerian, attended workshops and exhibitions as well as performances. He believed IROKO *'keeps the flames of heritage burning.'*

'They celebrate what Black Nigerians have done. They help Nigerians who were born in the UK to understand what Nigeria stands for, how they celebrate. Some Nigerians don't even know how to pronounce their names properly. Cultures are mixing much more now. Projects like this help people connect with and understand their own culture.' Work experience placement

Even the already well-informed IROKO staff team said the project raised their awareness of Nigerian heritage:

'...it's raised my awareness of how Black Nigerians have contributed to so many areas – sport, art, science etc.' IROKO Projects Administrator

'Even though I knew a lot, it was the sheer volume I learned [...] 'What we discovered was amazing.' There were so many people making contributions that we didn't know about. "There are so many unsung heroes." HfH Project Director

'Definitely, about British-Nigerian heritage, how diverse the sectors are in terms of contribution. It's very wide. There are many people I was aware of but didn't know about their Nigerian heritage [...] Unless you know their full Nigerian name you wouldn't be aware. [...] This has been the first time I've focused on Nigerian heritage. Previously I didn't really distinguish between different African identities.' HfH Project Coordinator.

Negative images of Nigerians overturned. British-Nigerians seen as a positive presence in British society.

There is evidence through the evaluation that HfH has made a difference to the image and perceptions of Nigerians in British society.

Several conference attendees said this event alone had changed their views about how British-Nigerians contribute to British society:

- *“The insights were staggering and empowering and needs more spotlight. It makes me proud of my heritage.”*
- *“Yes, that more good work is going on at a grassroots and mainstream level by UK diaspora Nigerians than I thought.”*

The exhibition that formed part of each Sharing Day toured 13 libraries during the project. Feedback captured through the Sharing Days often related to the power of the exhibition in highlighting and celebrating the positive contribution of British-Nigerians:

“The inspiring leadership exhibition.” Participant at Uxbridge Library Sharing Day

“Black leadership and Nigerians in roles, powerful role models.” Participant at Uxbridge Library Sharing Day

“There is so many great Black visionaries.” Participant at Uxbridge Library Sharing Day

“How many influential people are of Nigerian descent.” Participant at Stratford Library Sharing Day

“I am really grateful for these pictures. You really made my day. I can’t thank you enough. I will really happy if you could contact me for future programme.”
Participant at Stratford Library Sharing Day

One performer talked about showcasing positive images through their performances:

‘It’s a thing of joy to showcase our culture to them. There are lots of negative stories about Africa. We have to bring the good side.’ Performer

Someone attending an exhibition took the time to email IROKO with the following comment:

“The exhibition is brilliant and a great insight into the achievement of British-Nigerians contrary to popular opinions”. Anonymous, Barking Learning Centre

Heritage of British-Nigerians identified and better explained

Volunteers more skilled/knowledgeable with heritage

81 people took part in training opportunities through the HfH project, and many went on to deliver or support project activities. Where the training included a focus on heritage, participants reported an increase in awareness and understanding:

“I have learnt that there is much about heritage that is hidden or hiding in plain sight and just waiting for the right enquiry to shine a light upon it. Heirs do not always inherit; or are sometimes not even acknowledged because they are hidden or erased; heritage is shared but has different facets.” Research, archiving and documentation training participant

“I understand how to explore an individual’s heritage and to do so throughout the archives.” Research, archiving and documentation training participant

“It made me more likely to attend the archives to undertake research rather than doing it online.” Research, archiving and documentation training participant

See also ‘People developing skills’ and ‘People training in using performative art to make heritage accessible and help deliver activities’

Heritage experts interact, share knowledge and create new interest

From the start of the project opportunities were created that enabled heritage experts to engage with members of the public. There is evidence that these bridging opportunities were appreciated by the experts as well as their audience:



Figure 6. Hassan Aliyu, President of the Nigerian Arts Society UK (NASUK) speaks at the Home from Home Launch. Photography: Joseph Obasi @ jaybrightmedia_studio1.

“It was both a pleasure and a privilege to speak on a topic that I have been so closely connected to, for several decades, in professional practice and

community engagement. Thank you for the opportunity.” President of the Nigerian Arts Society UK (NASUK) commenting on the project launch

“It was an absolute pleasure to be a part of the event on Saturday, and I'm thrilled that my talk sparked such engaging discussions. I was truly delighted to see the interest in British-Nigerian materials. [...] It was an honor to collaborate with you and the IROKO team, and I look forward to the possibility of working together again in the future.” Senior Archivist, The Black Cultural Archives

“Speaking about African Spirituality to this mostly Nigerian audience who were so welcoming and appreciative boosted my sense of the work I do and the why. Elders, young people, academics, authors and other professionals were brought together to share their multiple experiences and cultures at the heart of which is Nigeria. [...] I was embraced by the love and appreciation I could feel coming from those in the audience.” HfH Conference speaker

There is evidence from museum trips that the heritage experts there engaged well with participants and that this was valued and helped to create new interest in heritage:

“Very good curation. Great experience! Interesting artefacts!” Horniman Museum participant

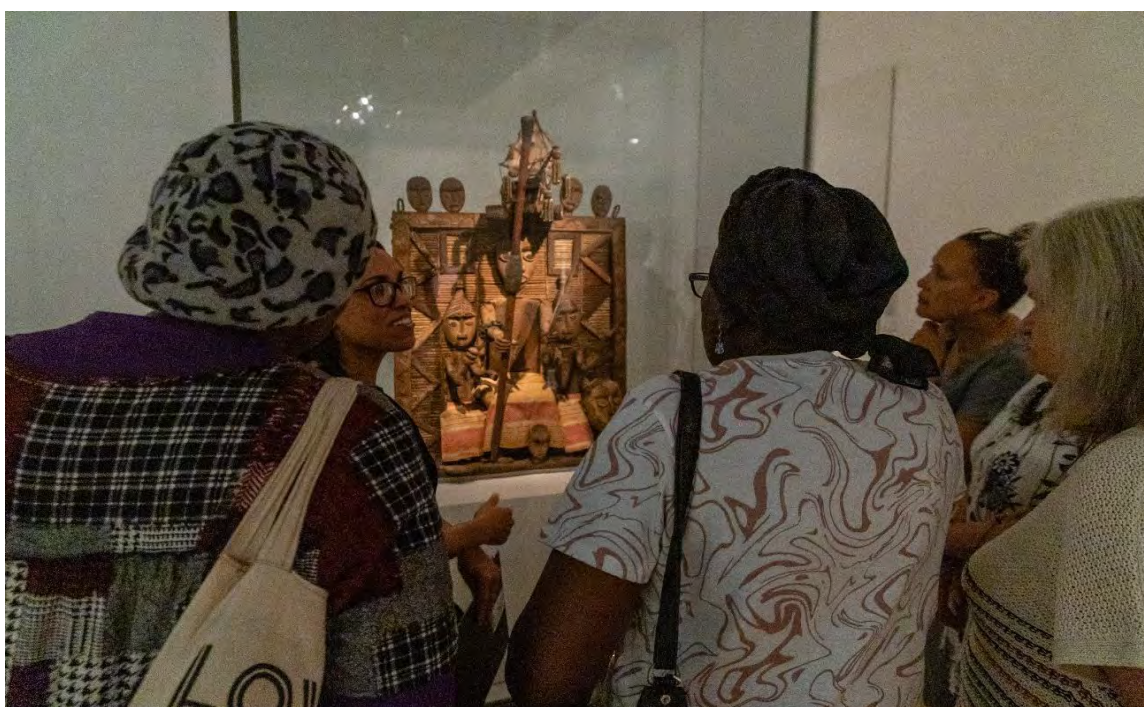


Figure 7. Community members on a free guided tour of the British Museum are shown Nigerian artefacts by Laura Lewis, Head of Community Partnerships at the British Museum. Photography: Joseph Obasi @ jaybrightmedia_studio1.

At the British Museum people appreciated the guided tour and the fact they could touch some of the objects, finding staff *‘Informative and friendly’*:

“I have been to the British Museum many times, and having a guided tour has to be the icing on the cake bring the historical elements of the collection and to learn more about them has to be priceless.”

“...very interesting and informative interactive session. Congratulations to the museum staff.”

“Absolutely loved the tour in the British Museum, absolutely loved it. It was so well organised and the people were so clever. It was very interesting.”

“They [British Museum staff] made us feel special.”

Tours and theatre engage people with heritage



Figure . 8. IROKO Theatre Company with Supplementary Schools from London at the Museum of London, Docklands.
Photography: Joseph Obasi @ jaybrightmedia_studio1.

Trips were organised to three museums. The Museum of London Docklands (for adults and children), hosted a workshop exploring the history of Nigeria. The Horniman Museum welcomed a group on a tour of their World Gallery (where arts and artefacts from The Kingdom of Benin are displayed), and the Music Gallery. The

British Museum organised a tour to view their African and Nigerian arts and artefacts. A total of 62 people participated in the museum trips.

Although most of the British Museum participants had visited before, half the adults feeding back on their trip to the Museum of London Docklands had not been to this museum before.

2,113 members of public engaged with the HfH project through a theatre performance. Feedback about these performances is consistently positive, suggesting high levels of engagement and an interest in the heritage portrayed (see also ‘awareness of heritage raised’ and ‘public engage through performances’):

“Story of destiny, ocean, women.” Participant at Stratford Library Sharing Day

“From this performance I learnt the usefulness of my Nigerian heritage. I see the need to be active in promoting a project like this one.” Participant in Stratford Library Sharing Day

Community journalists guide researchers to help HfH reach ‘uncelebrated’ Nigerians

Community Journalists from the African Voice Newspapers used their links with the Nigerian community to enable HfH researchers to reach British-Nigerians for the oral interviews. Six experienced Community Journalists, themselves Nigerians, worked alongside HfH researchers and the wider IROKO team in the assessment, categorisation, and selection process of the exhibition materials.

They helped attract people to the conference and were also involved in shaping the content of the project, including additional, well-received presentations such as the presentation on ‘Culture and Identity’ and ‘Hair and Heritage’. They also provided added value to the project by identifying most of the British-Nigerians that took part in the popular written interviews that were not part of the original proposal.

People developing skills

Seven training courses were provided as part of the HfH project, attended by a total of 81 people. Feedback was received from just over half those participating in training, and this was consistently positive, with significant evidence for every course that participants had developed or enhanced their skills.

COURSE	PARTICIPANTS	FEEDBACK
Research, archiving & documentation	17 (same participants as Oral History)	5 forms
Oral history	(14)	2 forms
Website Accessibility & Useability (RNIB)	4 (IROKO staff team)	3 interviews
Performative arts (2 sessions, accredited)	26 (only 15 received AIM Award Certification)	15 forms
Oral History Video Recording and documentation (2 sessions)	3	3 videos
HfH Workshop Leaders (using storytelling to bring heritage alive)	9	4 interviews
Training for Unskilled Project Volunteers	22	9 written and oral feedback
TOTAL	81	41

Volunteers gain practical research skills in archiving and oral history

Everyone feeding back on the researching, archiving and documentation training said they had gained skills in this area:

“The workshop definitely assisted me by informing me the vast amount of resources and artefacts available at LMA and other websites. I was not even aware of the LMA before this. The tour opened up the world of archiving, storage, restoration and preservation. It was all very interesting and relevant.” Research, archiving and documentation training participant

“The workshop gave me a good understanding of what it takes to run and upkeep an archive. It also gave me the resources in order to complete well rounded research.” Research, archiving and documentation training participant

“I learned about the workings of an archive, and the different departments, ie collections, conservations.” Research, archiving and documentation training participant



Figure 9. Volunteer Researchers attend training and tour of the London Metropolitan Archives. Photography: Joseph Obasi @ jaybrightmedia_studio1.

