



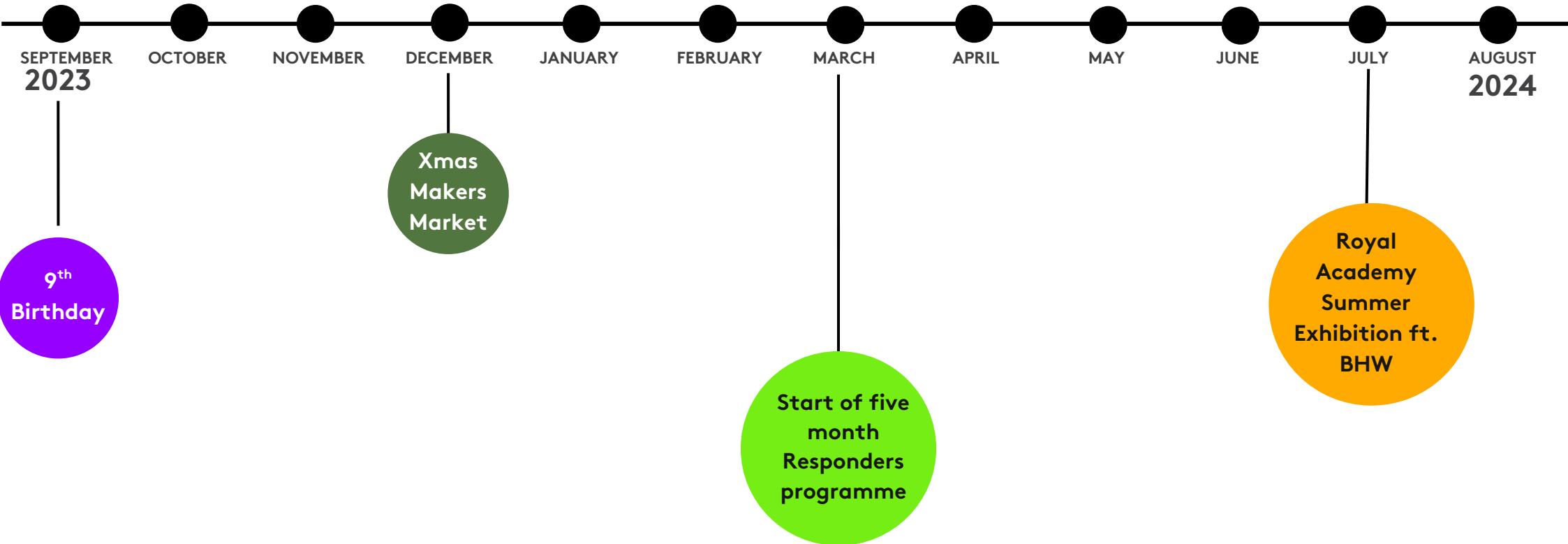
**BLACKHORSE
WORKSHOP**

MAKING AN IMPACT

2024



2024 ACTIVITY TIMELINE



DESCRIBING OUR IMPACT

Our mission at Blackhorse Workshop is defined by three questions that reflect the benefits and challenges of making in the city. We describe our impact through the ways that we are responding to these questions, creating an evolving project as we trial and test approaches, learn from feedback and explore ways to positively support our local community, and the broader maker community in London and beyond.

1 How can we support creative businesses to remain in London, making a living doing what they love?

2 How can we ensure creative opportunities and careers are open to all?

3 How can a creative space help to sustain a sense of community in a rapidly changing area?

How can we support creative businesses to remain in London, making a living doing what they love?

Providing local, affordable workspaces

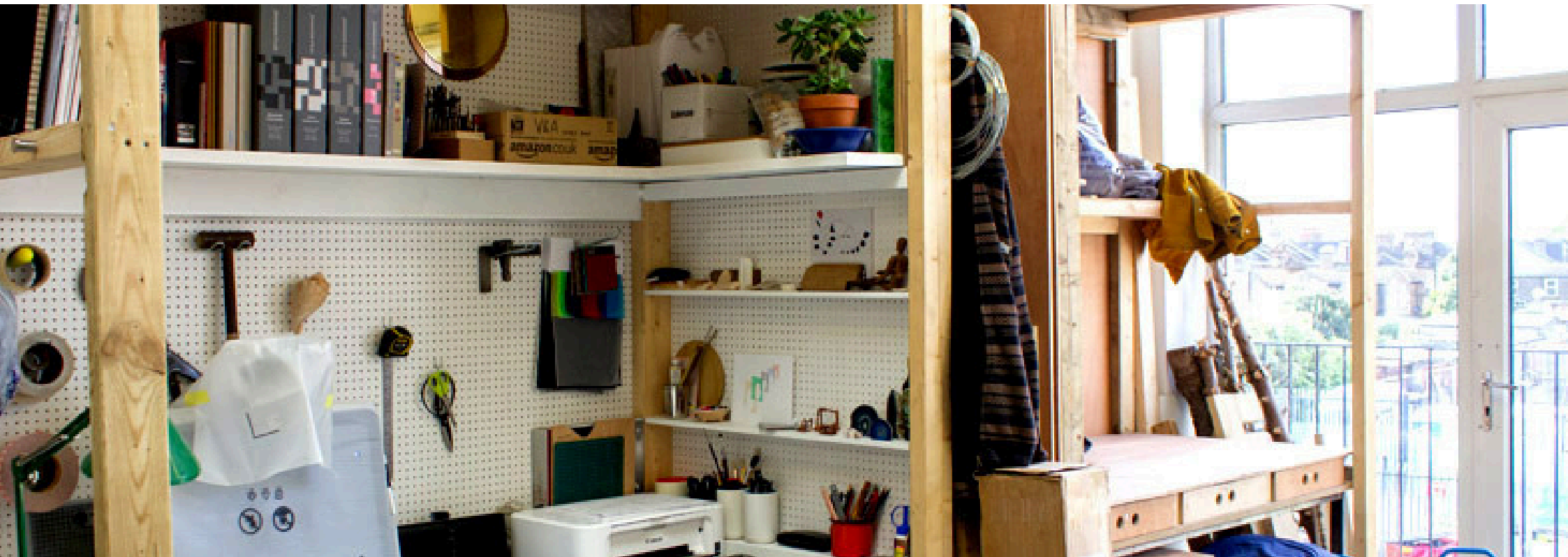
Providing affordable access to equipment

