



Final Overview of IROKO 'Home from Home' project 2022 - 2024

The "Home from Home" project by the IROKO Theatre Company and funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund stands out as a profound initiative that underscores the transformative power of culture and storytelling in fostering community and resilience. Through its innovative approach, IROKO Theatre Company has not only provided a creative outlet for participants but also made a significant impact on their social connectedness.

The project sought to create a space where participants could reconnect with their cultural roots, share their stories, and engage in creative activities that would help alleviate feelings of loneliness and alienation as well as celebrate the successes and achievements of British-Nigerians from across the country. Using its interview series and social media the project had a significant impact on diasporan community members and participants. IROKO Theatre Company, known for its dedication to promoting African and Caribbean arts, utilized a variety of methods including storytelling, music, drama, and visual arts to engage participants and stakeholders.

The most significant impact of the "Home from Home" project is perhaps its success in fostering a sense of belonging and community among the British-Nigerian diaspora. By providing a platform for these individuals to share their life experiences and cultural knowledge, the project helped to reinforce their identity and self-worth.

The integration of creative activities allowed all those who took part in the project to articulate their personal stories and cultural memories, which not only served as an educational exercise but also as a means of preserving the heritage of British Nigerians for younger generations. The project's emphasis on intergenerational dialogue further amplified its impact, as younger participants were able to learn from the older generation, thereby fostering mutual respect and understanding across age groups.

Beyond the immediate benefits to participants, "Home from Home" also had a ripple effect within the wider community. The project highlighted the importance of cultural expression, archiving and storytelling through education, creativity and information. By showcasing the richness of the British Nigerian community, the project challenged stereotypes and encouraged a more inclusive appreciation of cultural diversity in London.

Furthermore, the project's success demonstrates the critical role that arts organizations like IROKO Theatre Company play in addressing social issues through archiving, history collation and education. By leveraging the arts as a tool for social change, IROKO has not only enriched the lives of its participants but has also provided a model for other organisations seeking to engage with diasporan communities.

The "Home from Home" project is a testament to the enduring power of culture in bridging divides and healing communities. Through its focus on storytelling and creative expression, the project has had a lasting impact on both the individual participants and the broader community. IROKO Theatre Company's work serves as an inspiring example of how the arts can be harnessed to address some of society's most pressing challenges, particularly in the context of cultural preservation. As such, "Home from Home" is not just a project, but a vital cultural intervention with far-reaching implications.

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