Asked about the top three things they'd take away from this training, several participants listed actions they intended to take as a direct result of the training:

- *Check out the London Picture Archives and Layers of London maps.*
- *Learn a bit more about preservation and cataloguing because I was very interested in that.*
- *Definitely explore the London Met new digital Archives. Use catalogue research-guide videos.*
- *How to use the archives within my own research.*
- *It reminded me how valuable the archives can be when gaining research for this project.*
- *How to use sites like Layers of London and the London Picture Archives and apply them as a research resource.*
- *How to request an item at the Archives.*

Young people trained to document and edit oral history videos

The two participants feeding back on their experience of the oral history training described a range of skills and knowledge they'd gained around documenting and editing oral histories:

- *Allowed me to learn about interviewing*
- *Learned more about oral histories and the history of these*
- *Learned more about skills to engage in oral histories interviewing*

In terms of specific skills, one participant described the importance of:

- *Seeking a diversity of opinions*
- *Being non-judgmental: “working through your assumptions”*
- *Being transparent when present your research intentions*

In terms of knowledge, they described the importance of:

- *Seeking history from a ‘bottom up’ historical approach*
- *Making the findings accessible for listeners from different backgrounds as they will need to understand the cultural significance of the topic of discussion*

“It’s introduced me to interesting ways of presenting research. And the importance of not necessarily going into research with a chronological mindset, but rather a thematic one”

Participants in the Oral History video recording and documentation course learned about editing oral history videos. Some also reported learning more generally in terms of oral history:

“I wanted to develop my skills in videography because I want to get into videography and art direction. But since coming here I’ve really enjoyed learning about the oral history and the project we’re going to be undertaking.”

One participant had learned about the importance of the people behind the camera:

“I have a background in performing arts. I’ve always been on screen or stage. I have little or no experience about being behind the camera. There’s a lot of credit even though people don’t really like show those behind the camera, you only just see them when it comes to showing the cast and crew that actually made a particular production so actually once you use this opportunity to have a glance and to gain more experience as to what it’s like to work behind the camera.”

One mentioned more specific learning: *“Learning about interview techniques has been really helpful.”*

Volunteers gain skills

43 of the 81 people accessing training as part of the HfH project were volunteers. Specific skills gained through this training are described below and elsewhere in this report.

People training in using performative art to make heritage accessible and help deliver activities



Figure 10. Participants enjoy a performative art workshop delivered by Iroko Theatre at the Brady Arts and Community Centre in Tower Hamlets. Photography: Joseph Obasi @ jaybrightmedia_studio1.

All performative art workshop participants providing feedback said they gained skills and knowledge about how to use the performative arts to raise awareness of heritage. They gave examples of skills and knowledge gained around story telling structure and techniques, engaging the audience, use of music and rhythm, heritage culture and symbolism.

All except one gave examples of how they would use their learning in the future. Almost all (14/16) said they would use their learning in future performances:

“I’ll use this learning to continue journey into the performing industry.”

“...hopefully get back to performing stories at open mic events.”

Several planned specific projects which would benefit from their learning:

“Will write play for theatre using the experience.”

“Make a theatrical project of my own about my immigrant heritage.”

The three performers interviewed for the evaluation had considerable experience between them but all said they'd enhanced their skills through their involvement with the HfH project:

'I worked with IROKO for almost 20 years. Every time I do a project I enhance my drumming and acting skills.' Performer

'Been an artist since 1996. Work with IROKO has helped me develop myself. Back home we do stage acting differently. People from lots of different cultures watch us here. I've had to upgrade my skills, like changing my accent so people understand me.' Performer

'IROKO has a spontaneous, improvisational approach to storytelling which will be useful for my own creative practice. This will become part of my vocabulary going forwards.' Performer

The work experience placement described learning storytelling skills through his performances with IROKO. *'It's a way to educate.'* He now understands storytelling is another way to facilitate and planned to use storytelling to present his project to lecturers.

IROKO team members equipped to manage project website and ensure accessibility

Three IROKO team members attended the RNIB training in website accessibility. One was not involved in managing the project website but still found the training useful:

'I have not been involved in managing the website but did the RNIB training which has given me an insight into the common usability/accessibility issues affecting disabled people.' IROKO Projects Coordinator

The other two team members went on to use the training in their management of the project micro-site. They both found the training extremely useful which equipped them to manage the micro-site in terms of accessibility:

'It helped me understand common issues around accessibility for disabled people. I liaised with our microsite developer about accessibility, and the microsite is much more accessible than our main site now. I can now deal with the back end of the microsite and cover its security.' HfH Project Director.

'I feel very equipped [...] My work with HfH has enhanced my skills. I can confidently create and upload content.' HfH Project Coordinator.

'I was starting from scratch in terms of accessibility and learned a lot. I now understand the issues, things I hadn't thought about before. 'Now accessibility is foremost in terms of decisions made about the website.' For example we

have clear captions for photos. It's been very valuable learning.' "My eyes were opened." HfH Project Coordinator.

People learning about heritage

The overall reach of the HfH project is impressive, with almost 98,000 people known to have engaged in some way. The enhanced use of social media had a significant positive impact on reach and engagement. Data for the last 90 days of the project shows 2,511 followers on Instagram, 12,240 on LinkedIn and 1,328 on X (Twitter). Engagement through Facebook was 7,254 and the best performing tweet in the last 3 weeks of the project had a reach of over 8,000. In July alone reach on social media exceeded 23,000 and the IROKO Facebook page had more than 2400 impressions.

The recruitment of a Marketing/Comms Consultant for this project enabled IROKO to reach a huge audience and engage them in learning about heritage.

People experience heritage during launch and conference

86 people attended the launch in March 2023 and 93 took part in the conference in October that year. Feedback from conference attendees highlighted their interest in Nigerian heritage. They often said they came to expand their understanding of heritage:

"To understand more of my heritage and hear the hidden narrative about my history."

"To hear about the contributions Nigerians have made to the UK."

"To learn more about the history and current state of Nigerians in the UK."

"I am interested in Newham's multi-cultural and multi-lingualism generally and in all its ethnic communities. I chose to attend this specialist conference not least because Nigerians are a significant community in Newham ..."

All except one person providing feedback from the conference agreed or strongly agreed that they understood Nigerian heritage better as a result of the conference.

Positive image of British-Nigerians promoted, negative stereotypes overturned

The resources created through the HfH project form an impressive legacy powerfully demonstrating the positive contribution of British-Nigerians. Comments from people engaging with the exhibitions and Sharing Days are reported under other outcomes and highlight the significant impact of this project on the positivity of people's perceptions.

There is evidence from museum trips that these visits positively impacted images of Nigerian culture:

“It is always interesting to learn about the African continent history, and Benin collection shows us our rich history contrary to what the Europeans has taught us, that Africa didn’t have a rich culture.” Horniman Museum participant

Participants at Sharing Days commented on the positive, celebratory images in the exhibitions. There is also evidence of people of Nigerian heritage becoming more positive about this heritage as a result of performances:

“From this performance I learnt the usefulness of my Nigerian heritage. I see the need to be active in promoting a project like this one.” Participant in Stratford Library Sharing Day

See also the outcome ‘Negative images of Nigerians overturned. British-Nigerians seen as a positive presence in British society under heritage in better condition’.

Public access museum and library tours

62 adults and children took part in a museum tour through the HfH project. Feedback from participants about these tours is consistently positive, with people finding them interesting and enjoyable. They often provide detailed comments about artefacts or facts they remember, and some people clearly plan to engage further with heritage as a result.



Figure 11. Community members from Newham discuss the return of the Benin Bronzes with museum curator Korantema Anyimadu at the Horniman Museum and Gardens.

More than a third of those participating in the British Museum trip said that one of the things they would take away from the visit was an interest in or understanding of cultural history/heritage:

“Very interesting hearing the cultural history of Benin.”

“So enjoyed learning about different cultures at museum.”

A similar number commented on the knowledge and passion of the museum stewards and curators:

“Excellent display of Nigerian and other cultural artefacts.”

Participants in the British Museum trip were especially interested in the Benin artefacts, including the replica mask, bronzes, wood carvings and sculptures, and symbols such as the leopard, necklace of responsibility and tree of life:

“The African history is very rich.”

“History is everywhere. So much to learn.”

“Africa’s influence is all over the world.”

There was evidence in the feedback from museum trips that some participants were surprised by what they found, and that some intended to engage further with heritage through museums. Asked ‘What are the three top things you are going to take away from the visit?’ feedback from those attending the Horniman Museum visit included the following:

“That this sort of museum is available. The variety of things to see. The knowledge acquired.”

“Firstly to visit the museum again. So much to see.”

“This visit was a brilliant idea. It broadens people’s awareness of heritage and the contributions of us all from around the world.”

Someone who had attended with a community group even intended to cascade what they’d learned: *“All information today, will be given to other members of the club.”*

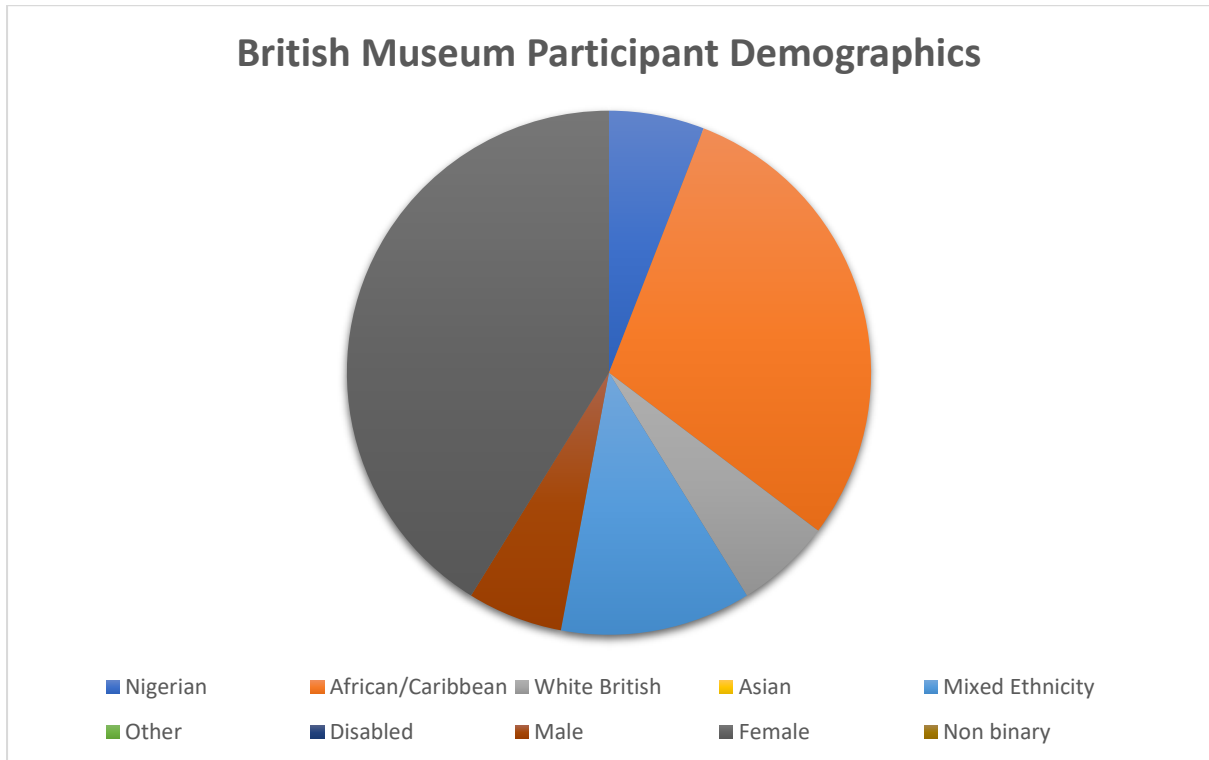
Three people attending the British Museum trip mentioned future heritage-focused plans as a direct result of the visit:

“Do more research about that cloth – blue.”

“Certainty to come back and learn more!!”

“Will definitely be coming back for visit with my daughter.”