Supporting early career makers



1. Supporting people to make a living doing what they love

Providing local, affordable workspaces



As well as our Resident Makers based on site, the Workshop is open to the public who can book a workbench or attend a skill-based woodwork or metalwork course. In 2022-23, we provided space and equipment for:



Really great, relaxed workshop. Lots of space to experiment + make mistakes + try techniques



1312 **Public bench bookings**

968 **Course attendees**

521 **People inducted**

49 **Resident Makers**

19 **Open plan desks**

15 **Studios**

10 **Containers**

5 **Long term benches**

1. Supporting people to make a living doing what they love

RIYA PANCHAL

Providing local, affordable workspaces



When and what inspired you to start your own business?

Growing up in a family of engineers and artists, I was always drawn to the idea of establishing my own studio practice. My experiences in the decorative lighting industry, coupled with my formal education, naturally led me towards lighting design. It was the perfect fusion of technical expertise and artistic expression.

Although it was my circumstances at the time and the desire to take control of my creative career that prompted me to take the plunge. The studio allows me to design and create work that is both functional and visually striking, empowering unique narratives while enabling me to express myself.

How did you discover Blackhorse Workshop?

I was introduced to the workshop while working with Marc Wood, a former studio member. I was fortunate to find a desk space available after my year with him in September 2021. I now run my design studio practice Meseme from Studio 5, shared with three other wonderful members.

What is important to you about Blackhorse Workshop? And what does it give you?

Beyond the shared facilities, tools, and technical assistance, the workshop has been instrumental in fostering my confidence, skills, and sense of community. Building a business from scratch can be an isolating experience. Blackhorse Workshop has given me my first studio and provided a supportive environment where I've been able to connect with other makers, share experiences, and grow my practice alongside them.



2. Opening up creative opportunities and careers to all

Working with local young people

BLACKHORSE RESPONDERS: MARCH-AUGUST, 2022-ONGOING

**BLACKHORSE
RESPONDERS**
MAKE - MESSAGE - MOBILISE



Blackhorse Responders is an award-winning creative activism programme for 16-25 year old makers. Created to explore the use of design to transform attitudes and give young people a voice to speak out and engage others creatively about the issues they care about.



2. Opening up creative opportunities and careers to all

Working with local young people

ACTIVATORS

Co-founded with the 2022 Responders cohort, Activators is a follow-on programme for anyone who has previously taken part in our Blackhorse Responders programme. These monthly sessions seek out new opportunities to present work, develop ideas, grow networks and connections and develop skills in the workshop. We help to develop creative confidence, navigate towards fulfilling your ambitions, and look at ways to get started on that journey. This is an opportunity to work independently or join forces with others to challenge perceptions, change attitudes and create a positive community.



2. Opening up creative opportunities and careers to all

Working with local young people

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS



Our creative weekly after school making sessions for 9-11-year-olds (9-13 year olds for SEN sessions) follow a hands-on curriculum focusing on learning to use tools; and developing skills and confidence by making small projects using hand tools from clocks to marble games. Our termly SEN After School Club has a smaller group size and trained SEN facilitator.

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The course gives children the ability to believe in themselves and achieve goals through developing practical skills. The tutor is also lovely.”

— Parent of Make Stuff Club Participant

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“

It's a new skill for her, and it was great to try something with an element of “danger” to it. Sometimes SEN kids get mollycoddled, so it's extremely refreshing to be in a place where they are presumed competent!!

— Parent of Make Stuff Club
SEN Participant

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**MAKE STUFF CLUB: MONDAYS 4-5PM &
SEN MAKE STUFF CLUB THURSDAYS 4-5PM
10 YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 9-11 OR 9-13 WORK ON WEEKLY AND LONGER
TERM PROJECTS**

How can a creative space help to sustain a sense of community in a rapidly changing area?

Developing projects based on local needs

Open days, community parties and markets

Creating communities through the Workshop cafe

Developing our SEN provision



3. Sustaining a sense of community in a rapidly changing area

Projects responding to local need

MAKERNOONS (FORMERLY 'MAKER MORNINGS'): SINCE APRIL 2022

“

As the sessions progressed, regular members have taken more of a hands on role with demonstrating what they have learnt to help new attendees. One member designed a telephone holder and lead a session where everyone was invited to make one. He has now been fully inducted on all of the Workshop machinery assisting with running the sessions.

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Makernoons (initially set up as 'Maker Mornings') are a weekly drop-in programme that supports isolated residents. Partnering with local community organisations such as Age UK, the Adult Social Prescribing Service and the Red Cross the programme, it has run since April 2022 and has been a huge success .

We started by speaking to different community groups locally to identify who might benefit from being introduced to the workshop and how we can support these organisations where needed. The two key themes identified were tackling isolation and loneliness and we worked with the Adult Social Prescribing service and Age UK (a relationship which developed out of our Plaster Works project) to run a series of pilot making sessions off site at different venues. To bring in new members, we have been continuing to deliver off-site pilot sessions, one with a Women's group from Leyton Orient.

**Average 14 attendees
each week**

**Founded with funding from
Waltham Forest's Make it
Happen grant scheme and
the National Lottery**