British Museum Participant Demographics



All adults feeding back about their trip to the Museum of London Docklands said the visit had made a difference to their knowledge of, or interest in, heritage including Nigerian arts and artefacts:

“It’s really interesting to see African things.”

“Lot of things I would like to know now.”

“I didn’t know a lot about slavery until now.”

“I didn’t know how diverse the museum was and how it showed Nigerian culture/history.”

There was a particular focus on learning about the slave trade:

“That slave trade was going on for 300+ years, practically becoming a norm.”

And about Nigerian heritage:

“The history behind our culture.”

“Where we came from and embracing heritage.”

“That there is much Nigerian history in London.”

“I can take away that history happened and shapes England now.”

Almost every child feeding back about their trip to the Museum of London Docklands said they enjoyed the visit. They’d all learned something new and most wanted to learn more:

“I really enjoyed it the teacher was very nice. I would love to come back again.”

“I didn’t know how diverse the museum was on how it showed Nigerian culture/history. Now I know that there is much Nigerian history in London.”

Although the evaluation did not systematically collect feedback from the library exhibitions, participants in Sharing Days often commented on the positive impact of the exhibition on their understanding of heritage.

Pupils access programmes in schools

1569 children and young people participated in HfH performances, drumming, dancing or oral storytelling workshops through six schools. Written feedback from children was difficult to obtain given the limited contact time IROKO staff had with them. A rhythmic evaluation technique was used at the end of the workshop in some schools to enable children to indicate through drumming whether they’d enjoyed the activity, had learned from it and would like to do it again. Given the informal nature of this technique, the feedback it provides is approximate. Most children indicated positively for each question.

Where children completed feedback forms or sent written feedback, there is clear evidence of enjoyment, learning and positive impact on wellbeing. The following comments were written by 7 and 8 year olds at Roksley School:

“It was really fun learning about Nigeria. I’m Nigerian!”

“I learnt lots!”

“It was the best day!”

“I really liked the story telling!”

“I loved Iroko so much. I wish I could do it again every year.”

This sense of joy and creative engagement is reinforced by the lead teacher for this school:

“It was a brilliant day for all of the children! It was great for the children to develop their speaking skills and experience performing to an audience. The children also developed their listening skills – both listening to someone directing them, but also listening to each other. [...] As a teacher, it was useful to see how you teach drumming, dance and storytelling. It gave me the inspiration and confidence to teach these skills myself.

However, my favourite part of the day was at the end when we invited parents, children and staff to take part in a drumming workshop after school. It was a rare opportunity for us to learn a new skill together and take part in a joint activity. Overall, it was a day full of fun, energy and delight. Thank you so much!” Year 3 Lead, Roksley Primary

Children at Newstead Wood school said they'd enjoyed the story, the sense of community, the drums, and performing. They said they'd learned about call and response, how to tell a story and be engaging, and how to tell a story through drums. The Assistant Headteacher at this school was extremely positive about their experience:

"Students enjoy the creative and fun sessions, whilst as staff we appreciate the excellent organisation, clear communication and reliable service. We love working with the Iroko Theatre Company and cannot recommend them highly enough!" Assistant Headteacher, Newstead Wood School

Public engage through performances

One of the partner organisations hosting a Sharing Day described how they thought the HfH project helped to better document and preserve the heritage of British-Nigerians and engage new audiences through performing arts:

"It does this through performing arts, which I think makes it interesting and accessible to a wider audience, especially those who may not think they are interested in heritage, and who don't have any knowledge of Nigerian culture." Learning and Engagement Manager, Black Cultural Archives

The Stone of Destiny performance formed part of each Sharing Day. Feedback from these days includes evidence of real engagement and enjoyment:

"Loved the performance!" Participant at Uxbridge Library Sharing Day

"Would love to see another performance" Participant at Uxbridge Library Sharing Day

"Thanks for a truly uplifting performance at Stratford Library." Participant at Stratford Library Sharing Day

"Music helps tell a story." Participant at Uxbridge Library Sharing Day

People access eResources

All the eResources are available on the LEARNING page on the project's microsite – www.HfH.irokotheatre.org.uk. The eResources are categorised under different headings – (Hi)stories, Oral Histories, Interviews, Blogs and Links. The (Hi)stories page contain all the profiles of 100 British-Nigerians featured in the project. The Oral Histories page contains the oral history interviews with 13 British-Nigerians while the Interview page profiles written interviews conducted with 23 British-Nigerians excelling in various fields. The Blogs page contains interesting blogs about the

project, but also, informative, interesting and downloadable articles on various subjects like:

- The Nigerian Influence: Shaping British Society Across Dimensions
- The Legacy of Musicians of Nigerian descent in the UK's music eco-system
- 'Yoruba' Delights and Dilemmas: A Few Things Young British Nigerians Face within "Aladura" Church Settings
- Nigerian Cook Book
- 6 British Nigerian Sports Professionals Making Noise in their Fields
- Hair As Heritage
- The influence and place of Nigerian Dance on British Society

The Links page contain links to third-party sites with useful and educational contents that relate to the theme of HfH project.

Seeking photo consent and other minor technical issues delayed publication of some of the materials online, but they were all uploaded and available by the end of the project. By 3rd August 117 resource downloads had been completed, mostly using the QR code. These downloads took place across the UK and a few were located in France.

For lasting legacy, IROKO will be storing the 'Home from Home' eResources with various local and national archives. Organisations including the Migration Museum, London Metropolitan Archives, Black Cultural Archives, Newham Archives and Local Studies Library have already indicated interest in storing the eResources. IROKO have also identified various archiving bodies that they will send the eResources to. They are registered with Europeana, an organisation that shares and promotes Europe's rich digital cultural heritage, in order that as many people as possible in the UK and Europe can learn and enjoy the heritage of people of Nigerian descent in Britain.

People have greater wellbeing

There is evidence from the evaluation that the HfH project enhanced the wellbeing of many of those involved and that at times this impact was significant and even life-changing. One of the staff team described a positive impact on the wellbeing of participants and themselves:

'There's also been a significant impact in terms of wellbeing. People have enjoyed engaging and have felt better because of it. It's positively impacted my own wellbeing participating in events and knowing we're leaving a positive legacy for the community.' HfH Project Coordinator.

A committee member talked about improving their interpersonal skills and witnessing IROKO's impact on wellbeing:

'I've improved my skills in how I portray things to people, on dealing with people, understanding their needs and non-verbal cues. I've seen the impact IROKO has on people's wellbeing.' IROKO Chair

Although we didn't ask people engaging in Sharing Days about impact on their wellbeing, a number of people attending the Stratford event spontaneously mentioned this:

"I felt uplifted by the music."

*"I came sad to this programme and I am going home happy. I am healed."
Urhobo participant*

"Keeping my hope alive. There is light at the end of the tunnel. Patience."

"Please can you send me the video of my dances both first and second dance so my social worker will see how you guys help my mental health for the weekend and how i have been improve on my mood."

"This is a good therapy for me"

A [video clip](#) of testimonials during a Q and A session from this event includes the following statements from two different people:

"I was not well, and I was having suicidal thoughts and I was referred by Mind to the group. I went once. My life has never remained the same since I went there. [...] I have a bad leg but I still was able to dance. I dance away my sorrow." Female Nigerian participant

"Before I came I was feeling quite down, you know. I was just going to go home and get into bed. And now I feel lifted up." Male participant

This spontaneous feedback was mentioned by several performers and had clearly been a powerful experience for those who were there:

'After one performance in Stratford one woman stood up and told us 'I am proof that IROKO is helping people.' She has been suicidal. IROKO had helped her see a different part of life. She was dancing to the drums. She was excited, happy to be here. It was powerful. IROKO is life changing, making people happy, giving people joy.' Performer

'A man talked about assuming African theatre was just singing and dancing, and learning a lot from a performance with a moral story. IROKO changes people's lives.' Work experience placement

People telling stories

The HfH project interviewed 13 Nigerian Londoners and published their stories on the project microsite. By July 3rd a total of 7554 views had taken place of these interviews, ranging from 77 to 1238 for individual interviews. In addition, the project team compiled 23 written interviews with British-Nigerians, also published on the microsite, which had received 10,302 views by the end of the project.

Performers and volunteers learned about storytelling through the HfH project, and there is evidence that these skills will enhance future work through IROKO and beyond:

'Storytelling is also a new way of working. You need to rehearse your stories. The better you understand, the more you can help your audience understand.'
Work experience placement

'The improvisational approach to storytelling is relatively new to me. And I picked up one or two other skills or techniques. I'm likely to use these ways of working elsewhere, especially educational work with young people – there are lots of opportunities.' Performer

People learn from those sharing heritage/stories

The HfH project was based around people sharing stories of their heritage. There is evidence across stakeholder groups that this story sharing has enabled people to learn about the many positive contributions of British-Nigerians and the heritage and culture of themselves and others:

"This project is helping to document and preserve the heritage of British-Nigerians. It is important for British-Nigerians to have access to these events, get involved and have the opportunity to share stories and experiences. It is also vital for community cohesion that people from other communities attend and learn more about how British-Nigerians have contributed to cultural and educational life in Britain and in particular, London." Libraries Development Manager, Brent Council

'We all have lots to learn, ideas from so many different cultures. We need to help people understand. Lots of Africans have never been home so they learn through us.' Performer

'I wish and hope the project can happen again. It should reach a broader audience and be taken to a higher stage. The project isn't just for Nigerians, it can work for other cultures and is of interest to other cultures. Cultures are rich and beautiful.' It's an opportunity for people to learn and understand more about themselves and others. I teach you my culture, you teach me yours.'
Work experience placement

The evaluation picked up a number of examples of people who intended to cascade their learning from HfH to others. Several conference participants had plans to use knowledge they had gained through the project to enable shared learning between people from African and Caribbean diasporas:

“By encouraging more discussion between those born in Africa and those born in the Caribbean to create more of an understanding.”

“I will read up on many of the people mentioned and share the knowledge.”

British-Nigerians, people of Nigerian descent and other migrants have enhanced emotional wellbeing, self-esteem, confidence, sense of identity and belonging.

Some conference participants with Nigerian or African heritage commented that the event had positively impacted their wellbeing or sense of identity:

“Yes it is good to feel part of community and to be welcomed into such a space.”

“It makes me proud of my heritage.”

Two performers had similar thoughts about how IROKO enhances people’s wellbeing. People from the African diaspora gain through positive experience of their culture which impacts their sense of identity and self:

‘It enhances people’s wellbeing. This is who we are. People learn about their culture from us. Our culture is beautiful. People learn so much from us.’
Performer

‘I think it’s about people engaging with something that’s missing from their lives – somewhere reminiscent of things they knew from their heritage. It’s like an oasis – people can dip into cultural experiences from their past.’ Performer

There is also considerable research evidence that physical and mental wellbeing are enhanced through dance and music:

‘Wellbeing was given a boost by dancing, music playing.’ Performer

Participation in training boosts confidence and enhances wellbeing

All the staff members who trained in usability and accessibility for the microsite said they were more confident and better equipped to deliver this element of their work as a result.

One in three participants in the performative art workshops mentioned fun or spontaneity as one of the top things they took from the training:

“Joy: expression, sound repetition, spontaneous combined in action.”

“How to be spontaneous and have fun.”

“Going with the flow.”

Two said their confidence had improved as a result of this training and one had experienced a sense of community building.

Self-esteem raised for those from Nigerian backgrounds, particularly young people

There is evidence from some of the interviews of Nigerian Londoners that HfH has facilitated a raising of their self-esteem. Celebrating Nigerian heritage and culture and providing a sense of belonging and community appear to have been key mechanisms for this:

“Naija no dey carry last! I am Naija to the core and the Nigerian in me oozes out of every pore. I celebrate being Nigerian by being the best version of me.”

““Home From Home” signifies a place or community where I feel a profound sense of belonging and comfort, akin to my native home. It is a supportive environment where my cultural roots and personal values are embraced and celebrated, providing a sanctuary that nurtures growth, connection, and a strong sense of identity.”

“For me, “home from home” means that I can be taken out of Nigeria, but you cannot take the Nigerian out of me. My formative years were spent in Nigeria and I was moulded there. I attended Queen’s College Lagos, a unity school where I was taught to speak the three main Nigerian languages: Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa, and learned the different cultures. I also learned to speak Pidgin English. I am very Nigerian and blend this equally with being British. I am proud to be a Nigerian who is also British and showcase both in how I live and work.”

“Home from Home means living authentically wherever I am. If I can’t be my authentic self, which includes having access to aspects of my (Nigerian) culture and heritage, then it is going to be harder to make myself ‘at home’.”

Organisation more resilient

There is evidence that the HfH project has positively impacted IROKO’s resilience in a number of ways. It has significantly raised the organisation’s profile through the project activities, related publicity and new and stronger connections with other organisations, institutions and heritage experts.

Asked whether HfH had made a difference to the resilience of IROKO, all team members and committee members were sure it had, and most described several ways in which it had:

'Yes it's strengthened our skills around project and financial management. The project has raised our profile as an organisation. We've been able to recruit a marketing and comms consultant. The current person in this role is great – really pro-active and creative. We'd like this role to continue but the consultant is also showing the Project Director how to do things so we're gaining new skills and understanding ourselves. Some changes we can easily continue...' IROKO Project Coordinator.

'Such a big project has added to IROKO's resilience. It has so many facets and has built capacity across different aspects: the microsite, events, working with experts, partners, volunteers.' HfH Project Coordinator.

'It's enabled them to expand the type of work they do, develop the website and create lots of resources – this is an important legacy. Also, they have developed new contacts and rekindled old ones.' IROKO Secretary

Raising profile – better known and better connected

Both committee members and the staff team felt HfH had significantly increased IROKO's profile:

'One thing this project has done is raise the profile of IROKO massively, especially among Nigerians.' HfH Project Director

This had been achieved through increased partnership working, outreach and reach, and enhanced social media presence:

'The social media consultant has really made a difference, with engagement much higher.' IROKO Secretary

'People are engaging much more through our social media presence. Previous partnerships are being rejuvenated through this profile raising. We used to work with Stratford Academy 10-15 years ago and they recently invited us to perform the Stone of Destiny at two sites for 300 students. It's brought us back together and they're talking about us doing things for them next year.' HfH Project Director

'It's definitely raised the profile through outreach and reach – London-wide and even nation-wide.' HfH Project Coordinator.

'When HfH started I noticed a change in the volume of people engaging with IROKO. It's helped to raise our profile locally, nationally, even internationally. HfH has solidified and expanded IROKO's network. It's helped to invigorate relationships that had become dormant.' IROKO Chair

'IROKO was originally schools-based. Before covid they were beginning to diversify, working with the NHS, homeless organisations, women's groups etc. HfH has enabled IROKO to build on this diversification, taking activities to people who wouldn't otherwise access them.' IROKO Secretary

There was evidence of the impact of their enhanced profile in a forthcoming engagement:

'We're in the opening ceremony for Newham Heritage Month.' HfH Project Director

Legacy of knowledge and resources

The HfH exhibition was far more extensive than planned and required considerable time, research and curation. The staff team and committee members acknowledged this and felt it resulted in an important legacy that would support IROKO's resilience and reach going forwards:

'The impact in terms of heritage is huge and easy to see. Putting together 100 profiles was a huge task which has generated conversations and debates beyond the project. There is a great legacy of resources.' HfH Project Coordinator

This legacy goes beyond the research achieved and the physical exhibition as a resource. The process of researching and producing the resources provide a legacy of enhanced knowledge and skills for IROKO:

'The skills we've gained from this project are massive all round. It's made us more robust and resilient. The knowledge we now have about British-Nigerians is immeasurable. We know how to design and publicise things differently.' HfH Project Director

This legacy of heritage resources, expertise and skills should also help the organisation secure funding for future activities:

'It's created a library of resources. And more funding options – people want us to do storytelling and activities for Black History Month.' IROKO Chair

'IROKO has definitely benefitted. They have resources that could be loaned or monetised. They've learned a lot through the project and developed more expertise around heritage, story-telling and performing.' IROKO Secretary

Succession planning

HfH has enabled IROKO to increase the number of younger people developing skills, knowledge and experience that could be part of the organisation's future legacy:

'It's helped us to engage more younger people – the work experience placement, and training young people in photography.' IROKO Chair



Figure 12. Students from the University of East London attend a Photography and Videography Storytelling Training delivered by Linzy-Attenborough at Rosetta Arts Centre in Newham.

See 'new ways of working trialled' for further details around this.

Partnerships developed

HfH has enabled new partnerships to be developed, and previous partnerships or connections strengthened or resurrected. Through HfH IROKO has created a network of 40 partner organisations that have supported project activities and will hopefully remain partners beyond the project. 24 of these organisations (60%) were new partners for IROKO:

'A key success was the network of reliable partners who do it because they have a genuine interest.' HfH Project Director

For example, IROKO used to work with the Horniman Museum but staffing changes and gaps between projects meant they lost connection for several years. HfH enabled them to connect again via the British Museum and IROKO hope this partnership can continue:

'We've re-established our partnership with the Horniman Museum and they've invited us to a special tour to see Benin artifacts in storage. We've built a good relationship with their curator.' HfH Project Director

IROKO's relationship with the British Museum was also strengthened by the HfH project:

'We've solidified our relationship with the British Museum and are part of two of their consultations panels on how to re-present Africa at the Museum and also about Decolonising the Archives.' HfH Project Director

The range of partnerships developed or strengthened through HfH will help IROKO in a number of ways:

'These are all good partnerships for a small organisation. It's about profile raising and possible future partnership working. Also reach into new areas.' HfH Project Director

Examples of new partnerships developed through HfH include:

Healtogether CIC – a Somali organisation:

'We ran a clay modelling workshop with women at Canning Town library, where they started singing together. I had a drum in the van and went to get it and accompanied their singing. Since then they have borrowed drums from us twice and two weeks ago I connected them with someone to buy their own drums. They've also booked us for a community event.' HfH Project Director



Figure 13. Examples from the community outreach clay modelling workshop with HealTogether CIC. Participants produced models of traditional kitchen utensils, textiles and the IROKO Tree. Photography: Joseph Obasi @ jaybrightmedia_studio1.

The HfH exhibition toured 13 libraries across London, creating new partnerships with some. **Southwark and Lambeth libraries:**

'[we] now have two connections in south London. Lambeth want to use the HfH exhibition for Black History Month.' HfH Project Director

Work with some partner libraries had already extended beyond HfH:

'Redbridge library have involved us with projects beyond HfH. Our exhibition was due to be shown at their central library but they chose to take it to others in their borough as well. Hillingdon Libraries want IROKO to deliver story-telling activities in 2025.' HfH Project Director

IROKO collaborated with **Events Academy** and Newham's Volunteers Team to access volunteers for events. Events Academy train young people for work in the events industry while encourages resident engagement and participation in local activities.

The **University of East London (UEL)**, although not an official partner, engaged well with the project. Their Talent Gateway – Employment Partnerships department supported and hosted the conference:

'UEL played an important role – we couldn't have done the conference without them – they gave us discounted rates for the venue, allowed us to use their logo and helped with a volunteer team. We also found a work experience placement through UEL and I'm liaising with their drama department for possible future work.' HfH Project Director

There is potential for developing this relationship for future projects:

'UEL – we now have a very strong relationship – lots of collaboration around the conference, including bringing businesses (such as caterers) into the university. There are strong and growing links with students and volunteers. There are lots of avenues to explore – such as more work experience placements, using UEL as a platform for other events like theatre performances. It's on IROKO's doorstep and has a huge population of young adults and experts.' HfH Project Coordinator



Figure 14. The photo call included participants and speakers at the Conference on the Legacy of People of Nigerian Descent in Britain, held at UEL. Photography: Joseph Obasi @ jaybrightmedia_studio1.

Committee members were also aware of the importance of partnerships built or strengthened through HfH:

‘Rekindling the relationship with the Horniman museum has been important. A new relationship has been made with Healtogether. These partnerships and connections are already leading to new collaborations and bookings.’ IROKO Secretary

‘Exhibitions in libraries have been visited by people in other boroughs who’ve asked for it to go to their venue (eg Lambeth).’ IROKO Secretary

‘HfH has benefitted IROKO and the organisations they work with. Some want IROKO to help to train their staff/volunteers to deliver similar activities. Others have requested advice and support in applying for funding. This is something IROKO is keen to do.’ IROKO Secretary

‘Lambeth library want input for Black History Month. We’ve built a new partnership with a Somali Organisation, who loved the drumming and we’ll have an ongoing relationship.’ IROKO Chair

Asked whether partnership working with IROKO had been useful for their own organisation, partners had a lot of positive feedback. HfH activities had supported some partners in their delivery of equality, diversity and inclusion activity for residents:

“Yes, supporting all communities and bridging the equality and diversity among communities is vital to the core values of Newham Council. Iroko bring flair and flavour to the events.” Community Neighbourhood Senior Officer, Stratford and West Ham

The HfH events introduced new audiences to the partner organisations:

“It brought in new audiences, who might not have known about BCA before, and who will hopefully come to other events we host.” Learning and Engagement Manager, Black Cultural Archives

One partner mentioned the importance of these activities being funded:

“We offer a diverse and inclusive event programme and so this partnership was useful because it offered us something new – new speakers and a variety of topics that we were able to choose from. Also in light of budget restrictions, we were extremely grateful to receive these events free of charge. Without the funding that IROKO received, we would not have been able to book these events independently.” Libraries Development Manager, Brent Council

In some cases HfH partners had well-established relationships with IROKO:

“Over the years, working with Iroko has enriched the library programme via the events and activities that Iroko have provided. The Home from Home project and exhibition was another way to engage with the local community in

an informative and entertaining way.” Development Librarian, Celebratory Projects and Health & Wellbeing Vision, Redbridge Culture and Leisure

“We are fortunate to have had a long-standing relationship with IROKO that we value. We appreciated the invitation to be a small part of this project by helping to facilitate a visit to the Museum and to share our African collection more widely. We look forward to continuing our relationship with IROKO.” Head of Community Partnerships, British Museum

Where connections made through HfH were new or had been renewed after a gap, partners were clearly keen to see the partnership continue:

“More awareness of the work that they do. We’re looking forward to hosting the exhibition again, later in the year!” Community Hub Library Manager, Lambeth Council

“It has been great linking with Iroko and we hope to stay in touch in case there are any future creative or heritage related opportunities.” Senior Curator of Anthropology, Horniman Museum and Gardens

“It has been beneficial having local, young people engaging with their museum – and also, consulting on museum decisions.” Engagement Manager, Museum of London Docklands

Every partner responded positively when asked whether their organisation would be interested in partnering with IROKO on future heritage projects.

New ways of working trialled

The IROKO team outlined a number of different ways of working they had trialled through HfH. Sometimes these were planned into the project proposal, occasionally they happened by chance and sometimes they emerged as a response to challenges experienced along the way.

New ways of working – planned

The project co-ordinator highlighted several new ways of working for IROKO that took place during the HfH project:

‘I have learned that there were many new ways of working on the project. It was the first time IROKO organised a Conference with so many experts and speakers from different fields. We worked with a Communications Consultant, who has raised the visibility of the project considerably, also introducing written interviews. It was the first time IROKO created a microsite specific to the project and of course learning about accessibility issues. We worked with community journalists, which is also a new way of working.’ HfH Project Co-ordinator

HfH enabled IROKO to *significantly enhance* its online profile with an **accessible microsite** enabling public access to its digital resources and a much greater **social media presence**:

'The microsite accessibility is a new way of working. It's been good to engage with more young volunteers from Nigerian and African/Caribbean backgrounds.' HfH Project Coordinator

'Much stronger online presence developed through HfH. People increasingly share and connect through social media.' IROKO Secretary

'We've had a marketing consultant for the first time to help raise awareness, up the social media profile. This has really helped with engagement.' IROKO Chair

The project included sharing Nigerian heritage through performances and the stories and contribution of British-Nigerians. This involved **working with research material and with composers** for some performances, both activities IROKO would like to continue:

'HfH enabled us to work with composers and to work with research material. We'd like to do this more regularly, as this type of working enables us to look at things in depth.' HfH Project Director

Finally, the project included **work with vulnerable groups** that would not normally access IROKO's events:

'Working with mental health patients and rough sleepers – people who wouldn't usually access activities like this.' IROKO Secretary

People from these vulnerable groups attended the Stratford Library event, because the library was serving as a Warm Centre and they were already at the venue. Staff reported that some were pleased to receive the project T-shirt and enjoyed the performance, and the refreshments provided.

New ways of working – by chance

The project proposal included recruiting and training 5 young people in oral history videos, but this was the only intentional **engagement of younger people** in project delivery. Part way through the project IROKO was approached by a Nigerian student from UEL seeking a placement for his course in performing arts.

IROKO welcomed this work experience placement into the project and he joined the team of performers. As the youngest performer he appreciated working with and learning from people with greater knowledge and experience. His experience as a work experience placement with IROKO on the HfH project had clearly been extremely positive:

'The performers welcomed me with open hearts. They treated me as if they'd known me for years.'

He thinks it would be good for IROKO to pro-actively engage younger performers: *'Groom and train us so they can hand on the baton.'* He suggested that IROKO connect more with UEL so other students can engage. He had talked about his placement with other students who were interested in getting involved.

The IROKO team recognised the importance of bringing in younger people to perform and to deliver the organisation's activities. They are hoping the work experience placement can join their team of performers going forwards.

'We've involved a young work experience placement for the first time. It would be good to build on this. Work experience placements could engage in lots of ways – including marketing.' IROKO Chair

'Using a work experience placement has been a new way of working – they've been great, and we hope to keep in touch. It's been good to have young people engaged – they bring energy and enthusiasm.' IROKO Projects Coordinator

As well as the work experience placement, two young volunteers joined the project as volunteers, also bringing energy and enthusiasm which the team hoped to build on:

'The work experience placement chose us for his placement and added welcome youth and energy to the performers team. This will help our long-term resilience. We also had two young British-Nigerian men volunteering from Liverpool who brought similar youth and energy. I've called all three to tell them how good it was to have young Black-Nigerians joining us. Previously, volunteers have mostly come from other cultures. We hope to keep all 3 involved.' HfH Project Director

The IROKO staff team and committee are actively considering succession planning and it would make sense for future projects to include deliberate engagement with younger people to facilitate this process:

'We need new blood so we can retire. We're looking at a training grant from the Arts Council to recruit young people to train and stay to help take IROKO forward. The committee is talking about succession planning all the time and it may be that we will approach NLHF for a small pot of money to train people on oral storytelling for heritage as a way of passing down skills and hopefully gain new skills for IROKO.' HfH Project Director

New ways of working – in response to challenges

HfH has been IROKO's largest and most complex project so far. This created challenges around resourcing and systems, and some committee members and staff felt it would have been helpful to have understood the realities earlier in the process:

'NLHF needs to consider organisations' capacity around managing funding requirements. It would be good to have more transparency. They weren't fully

aware of what they'd signed up for. It's been a big jump from small grants in terms of expectations.' IROKO Chair

'We underestimated the personnel needed so some of the work has been done for free.' IROKO Chair

As a result of these challenges IROKO staff have **developed new project and financial management systems** and learned new skills to manage its more challenging demands and complexities. In particular they are now better able to track project expenditure:

'This was IROKO's first large Heritage Lottery grant, and the first paid retrospectively. Cash flow has been difficult at times and there has been more demand around reporting.' IROKO Chair

'Because of the complexity and size of the project our financial systems have had to be strengthened and we can now track project spend better.' IROKO Projects Coordinator

IROKO staff reported difficulties **recruiting staff and volunteers**. The breadth of the HfH Project Co-ordinator's role meant that core staff had to step up, often without payment, in support of this role:

'Finding well qualified and experienced staff is much harder than it was ie before Brexit. To fulfil the role of Project Co-ordinator we needed experience, understanding of the culture and flexibility. HfH Project Coordinator gave us all these but it's precarious to have everything on one person and the breadth of the role has meant we've had to work alongside to fill in gaps.' IROKO Projects Coordinator

Staff also said it was difficult to recruit research volunteers with sufficient skills and experience:

'It was difficult to recruit research volunteers this time and it didn't work well with those we recruited. Next time we either need better vetted volunteers who have the skills already, or we need to pay for the volunteer researchers.' HfH Project Director

Finally, two performers interviewed for the evaluation who'd been with IROKO for years felt a difference with the HfH project related to **adapting performances for younger children**:

'Some performances have been for very young children so we have to adapt to the audience. We sing so they can join in.' Performer

IROKO team has enhanced skills

All members of the IROKO team said they had enhanced their skills in a number of areas through the HfH project:

'I've learned a lot. I attended all the training and learned about oral histories, conducting interviews, archiving and documentation, and website accessibility. I've learned about co-ordination – my skills have been strengthened here, especially in relation to partner organisations.' HfH Project Coordinator

HfH was IROKO's first experience of receiving a grant above £100k from the NLHF. The project team had learned a lot about how funding processes and expectations differ from smaller grants programmes. The team reported learning and enhanced skills in a number of areas that will make a positive difference to IROKO going forwards. **Project and financial management** were areas where significant learning had taken place:

'The recruitment and contracting work helped me update my knowledge, especially around contracting. I've also learned about project managing a larger project. And financial management.' IROKO Projects Coordinator

'Project management: we've delivered projects before but this is on a scale we hadn't imagined. I've learned lots about project management with complex deliverables. It's been a massive learning curve. Especially financial management – this is our first experience of being paid retrospectively.' HfH Project Director

'Now we know what it entails to manage a project that's funded like this, we'll be more prepared in future, as we've had to learn how to manage being paid in arrears.' HfH Project Director.

This enhanced understanding will also enable future **partnership working**:

'Other learning about project and financial management will help us develop future projects and reach new partners. For example, we're working with a new Nigerian organisation in Dulwich that we met through HfH on a project outside heritage – Excell Beyond Barriers.' HfH Project Director

Staff reported learning about **resourcing** for larger, more complex projects, both in terms of time and staffing needed to prepare for and deliver activities:

'In terms of doing another project we need to be more realistic, look at what it actually takes to deliver things. For example, sharing days sound simple – just exhibitions in libraries – but there's considerable work in the lead-up. The same with the conference. We need to think long and hard about what we commit to in relation to outputs and staffing.' IROKO Projects Coordinator

'The co-ordinator role was very wide – it's too much for one person to do and too hard to find all the skills in one person. I think we should break off things

like events, and recruit an event management person for example, so the co-ordinator can focus on other things.’ IROKO Projects Coordinator

‘Our learning around this will be useful for future budgets.’ IROKO Projects Coordinator

The whole staff team had engaged in RNIB training in **accessibility and usability** for the project microsite, and two of the team had been actively involved in managing this site. IROKO already had plans to use this learning to improve their main website, and were clear that these enhanced skills were important and needed to be maintained by the organisation:

‘We hope to launch a new main website before the end of the year. We can transfer the accessibility lessons learned and skills gained on website management to the new website.’ HfH Project Director

‘Learning about digital skills is very important. We need to make sure this isn’t lost.’ HfH Project Coordinator

IROKO has a lot of experience **delivering events** but there was still some learning around this. Community events were very well attended but although the conference was fully booked the numbers actually attending were lower than expected:

‘We’ve tried sending reminders and releasing more places so it’s actually over-booked, but while the funder requires participation to be free it may remain difficult to get people to commit to attend.’ HfH Project Coordinator

Finally, there had been learning around volunteers:

‘Managing volunteers – we had a good uptake for training but some volunteers then walked away. We need to find ways to encourage them to commit – maybe working towards a certificate, or a nominal payment for work undertaken.’ HfH Project Coordinator

Our local area will be a better place to live, work or visit

In the various places where HfH activity took place, the following are likely to have had a positive impact for local communities:

- Opportunities for further collaborative work between partner organisations and IROKO.
- People from different cultural backgrounds having the opportunity to engage and appreciate a heritage previously unknown to them – likely to improve community cohesion and understanding.
- Enhanced skills of project participants.

Newham has been a particular focus for the HfH project, with a number of key activities being delivered here (see section on ‘heritage activities in Newham enhanced’.) The location of both launch and conference in Stratford will have encouraged people from other areas to visit the borough. For example, a couple who came from Leeds and attended the project launch at Stratford Old Town Hall,

said the event provided them the 'rare opportunity' to visit London. Before the event, they visited Westfield and its surroundings and they talked about the developments in Stratford, how much it has changed and how they will "surely come again" when next they are in London.

The HfH project is also contributing to the cultural and heritage sector in Newham. For example, IROKO has liaised and collaborated with Newham Heritage Month, University of East London, Newham Libraries and Eastside Heritage. These collaborations will impact positively on Newham, as the project helps to show the borough as a good place to live, work or visit.

The local economy will be boosted

HfH has helped to boost the local economy by offering opportunities to various local entrepreneurs, businesses and educational establishments. Opportunities have included providing venue hire, catering, event management, workshop leaders and performers, photographers and videographers.

For example, local entrepreneurs and organisations were engaged for the launch event to provide catering, a DJ, dancers and photography/videography. A local printer and designer created and printed publicity and the exhibition profile banners.

The impact of the project on promoting British Nigerians in business was highlighted in this post towards the end of the project on X:

Great initiative by @heritagefunduk!

Promoting British Nigerians in business is key. Projects like HomeFromHome build a more diverse and innovative economy. (Adam Techie)

HfH has also boosted the skills of local people by providing volunteering and placement opportunities. In Newham, the University of East London provided students as volunteers and a work experience placement. IROKO is now liaising with the university about the possibility of providing work placement opportunities for their MA Applied Theatre students.

Finally, as part of a collaboration with Heal Together CIC, an organisation that targets Somali women, they initially borrowed musical instruments from IROKO before being in touch with a local entrepreneur that sell drums.

Feedback beyond project outcomes

General feedback about the project

The HfH project has clearly been extremely well received by all those involved. This report has focused on evaluation evidence in relation to the project outcomes, but there was considerable feedback outside of these outcomes that is worth sharing.

Comments about specific events commonly mention that they were well organised, informative, enjoyable and innovative. Similar themes appear with participants, partners and the project team:

Participants

“More of these events please.” (Conference)

“It was a rich, inspiring, educative conference enriched with incredible calibre of speakers and talents.”

“Well done, a great event yesterday - comprehensive, of quality, balanced, diverse & with significant creative slots. A highly stimulating event.” (Conference)

“I enjoyed myself and it is a great idea to have this activity.” (British Museum)

“Great organisation, friendly, inclusive, no ways to improve it.” (British Museum)

“Thank you for this experience.” (Horniman Museum)

Partners

“It is always a pleasure to work with Alex Oma-Pius, Founder and Artistic Director of Iroko Theatre Company. He is well organised and helps us to have everything in place so that events delivered in collaboration with us run smoothly.” Libraries Development Manager, Brent Council

“It is always a joy to work with Iroko. Their projects are new and innovative and delivered in an engaging, reliable and professional manner. The local communities of Redbridge have gained a lot from the activities.” Development Librarian, Celebratory Projects and Health & Wellbeing Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure

“It was very well organised and I could tell that people enjoyed it.”
Learning and Engagement Manager, Black Cultural Archives

Project team

'I've been overwhelmed by how well it's gone. The raising of the profile of successful Nigerians in all walks of life is something that not only benefits the Nigerian community but also all of the communities in the UK. The variety of workshops and displays etc. have supported and enhanced the lives of all taking part.' IROKO Secretary

'The whole thing is being done really well. Plenty of time to prepare and plan. All the venues are in the right areas for the community.' Performer

'Everyone's included, even students with special needs. People feel they belong.' Performer

'There's nothing to change. They're doing all the right things. There are more cultures to share and celebrate, other countries.' Performer

'It can be tricky to pull together a team of performers with different needs and commitments, but IROKO managed this well.' Performer

Suggestions for the future

A question asked of stakeholders throughout the evaluation was *'if IROKO were to run a similar project, what should they keep the same, and what should they change?'* Almost all respondents had a much longer list of things to keep, and many said they would change nothing, but some did have suggestions for the future which might be useful for IROKO to consider.

Conference

- more engagement with families and/or young people.
- a digital resource which picks up on some of the highlights of the event.
- Do more to highlight these events to the younger generations: *"When I studied at UEL in 2005-2008, by chance I discovered a few of the events that were held but they were never advertised as much as they should have been; I get the sense that this may still be the case unfortunately."*
- More audience participation, using apps such as Mentimeter or Slido
- Suggestions on increasing attendance for future events: follow-up email to non-attendees outlining what they missed; asking non-attendees to pay for future events; venue directions on event reminders

Museum tours

- Make them more interactive
- Offer more trips, or other educational events
- Opportunity to see more artifacts
- *“More preparation for the schools so they would have a better idea of what to expect for the museum workshops.”* Engagement Manager, Museum of London Docklands

Exhibitions and sharing days

Venues:

“Noise is sometimes an issue in a library setting but the positives outweigh the negatives.” Library Partner

‘At one venue there were crossed wires about what would happen. They were due to rehearse there but people complained about the noise of the drums. Maybe better brokering or negotiations with new venues in future.’ Performer

More interactivity:

- *“Our audiences particularly enjoy interactive events where they can get involved. So for example, with *The legacy of musicians of Nigerian descent in the UK’s music eco-system*, our attendees thoroughly enjoyed the sections where Juwon played keyboard and sang. Some of the audience sang along with him. So more musical / demo type events would be popular where attendees are actively engaged.”* Libraries Development Manager, Brent Council
- *“More interactive elements for the exhibition would be nice.”* Community Hub Library Manager, London Borough of Lambeth
- *“Instead of people just looking at banners and displays about Nigerian achievers it would be good to bring this to life more. Maybe invite some of the people to events. Have someone who’s living, breathing to put their face there in real life and actually engage with people.”* Performer
- *Some children’s books on display that support the themes, or children’s participatory activity alongside the main activity would be nice.* Learning and Engagement Manager, Black Cultural Archives

More about IROKO:

- *“Share more information about what IROKO does, so that people who came but didn’t know much about it can have the opportunity to participate further,*

and not see it as just a one-off at BCA.” Learning and Engagement Manager, Black Cultural Archives

Training

- Clearer communication about the need to attend in person in order to access the entire training (Research, Archiving and Documentation)
- Plan alternative activities for people who are attending training online whilst others are taking a tour. (Research, Archiving and Documentation)
- More hands-on experience (Research, Archiving and Documentation):

“Ask the Archives team to incorporate time in the session whereby the group can participate in a practical activity.”

- More on heritage specifically (Oral history training)



Figure 15. Alex Oma-Pius (centre) with a team of volunteers at the conference. Photography: Joseph Obasi @ jaybrightmedia_studio1.

Expanding the work – thinking bigger

‘Libraries worked well for performances because they’re community based, but bigger venues would allow more people to join. The performances were so well received it would be good if more people could see them. People book

through Eventbrite but they don't all come. Maybe allow for some drop-out so more people get a chance to come. It's great that everything's free but if people paid just a little (£3-5) they might be more likely to turn up.' Performer

'It would be good to take the project beyond London – elsewhere in the UK and even abroad, back home. We need to showcase our cultures. Help us to show the world what IROKO is.' Performer

'It would be good to be more proactive about involving young performers. It happened almost by accident with the work experience placement. It would be good to pass skills to younger performers – young, emerging arts professionals.' Performer

Internal lessons and learnings

IROKO has undertaken several NLHF supported projects in the past, with the “Home from Home” project being significantly larger than the others. The scope and complexity of the project presented challenges and opportunities that have ultimately enabled IROKO to be more resilient and better prepared for future projects of the same or larger scale. Key take-aways identified by the IROKO team are presented below:

Area	Home from Home Activity or Output	Lessons Learnt
Conference – feedback wanting more	Conference	<p>Response to the conference was overwhelmingly positive, but feedback told us that we had not selected enough prominent British Nigerians. As a result, we requested contingency funding to extend our coverage from 30 to 100 prominent individuals.</p> <p>The lesson learnt from this was the need to respond to public feedback and in doing so enhance the original output of the project.</p>
Staffing – Project Coordinator	Supporting Project Director in all aspects of project	<p>The job description was very wide and was challenging for one person. The project launch and conference on “The Legacy of People of Nigerian Heritage in Britain” were very big undertakings to handle alongside other aspects of the day-to-day activities carried out by the Project Coordinator.</p> <p>In future, it would be better to break the job description down and have an Events Manager dedicated to this type of activity, who might be supported by the Project Coordinator but would still allow the Coordinator time for the other activities.</p>

Area	Home from Home Activity or Output	Lessons Learnt
Payment Requests	Requesting payment in arrears	<p>As already stated, IROKO had undertaken several Heritage Funds supported projects in the past before embarking on the Home from Home project. Home from Home was an ambitious project, reflected in the range and type of activities and the size of the budget. Previous projects had been paid in advance, i.e. 50% at the beginning, 40% roughly halfway through the project with the final 10% being paid on completion. According to Heritage Fund's policy, the bigger budget for Home from Home meant that payments were made in arrears, which for a small charity with limited cash flow, is far from ideal.</p> <p>Despite NLHF subsequently agreeing to help IROKO by paying some of the running costs such as salaries up front, the arrangement was still a significant burden in terms of having to make sure cash flow could meet the project's financial obligations which at times was a real struggle for a small charity.</p>
Digital Outputs	Apps	<p>The digital side of the project proved to be more complex and time consuming than originally envisaged. As the project developed and more and more content were being created and uploaded onto the microsite, issues around compatible apps, security maintenance, plugins upgrades and most importantly, image usage and consent for the 100 British Nigerians being featured, etc., significantly delayed the completion of the project at the originally agreed time.</p> <p>In hindsight, a Digital Consultant ought to have been involved in the project right from the planning stage as real partners and not as purely website designers, etc.</p>

Area	Home from Home Activity or Output	Lessons Learnt
Oral History Interviews	5 young people trained on oral history interviewing skills and to carry out oral interviews of 15 British-Nigerian Londoners	The difficulties encountered in carrying out this output have been well documented in our reports. In hindsight, we feel that the oral interviews would have been better carried out by a paid experienced team of oral history interviewers instead of volunteers.
Reporting	Progress reports every three months. Payment Request every month. Evaluation report End of project report	Compared to the NLHF projects IROKO had undertaken previously, the reporting required for the “Home from Home” project was in our opinion, excessive, as this had not been factored into the project originally. In total, 7 progress reports were produced, 22 Payment Requests were submitted, as well as the Project Evaluation Report and End of Project Report.
Marketing and Communication	Marketing and Communications Consultant to advise and position the project correctly in the press and across all communications platforms.	The engagement of a Marketing and Communication Consultant for the project truly made a huge difference compared with our previous projects and marketing strategies. The online presence, popularity and followership that the project enjoyed from people of diverse backgrounds, are due to the work of the Marketing and Comms Consultant.
Accessibility and Participation	Public Sharing Days - Live exhibitions, performances and workshops outside London	<p>We were pleasantly surprised at the rate of interest generated in the project from British-Nigerians outside London. People wanted to take part in Public Sharing Day activities as carried out in London.</p> <p><i>“Will this be touring outside London? It would be great if it could. I’m not involved in exhibitions or libraries here in Leeds, but I will try and find out a contact name for you. The other obvious place is Liverpool due to the long history of Nigerian-origin people from there.”</i></p> <p>The above clearly demonstrates that a similar project with a wider geographical spread, would be welcome.</p>

Appendices

1. HfH evaluation logic model
2. HfH evaluation framework
3. Evaluation tools
4. Examples of feedback forms
5. Overview of HfH events and evaluation responses
6. HfH outputs and achievements
7. HfH partners
8. Participant demographics.

APPENDIX 1

LOGIC MODEL FOR IROKO'S HOME FROM HOME PROJECT

Inputs	Outputs		Outcomes
	Activities	Participation (95,000 people benefitting overall)	Outcomes – differences made
Creation of resources Partnerships	<p>Creating eResources and depositing in archiving bodies Workshops, conferences, performances and exhibitions Library tours</p> <p>People telling their stories</p>	<p>(Hi)stories of 30 influential British Nigerians researched and documented. Workshops in 6 schools in 5 boroughs (Bromley, Newham, Tower Hamlets, Haringey and Brent) One public conference, two public sharing events, exhibition tours in 12 libraries in 7 London boroughs One community arts and crafts event with targeted older people's group 15 Nigerian Londoners share oral histories</p>	<p>Heritage in better condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage of British-Nigerians better documented and preserved. • Heritage activities in Newham enhanced. • Awareness of the heritage raised & celebrated. • Negative images of Nigerians overturned. • Self-esteem raised for those from Nigerian backgrounds, particularly young people. • British-Nigerians seen as a positive presence in British society.

Inputs	Outputs		Outcomes
	Activities	Participation (95,000 people benefitting overall)	Outcomes – differences made
<p>Recruitment of project Co-ordinator and team of volunteer researchers</p> <p>Partnerships</p> <p>Experts</p>	<p>Partnerships and training programmes with Oral History Society/National Life Stories</p> <p>Archival research and collections training with London Metropolitan Archives</p> <p>Contribution of experts to conference</p> <p>Guided tours of British, Horniman and London Docklands museums</p> <p>Community journalists with African Voice Newspapers</p> <p>Participatory theatre with storytelling, poetry, music and dance</p>	<p>15 volunteers trained and helping to document histories</p> <p>6 community journalists (originally 10 Community Panel members) work alongside researchers. About 60 people taken on a guided tour of the British, Horniman and London Museum of Dockland museums.</p> <p>6 community journalists provide their expert knowledge. The general public participate and experience heritage performance</p>	<p>Heritage (of British-Nigerians) identified and better explained</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project co-ordinator acquires further transferable and heritage skills useful for future work in heritage sector. • Heritage sector strengthened by giving research, training and learning opportunities to young people who wish to work in heritage. • Heritage experts have the opportunity to interact and share knowledge with each other through conference. • Heritage experts make new contacts and create new interest in their work through conference. • Tours of museums enable members of the public and young people to appreciate the Nigerian and other collections within them and inspire them to visit again. • Tours of museums open new way of accessing heritage for those not visiting a museum before. • Working alongside community journalists enables the researchers, to benefit from their expertise in the heritage field. • Participatory performances and workshops reach public and young people in an accessible format, enabling them to easily understand and learn about British-Nigerian heritage.

Inputs	Outputs		Outcomes
	Activities	Participation (95,000 people benefitting overall)	Outcomes – differences made
Partnerships	Specialist training programmes for research volunteers Oral history video recording training for young people IROKO One Award accredited training programme RNIB training in accessibility and usability for websites Workshops, tours and public sharing days	15 volunteers trained in practical research skills 5 young people trained to document and edit oral history videos 20 people from different sectors trained in using performative art to make heritage accessible 5 members of IROKO project team equipped to manage project website and ensure accessibility 20 people from different sectors equipped to help deliver activities	People developing skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers gain invaluable experience and transferable skills through specialist training in archiving and oral history, which can be used to enhance their career in the heritage industry. • Young people given unique opportunity to document and edit oral history videos and acquire transferable skills for further work in the heritage industry or to access higher education opportunities. • People (teachers, museum staff, lecturers) trained through One Award programme acquire performative art skills to enable them to deliver heritage knowledge in a more accessible format. • RNIB training enables IROKO team to appreciate accessibility issues and ensure IROKO's work is made more accessible for those with accessibility issues. • Workshops, tours and public sharing days are enhanced and delivered efficiently by input and support of people trained to deliver heritage activities. • Transferable heritage support skills given to 20 people.

Inputs	Outputs		Outcomes
	Activities	Participation (95,000 people benefitting overall)	Outcomes – differences made
	<p>Educational and learning programmes (workshops, museum and library tours, training, outreach, performances. E-resources)</p> <p>Conference on ‘the legacy of people of Nigerian descent in Britain’</p> <p>Information and e-resources</p>	<p>60 people experience the heritage during project launch.</p> <p>48,000 members of the public access project museum and library tours.</p> <p>1050 school pupils access educational and learning programmes in schools.</p> <p>300 engage in the heritage through public performances.</p> <p>eResources available on project microsite for long term use by teachers, general public and for those who cannot attend events.</p>	<p>People learning about heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational and learning programmes deliver knowledge and information about those of British-Nigerian heritage. • Positive image of British-Nigerians promoted and negative stereotypes of British-Nigerians overturned. • Conference elevates image of British-Nigerians and spreads positive information on their contributions to British society.
	<p>People telling their own stories</p> <p>Capturing and sharing positive (hi)stories of legacy of British-Nigerians, people of Nigerian descent and other migrants</p>	<p>15 Nigerian Londoners share oral histories</p> <p>85 people from different cultural and professional backgrounds participate in training which boosts confidence and enhances wellbeing</p> <p>People from other nationalities inspired and encouraged to tell their own stories as part of the reimagining of the British stories.</p>	<p>People have greater wellbeing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People telling their stories have unique opportunity to talk in depth about their experiences (sometimes for the first time). • Invaluable knowledge gained first hand from those who have lived the heritage experience. • British-Nigerians, people of Nigerian descent and other migrants have enhanced emotional wellbeing, self-esteem, confidence, sense of identity and belonging.

Inputs	Outputs		Outcomes
	Activities	Participation (95,000 people benefitting overall)	Outcomes – differences made
	<p>Trying new ways of working with increased emphasis on communication and evaluation</p> <p>Collaboration with bodies across 10 boroughs</p> <p>Collaboration with Black Cultural Archives</p> <p>Partnership working with local organisations</p> <p>Expert training and input from national organisations</p> <p>Collaboration with RNIB</p> <p>IROKO team trained</p>	<p>Engagement of a marketing/comms consultant to assist in positioning the project and IROKO in the public domain.</p> <p>Working with External Evaluators to help monitor and evaluate the project.</p> <p>Over 20 new partnerships developed by IROKO</p>	<p>Organisation more resilient:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New ways of working trialled. • More Newham-based heritage trainees and volunteers • Greater collaboration. • Joint development of heritage activities for the local community. • IROKO sustainability enhanced through the work of the Marketing/Comms Consultant and also, as the company uses the External Evaluators report to seek future funding. • IROKO's reputation heightened as leading organisation in field of African heritage and culture in London • Reaching new audiences in new areas • Community panel, partner organisations & researchers shape project. • Enhanced skills of IROKO team: RNIB training, heritage skills • IROKO team inspired to work on their heritage skills and deliver more heritage projects.

APPENDIX 2

HOME FROM HOME EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

This framework focuses on qualitative evaluation. Quantitative measures (people engaging, volunteers trained, resources developed) will supplement this.

Outcome	Indicator	What to collect	Who to collect information from	How to collect / Tools	When & where
Heritage in better condition	Heritage of British-Nigerians better documented & preserved	Whether heritage is experienced as better documented & preserved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Nigerian Londoners sharing histories Experts – compare with baseline Those attending workshops, conference, public sharing events and tours 	Interview Experts Survey Feedback form	After sharing histories. At conference From workshops, conference, public sharing events and tours
	Heritage activities in Newham enhanced	How they see HfH contributing to local heritage	Those attending heritage activities in Newham Newham Heritage Month Eastside Heritage & EastBank Seniors Rosetta Arts, Healtogether CIC, Manor Park Over 50s, Newham African Caribbean Heritage Reference Group, LBN Archives VCF groups for whom this heritage is particularly relevant	Feedback form Feedback form Feedback form	During heritage activities in Newham
	Awareness of heritage raised & celebrated	Impact of HfH on people's awareness of (specific) heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those attending workshops, conference, public sharing events and tours & exhibitions Those attending local heritage activities Volunteers/trainees 	Feedback form Feedback form	At workshops, conference, public sharing events and tours During heritage activities in Newham Near end of involvement

Outcome	Indicator	What to collect	Who to collect information from	How to collect / Tools	When & where
Heritage in better condition	Negative images of Nigerians overturned. British-Nigerians seen as a positive presence in British society.	Perceptions of Nigerian presence/ contribution – ideally before & after HFH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those attending workshops, conference, public sharing events and tours Those attending local heritage activities Volunteers/trainees Those sharing histories 	Feedback form Feedback form	At workshops, conference, public sharing events and tours During heritage activities in Newham Near end of involvement
Heritage of British-Nigerians identified & better explained	Volunteers more skilled/knowledgeable with heritage	Impact on their heritage skills / knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 research volunteers (trained & documenting histories) 20 project volunteers 5 young people doing oral histories 	Feedback form Feedback form Young people video each other	Towards end of their engagement. Research: Aug/Sept 23 Project: before or just after they leave YP: after recordings
	Heritage experts interact, share knowledge & create new interest	Impact of HFH on connections, opportunities & new interest	Experts at conference	Experts survey & Video interviews	After conference (Oct 23)
	Tours & theatre engage people with heritage	Impact of HFH on engagement / interest in heritage (esp how it's presented)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75 people attending tours People attending theatre 	Feedback form Video interviews	After tours & performance
	Community journalists guide researchers to help HfH reach 'uncelebrated' Nigerians	How did they experience this process? Did it work? Was it worthwhile?	6 community journalists & 15 researchers	interview with researcher paired with journalist	End of their involvement

Outcome	Indicator	What to collect	Who to collect information from	How to collect / Tools	When & where
People developing skills	Volunteers gain practical research skills in archiving & oral history	Impact on their research skills; feedback on training; future plans	15 research volunteers	Feedback form & video reflections	End of training or involvement
	Young people trained to document & edit oral history videos	Impact on documenting/editing skills; feedback on training; future plans	5 young people	Video recordings	End of involvement
	Volunteers gain skills	Impact on heritage & other skills; feedback on training; future plans	20 project volunteers	Feedback form	End of involvement
	People trained in using performative art to make heritage accessible and help deliver activities	Impact on ability to use art to make heritage accessible/deliver activities; feedback on training; future plans	20 certificated trainees from different sectors	Feedback form	End of training (Oct- Jan)
	IROKO team members equipped to manage project website & ensure accessibility	Impact on website management / accessibility skills; feedback on training	5 team members	Interviews	End of project

Outcome	Indicator	What to collect	Who to collect information from	How to collect / Tools	When & where
People learning about heritage	People experience heritage during launch & conference	Whether learnt / experienced anything new re heritage	People attending launch & conference	Feedback form & video interviews.	End of launch/conference
	Positive image of British-Nigerians promoted, negative stereotypes overturned	Perceptions of Nigerian presence/ contribution – ideally before & after HfH	Those attending conference, tours & performances	Feedback form	At end of events
	Public access museum & library tours	Whether new to museums / heritage; feedback on learning, enjoyment	members of public accessing tours		At end of visits
	Pupils access programmes in schools	Whether learnt anything new re heritage; feedback on learning, enjoyment	1050 pupils	Feedback form as part of lessons or Creative games?	At end of events
	Public engage through performances	Whether new to heritage; feedback on learning, enjoyment, whether performance helps access heritage	300 people	Feedback form supported by volunteers. Video recordings	At end of events
	People access eResources	Feedback on learning, usefulness, interest	Anyone who's engaged with HFH?	Survey link with eResources. Ask developer	On website?

Outcome	Indicator	What to collect	Who to collect information from	How to collect / Tools	When & where
People have greater wellbeing	People telling stories	Whether telling their stories impacts wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Nigerian Londoners sharing oral histories People from other nationalities telling stories 	Interview with researcher paired with journalist	After sharing histories
	People learn from those sharing heritage/stories	Whether hearing stories impacts wellbeing	People accessing histories online & through exhibitions	Link to survey online Feedback form	
	British-Nigerians, people of Nigerian descent and other migrants have enhanced emotional wellbeing, self-esteem, confidence, sense of identity & belonging. Participation in training boosts confidence & enhances wellbeing	Whether engagement in HFH has impacted wellbeing	People who've been trained	Feedback forms	
	Self-esteem raised for those from Nigerian backgrounds, particularly young people	Whether sharing histories has impacted self-esteem	15 Nigerian Londoners sharing histories	Interview with researcher paired with journalist	After sharing histories?

Outcome	Indicator	What to collect	Who to collect information from	How to collect / Tools	When & where
Organisation more resilient	Partnerships developed	Feedback on usefulness of partnership	20+ partners (local & national)	Feedback form	Towards end of involvement
	New ways of working trialled	Feedback on new ways of working	IROKO team	Interviews	Towards end of project
	IROKO team has enhanced skills	Feedback on training and impact on skills	IROKO team	Interviews	Towards end of project

APPENDIX 3

EVALUATION TOOLS

A total of 14 evaluation tools were created for the evaluation: 11 feedback forms, 2 interview guides and one set of prompts for videos.

	ACTIVITY	TARGET	TOOL
1	Research, archiving & documentation training	Research volunteers engaged in training	Feedback form
2	Performative arts training	Training participants	Feedback form
3	Conference	Conference attendees	Feedback form
4	Museum trips	Adults attending trips	Feedback form
5	Museum trips & other events	Children attending trips & events	Feedback form
6	Engagement of partners in project	Contacts in partner organisations	Feedback form
7	Exhibitions	People attending exhibitions	Feedback form
8	Schools outreach	Children engaging in HfH activity	Feedback form with smiley faces
9	Creative arts workshop & exhibition	Children engaging in workshops & exhibitions	Feedback form with smiley faces
10	Oral histories	Nigerian Londoners sharing histories with researchers	Interview guide
11	Oral histories	Young people researching oral histories	Prompts for videos
12	Delivering project	IROKO team, committee members and performers	Interview guides
13	Supporting project delivery	Project volunteers	Feedback form
14	Sharing Days	Families engaging in a sharing day	Feedback form

APPENDIX 4

Examples are shown below of feedback forms for people helping to deliver the project (volunteers) and adults and children taking part in it.



Home from Home Project



Evaluation Form – Research, Archiving and Documentation Training

1. Did this workshop help you to gain more skills and knowledge? Yes No Not sure
 If yes, please tell us more:

2. Have you learned more about heritage through the workshop? Yes No Not sure
 If yes, please tell us more:

3. What are the three top things you are going to take away from this training?

A.
B.
C.

4. If we were to run this workshop again how could we make it even better?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form!!





'Home from Home Project'
Sharing Day Feedback Form for Adults
DATE:
Venue:



1. Which activity did you take part in?

- Creative Arts Workshop Exhibition/Display
'The Stone of Destiny' performance
Clay Modelling Workshop

2. This activity has improved my understanding of British-Nigerian heritage

- Yes Maybe No Don't know

3. As a result of this activity I am more interested in heritage

- Yes Maybe No Don't know

4. What are the three top things that you gained or learnt?

C.
B.
A.

5. Are you likely to refer to, or use what you have gained or learnt today?

- Yes Maybe No Don't know

6. Do you consider yourself disabled? Yes No

7. Please tell us your ethnicity: _____

8. If you're happy to tell us, what is your gender? _____

9. Age: under 18 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65+

If you have any other comments, including how we could make our activities even better, please tell us over the page.



'Home from Home Project' Feedback Form for Children



Please tell us about your time with us.

Tick one face for each question.

Did you enjoy it?



Did you learn anything new?



Would you like to learn more?



How old are you? _____

Are you a girl or boy? _____



Thank you!!

If you want to tell us more, please write or draw on the back.

APPENDIX 5

OVERVIEW OF HfH EVENTS AND EVALUATION RESPONSES

ACTIVITY	VENUE	DATE	PARTICIPANTS	EVALUATION MEASURES			PARTICIPANTS COMPLETING EVALUATION	% PARTICIPANTS COMPLETING EVALUATION
				Feedback form*	Testimony	Video		
Public Events								
Conference	University of East London, Stratford	7/10/23	93	x	x		10 (6 forms, 4 emails)	10.8
Launch	Old Town Hall, Stratford	29/3/23	86		x		4 emails	4.7
Nigerian Day Event: workshop, performance, exhibition	Willesden Green Library	24/10/23	55	x	x		39: 15 adult & 22 child forms; 2 emails	70.9
Presentation: Hair as Heritage	Willesden Green Library	23/5/24	23	x			11 forms	47.8
Presentation: 'The Legacy of Musicians of Nigerian descent in the UK's music eco-system'.	Willesden Green Library	25/4/24	15		X		6 emails	40

ACTIVITY	VENUE	DATE	PARTICIPANTS	EVALUATION MEASURES			PARTICIPANTS COMPLETING EVALUATION	% PARTICIPANTS COMPLETING EVALUATION
				Feedback form*	Testimony	Video		
Sharing Days								
Black Cultural Archives		9/3/24	76	x			21 forms from participants, 1 from partner	28.9
Uxbridge Library		3/2/24	54	x			34 (9 adult, 7 child, 18 workshop)	62.9
Stratford Library		16/3/24	67	x	x	x	23 (14 adult, 4 child forms). 5 emails. Plus partner feedback	34.3
Creative Workshops								
Healtogether		25/1/24	41				32 forms	82.9
Museum Visits								
Museum of London Docklands		2/9/23	26	x	x		19 (10 adult, 8 child forms, 1 child email). Plus partner feedback	73.1
British Museum		9/9/23	16	x	x		14 (9 forms, 5 emails)	87.5
Horniman Museum		2/5/24	20	x	x		15 Forms. Plus partner feedback	75

ACTIVITY	VENUE	DATE	PARTICIPANTS	EVALUATION MEASURES			PARTICIPANTS COMPLETING EVALUATION	% PARTICIPANTS COMPLETING EVALUATION
				Feedback form*	Testimony	Video		
Schools								
Newstead Wood			192 children, 5 teachers	x	x		6 (5 comments from children, 1 staff)	3.6
Rokesly Primary			165 (87 children & 6 staff; 72 audience for showcase & family workshop)	x			13 forms	14.9% children
The Village School (SEND)**			290				Rhythmic evaluation	
EKO Trust (Kaizen Primary)			215				12 forms	
Marion Richardson Primary**			216 (200 children, 16 staff)				Rhythmic evaluation	
Ranelagh Primary			191				Feedback from organisers	
Stratford Academy School*		16/04/24	300				Feedback from organisers	

ACTIVITY	VENUE	DATE	PARTICIPANTS	EVALUATION MEASURES			PARTICIPANTS COMPLETING EVALUATION	% PARTICIPANTS COMPLETING EVALUATION
				Feedback form*	Testimony	Video		
Training								
Oral history		25/7/23	14	x			2	14.3
Performative art		14/10/23 & 2/3/24	26	x	x		15 (15 forms, 1 email)	61.5
Storytelling, photography & videography		14/3/24 & 15/3/24	3	x		x	3 videos	100
Research, archiving & documentation		22/6/23	12	x			5	41.7
Website Accessibility & Useability (RNIB)		27/07/23	4				3 interviews	75
HfH Workshop Leaders		Various	9				3 interviews	33
Training for unskilled project volunteers		Various	22				5 emails	

* 'The Stone of Destiny' which is a HfH devised piece, was performed at this school. The school paid for the performances as they are not part of the project.

**Where language may have been a barrier or there was not time for other evaluation activities, feedback took place through IROKO's informal monitoring during sessions – rhythmic games, show of hands and verbal feedback.

In addition to the events in the table above, the HfH exhibition toured the following libraries:

LIBRARY	BOROUGH	DATES	PARTICIPANTS*
Willesden Green	Brent	24/10/23 – 31/10/23	6728
Barking Learning Centre	Barking & Dagenham	7/11/23 – 21/11/23	1250
Ruislip Manor	Hillingdon	13/1/24 – 20/1/24	1600
Uxbridge	Hillingdon	22/1/24 – 4/2/24	6707
Botwell Green	Hillingdon	5/2/24 – 11/2/24	5853
Stratford	Newham	10/3/24 – 17/3/24	767
East Ham	Newham	18/3/24 – 25/3/24	1137
Beckton Globe	Newham	1/4/24 – 7/4/24	210
Redbridge Central	Redbridge	8/4/24 – 22/4/24	15819
South Woodford Library	Redbridge	8/4/24 – 22/4/24	3515
Gants Hill Library	Redbridge	8/4/24 – 22/4/24	2442
Carnegie	Lambeth	23/4/24 – 30/4/24	3347
Peckham	Southwark	23/4/24 - 30/4/24	3836
TOTAL			53,211

* Library footfall during the exhibition period

APPENDIX 6

HOME FROM HOME OUTPUTS			
PLANNED OUTPUT	PROPOSED	ACHIEVED	COMMENTS
EVENTS & ACTIVITIES			
Workshops in 5 schools in 5 boroughs	1050	1569	6 schools in 5 boroughs
Museum Tours	60	62	Docklands: 26; British Museum: 16; Horniman: 20
Exhibition Tours: 12 libraries in 7 London boroughs		53,211	13 library venues in 7 boroughs
(Hi)stories of 30 British Nigerians researched & documented	30	100	
15 Nigerian Londoners sharing oral histories	15	36	In addition to 13 oral histories, 23 written interviews were completed and uploaded to the microsite
Performances: one conference and two sharing events. 300 people engaging in performances.	300	2113	Schools 1569; BCA 76; Uxbridge 54; Stratford 67; Willesden 55; conference 93; launch 86; Barking Road Community Centre 84; oral storytelling for heritage 29
Community outreach programme		125	2 sessions: clay modelling with Heal Together CIC and Newham Black Performers
eResources on project microsite for long term use		10,302	On the LEARNING page on the microsite - www.HfH.irokotheatre.org.uk . 23 written interviews with 10,302 views to 13/8/24.
Social media reach	50,000	30,005	Engagement for the last 90 days of the project was 30,005. Reach was 23,140 during July alone.

PLANNED OUTPUT	PROPOSED	ACHIEVED	COMMENTS
PEOPLE & PARTNERSHIPS			
20 new partnerships developed	20	40	See table below
Marketing/comms consultant engaged	1	1	
People taking part in training	65	78	See 'people developing skills' on p.23 for details
Volunteers	51	169	Includes 22 project volunteers, 15 researchers, 54 volunteers from partner organisations
OVERALL TOTAL PROJECT REACH	95,000	97,811	

APPENDIX 7

HOME FROM HOME PROJECT PARTNERS

	ORGANISATION	KEY CONTACTS	ROLE IN PROJECT	NEW PARTNER?
1	Abundance Arts	Director	Creative Arts Workshops	existing
2	African Diaspora History	Prof. Hakim Adi	Consultant on The Contributions of British-Nigerians to the British Society	new
3	African Voice Newspapers	Founder/Publisher	Project Consultant/Adviser	new
4	Badejo Arts	Founder/Director	Consultant on the heritage of Nigerian dances in Britain	new
5	Black Cultural Archives	Senior Archivist	Hosting Sharing Day and exhibition	new
6	Brent Council	Library Development Officer	Hosting exhibition	new
7	British Museum	Community Participation Co-ordinator	Hosting museum visit	existing
8	DGtal-Mind	HfH web developer	Developing microsite	existing
9	Diversity Magazine	Director	eResource and Learning Materials	new
10	Fit for the Future	Project Manager	Environmental Compliance	new
11	Hillingdon Council	Botwell Green Library Manager	Hosting exhibition	existing
12	Horniman Museum & Gardens	Senior Curator of Anthropology	Hosting museum visit	new
13	Inspired Futures	Director	Consultant on Culture and Identity	new
14	Jaybright Media	Director	Photography and Videography	new
15	Juwon Ogungbe Life Force Music UK	Founder/Director	Consultant on Music of People of Nigerian Heritage	existing

	ORGANISATION	KEY CONTACTS	ROLE IN PROJECT	NEW PARTNER?
16	Kaizen & Gainsborough Schools	Executive Principal and year 3 Lead Teacher	Schools Outreach programme	existing
17	Lambeth Council	Community Hub Library Manager	Hosting exhibition	new
18	London Careers Service University		Volunteer Recruitment	new
19	London Metropolitan Archives	Engagement and Learning Manager	Archival Training	new
20	Manu & Co.	Director	Project Accounting & Management	existing
21	Marion Richardson Primary	Leader of Learning & Specialist Teacher (English)	Schools Outreach programme	new
22	Migration Museum	Learning Manager	Archiving and Volunteer Recruitment	new
23	Museum of London Docklands	Engagement Manager	Hosting museum visit	existing
24	National Life Stories at The British Library	Oral History Assistant Archivist and Administrator	Oral History Recording and Documentation	new
25	Newham Council	Community Neighbourhood Senior Officer, Stratford & West Ham; Library Development Officer	Hosting Sharing Day and exhibition	existing
26	Newham's Volunteers Team	Resident Engagement and Participation	Volunteer Recruitment	existing
27	Newstead Wood School	Assistant Head	Schools Outreach programme	existing
28	Nigerian Arts Society UK (NASUK)	President	Consultant on Contemporary Nigerian Artists in Britain	new
29	Project Embrace	Founder/Director	Presentations on Hair as Heritage	new
30	QMSU Volunteering	Student Engagement Administrator	Volunteer Recruitment	existing
31	Ranelagh Primary School	Assistant Head Teacher (Inclusion and Safeguarding)	Schools Outreach programme	new

	ORGANISATION	KEY CONTACTS	ROLE IN PROJECT	NEW PARTNER?
32	RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People)	User Experience Team	Training of Accessibility and Useability	new
33	Rokesly Primary School	Year 3 Lead Teacher	Schools Outreach programme	existing
34	Rosetta Arts	Programme Manager	Training in oral history photography and videography	new
35	SOAS Careers Service	Employer Engagement Manager	Volunteer Recruitment	existing
36	The Event Academy	Student Services Manager	Volunteer Recruitment	new
37	The Village School	Music and Sounds of Intent Coordinator	Schools Outreach programme	existing
38	UEL Talent Gateway – Employer Partnerships	Business Development Manager	Supported with conference.	new
39	UEL Volunteering	Volunteering Coordinator	Volunteer Recruitment	existing
40	Way Wive Wordz Publishing	Founder and Director	African traditional spiritual practices and cultural identity	new

APPENDIX 8

Participant Demographics

Through strategic partnerships and venue choices, Home from Home was able to reach a broad variety of different participants and demography.

Certain activities targeted specific groups: children and young people for the schools' outreach programme (performances and storytelling/drama, drumming, dance and arts workshops), Somali women experiencing loneliness and isolation, for the clay modelling workshop. Other activities, such as the Sharing Days, took place with mixed age groups and nationalities, providing opportunities for family bonding and inter-generational encounters through heritage.

IROKO partnered with local libraries in Newham and twelve other London boroughs, allowing the project to reach people who were unlikely to be familiar with Nigerian heritage, such as the South-East Asian community in the London Borough of Hillingdon. Demographic breakdowns follow for five activities:

