

# 2021 UK Creative Community Fellows

## Meet the Fellows

The logo for NAS is the letters 'NAS' in a bold, black, sans-serif font, set against a white, diamond-shaped background.

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# Meet the Cohort

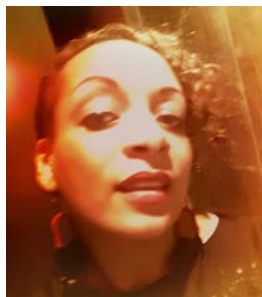
Click on a cohort member to learn more



**Sandy Abdelrahman**  
London



**Rosalind Allen**  
Derby



**Samantha Allen**  
London



**JC Candanedo**  
London



**David Chabeaux**  
Derby



**Alison Curry**  
Bishop Auckland



**France-Leigh Hadrysiak**  
Keighley



**Claire Hilton**  
Worcester



**Amy Lilley**  
Wakefield



**Clare Limb**  
Matlock



**Thomas Mason**  
Basildon



**Emma Miles**  
London



**Linda Monckton**  
Swindon



**Marieke Navin**  
Manchester



**Bethan Page**  
Penybontfawr



**Anisha Parmar**  
Mickleover



**Toby Peach**  
Clapton



**Emily Purser**  
London



**Andre Reid**  
Walsall



**Jason Shenai**  
London

# Meet the Cohort

Click on a cohort member to learn more



**Greta Solomon**  
Wimbledon



**Tony Spencer**  
Eastleigh



**Douglas Thompson**  
Harrogate



**Lynn Weddle**  
Brighton



**Holly Yeoman**  
Edinburgh



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## Sandy Abdelrahman

London

Sandy AbdelRahman an activist, creative social entrepreneur, MA Art & Politics and co-founder of Skaped. I'm a value-driven bilingual with a passion for human rights, the arts and social mobility; determined to stand up for the less fortunate and provide a voice for the overlooked and unheard.



## Rosalind Allen

Derby

Rosalind Allen is the Education and Families Development Officer within the RSPB's Movement Building Team. With a passion to improve equality of opportunity and protect the planet, this role enables her to use her creativity, organisation skills and attention to detail to develop, manage and evaluate families' and schools' projects that help to broaden the RSPB's reach and deepen connection with nature. Key to this is demonstrating relevance, removing barriers to engagement and empowering communities, in order to build a people-powered movement to save nature. Internally, Rosalind collaborates and liaises with senior managers and delivery staff across a range of teams across the UK.

With an interest in nature from a young age, learning about threats from climate change, habitat destruction and a range of air and water pollution in her teenage years sparked a decision to follow a career path that could make a difference. A degree in ecology, a desire to help people and wildlife, a 'can do' approach and over 20 years of paid and voluntary experience, has enabled her to help communities to experience, appreciate, protect and improve their local environment.

A wealth of project development and delivery (both at the RSPB and Groundwork) has provided experience of partnership working and of integrating arts and heritage into local environmental education and community projects. Project legacy has been important; building others' capabilities to enable activities to be sustained by the community beyond the life of the project.

Rosalind is a bit of a 'Womble'! Often seeing and acting on the potential to turn something others may throw away into something useful or attractive – from pallets to tree prunings and calendars to curtains.





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## Samantha Allen

London

Sam is an arts and heritage consultant who has run her own organisation since 2014. She has worked internationally with audiences, gallery, museum and heritage professionals to transform meaning and provide authentic engagement in collections, educational programming, and communications. She is an innovator who combines strategic marketing, education and arts administration to catalyse positive and sustainable change. Sam is a passionate advocate of racial activism and social justice and has a BA in Classical Studies, a post graduate diploma in Education and a first class MA in Arts Administration and Cultural Policy.



## JC Candanedo

London

I'm a London-based Queer and Migrant Visual Artist and I use photography to explore Human Rights, Mental Health and Identity.

I am interested in what it means to be Human and what is our connection with the rest of Humanity. What are our Individual rights? What are our Collective rights? What is our relationship with ourselves and the bodies that we inhabit and how is this relationship influenced by the world around us?

Ultimately, my goal is to use my work to help make this a Better World.



## David Chabeaux

Derby

I am David Chabeaux.

My work as a performer, filmmaker and social change activist “ignites the fires of positive change” in people, organisations and communities worldwide.

Born in Derby, England into a family of pioneering performers, it was kind of inevitable I became a professional musician and actor. I’ve played roles in a number of hit global films and TV shows including PEAKY BLINDERS (BBC/Netflix), BULLETPROOF (Sky Atlantic) and HOLLYOAKS (Channel 4) and as a musician, I’ve been able to galvanise social change globally. The songs ‘LionHearts’ and ‘Children Of The Sun’ from my 2015 album SPARK (which I recorded with ex members of Grammy winning African group ‘Ladysmith Black Mambazo’) brought Nobel Peace Prize winner and activist Desmond Tutu

to the cause of the sacred White Lions of South Africa and are currently used by campaigns worldwide attempting to ban wildlife trophy hunting.

As an educator and social change leader, I’ve also spent nearly two decades working with many of the world’s most influential leaders, organisations and institutions around creativity, innovation and cultural and social change. I was area director for the consulting firm of change guru Dr Stephen R Covey (author of seminal book The 7 Habits Of Highly Effective People) and also ran my own learning and development house, Standing Ovation. Some of the clients I’ve collaborated with over the years include Cisco Systems, IRC Water, Animals Asia, Easyjet, Sky, Jaguar Land Rover, The Arts Council England and IBM. I’m also a board director with Derby based arts Community Interest Company Furthest From The Sea.

My latest work sees me directing a feature film documentary called Moz’s Band that tells the historical story of my grandfather, Moz Ward, a pioneering bandleader who inspired tens of thousands of working class people - and a whole marching band movement - across the East Midlands of England from the 1950s until the ’90s, whilst bringing it sharply into a present-day focus. Working with communities in the East Midlands and in the USA, South Africa and Scandinavia, the film takes global folk musics of all kinds that tap into tribe, tradition, and heritage, and will become a catalyst for a wider social change to overcome isolation and reignite belonging today. You can see the sizzle reel at <https://www.davidchabeaux.com/mozsband>





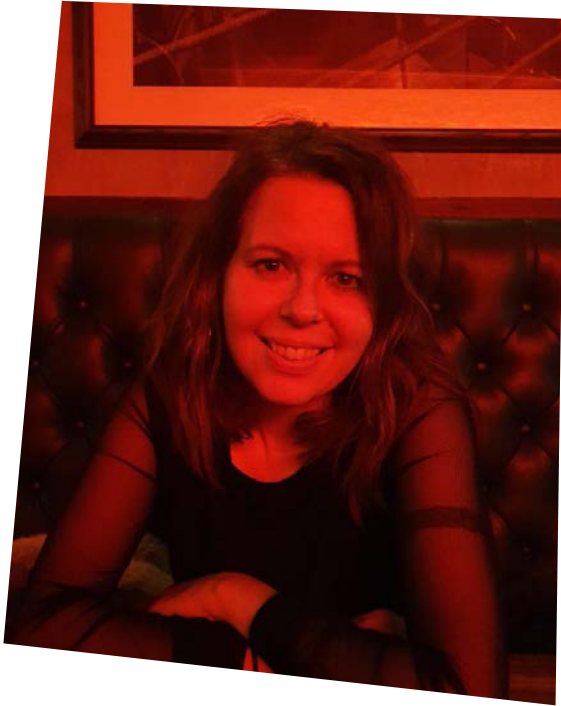
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## Alison Curry

**Bishop Auckland**

Community Artist since 2016 delivering creative intergenerational experiences in schools, community groups and to family doorsteps. I have worked on collaborative and independent projects with a variety of supporting partners and arts organisations.

Alison views the world upside down and back to front and works hard to relieve creative constipation within communities & ignite creativity in others.



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## France-Leigh Hadrysiak

Keighley

I am a Community Development Manager working with The Leap - Bradford and Keighley's Creative People and Places programme. I've been working in the arts sector for the past 12 years, specialising in arts development and communications. I am passionate about using arts and creativity to make positive change happen and enjoy bringing artists and communities together to create cultural experiences for all.



## Claire Hilton

Worcester

Claire Hilton is a freelance arts in health professional and qualified Art Therapist. Having completed a Fine art Degree and a MA in Art Therapy Claire is a mixed media artist who bridges teaching and therapeutic artistic approaches with adults and young people in different community and statutory settings. As Regional Co-ordinator for British Association for Art Therapists, Claire regularly makes artwork and exhibits in the county and beyond working in many forms and media. Claire has been a member of DAN for 4 years and regularly contributes and coordinates creative events with Creating Space and Spare Room Arts.



## Amy Lilley

Wakefield

I'm Amy Lilley (she/her), a 29 year old living and working in the small city of Wakefield, West Yorkshire. My home city and creative community is really important to me, and for 8 years my work has driven me to explore how art and culture can connect us with spaces, places, and the environment, to drive positive transformation with a particular focus on Wakefield.

I support artists to showcase and celebrate their creative talents by designing and facilitating projects, exhibitions and events, often using non-traditional art spaces to help remove barriers to culture. I enjoy working with empty shops, seeing how culture can breathe new life into spaces and invigorate the built environment, whilst connecting us with it as well.

In recent years I've become particularly interested in how cultural programming can be a catalyst for placemaking, social engagement and connecting communities, and how art and creativity plays a critical role in the wellbeing of society. I love creating shared experiences, I think it's important to connect people and seeing people share joy and memories is priceless. Many of the programmes and projects I've delivered over the years have helped to build pride, supported artists to take their next steps and have helped put Wakefield on the cultural map.

I'm currently employed by The Art House as project coordinator for Artwalk Wakefield, and it's through this work that I'm applying for this opportunity. I'm also a board member of Long Division Music Festival, producer of a community photography project foh-toh and I'm a co-founder of a new creative studio Open To The Public. In the past I've worked as a programme assistant at The Hepworth Wakefield, unlocked spaces for 16-25 year old's through a BIG lottery funded programme somewhere to\_, and have run my own DIY venue and creative hub.

When I'm not working I enjoy gardening, particularly growing vegetables and then cooking with them. I've always been drawn to nature, and love nothing more than a weekend of walks with my lurcher Zan. This appreciation and admiration for the natural environment has meant I feel responsible to learn how I can be a better human for our planet, and would love to explore how this personal passion can crossover into my work someday.



## Clare Limb

Matlock

I have had a long and varied career in the arts and arts in the community and in education. I began my career practicing as a freelancer community arts practitioner & performer in Scotland, Australia and New Zealand in my early 20's. I went on to become a secondary specialist in Drama and Dance and taught in secondary education for 13 years, directing and choreographing alongside talented young people throughout. I took a career break in my mid-thirties to have my first child. I started work at Deda in 2007 and have been working there ever since. My role is as Head of Dance Development and Learning and I oversee several strands of our business plan including Deda's HE offer, its community class programme and outreach work. Alongside this I am Chair of Hubbub Theatre Company, an integrated theatre company for Learning Disabled and non disabled performers. During lockdown I undertook the Culture Reset Programme, funded by Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and led by People Make it work. In the past year I have set up Art Share Crich in the community in which I live as well as joined the management committee of The Glebe Field Trust, which runs the local community centre in the parish of Crich, Fritchley & Whatstandwell.





## Thomas Mason

Basildon

I am an Applied Theatre practitioner and “Arts for All” advocate working throughout London and Essex working on making theatre more accessible for local communities, especially those that do not have the facilities directly at their disposal. Having come from a working-class area in Essex with very little in terms of arts provisions for young people, the arts for me was a luxury that we often could not afford - yet it was such a release for me. Being told when I was younger that I would never make it in drama school/the industry because of my background and upbringing is what started the fire in me to work in community outreach. I have spent my short working life working on projects and with companies to champion their community, so that I can one day bring that to my hometown and community, in ways that were not available to me growing up and even now.



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## Emma Miles

London

I am a teacher, researcher and museums learning professional with twelve years' experience working across the formal and informal education sectors. Having worked as a primary school teacher, I later studied for a PhD about theatre for young children at Royal Holloway, University of London. I have worked as the Learning Manager at Sir John Soane's Museum, and now split my time between two jobs as a lecturer in Education Studies at Anglia Ruskin University, and the Community Engagement Officer at St Mary's church in Walthamstow. I am fascinated by the power of shared arts and cultural experiences to shape people and communities, as well as how places can inspire learning.



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## Linda Monckton

Swindon

I am Head of Wellbeing and Inclusion Strategy for Historic England and an architectural historian and heritage professional; I work to direct our strategic direction in the area of health and wellbeing.



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## Marieke Navin

Manchester

Marieke is a science communicator and has used ballet dancers to interpret the collisions of protons at the Large Hadron Collider and circus performers to demonstrate the strength and flexibility of graphene. For her PhD in particle physics Marieke chased elusive neutrinos in a huge tank of water below a mine in Japan. Marieke is head of programming at Cheltenham Science Festival and in 2019 co-created the world's first AI festival curator and delivered the world's first online science festival during 2020 lockdown.



## Bethan Page

Penybontfawr

I am a freelancer with a visual arts background who lives and works in rural Mid-Wales.

I am passionate about contributing to society, supporting and advocating for others and am committed to my own learning journey.

My core work currently involves working as Fun Palaces Ambassador in North Wales involving working with communities in culturally democratic ways. I am also regularly employed by the Arts Council of Wales in a 'Creative Agent' role to support pupils, teachers and creative practitioners who are involved in 'Creative Learning Through the Arts' schools projects. This involves developing pupil voice and encapsulates many of the values of cultural democracy.

I am a Trustee for Engage, the Gallery Education Association, an Arts Associate with the Arts Council of Wales advising on grant applications and sector development and a school governor. I live and work bilingually in Welsh and English.





## Anisha Parmar

Mickleover

Jewellery Designer & Artist, Anisha Parmar creates uplifting, handcrafted jewellery inspired by her South Asian heritage and diaspora within the UK. Her brand Anisha Parmar London has been running for almost 6 years, where she's been stocked at the V & A museum, featured in Vogue and Elle internationally and has created 9 distinct collections that have been shown at trade shows in Paris and London.

Her work, draws heavily from the story of her family migrating from India, to East Africa and then to the UK, re-imagining their identity in a foreign land. Stemmed from her own family history she is fascinated by other oral histories within the South Asian Diaspora, more recently linked to gold jewellery pieces handed down and the stories behind them, as part of her research for the developing your creative practice grant she received this year from the Arts Council.



## Toby Peach

Clapton

Toby Peach is a theatre maker, performer and director. Toby was on the BBC Arts Fund's 'Ones to Watch' list in 2015 where he completed his BBC Community Theatre fellowship with The Old Vic. He runs Beyond Arts, a Community Interest Company that uses arts to amplify the voices of young people who have experienced cancer. We empower 18-30-year-old cancer survivors to find their own language to respond to comfortably communicate their experiences.

Toby is an Associate Artist with interactive theatre-makers Coney and is the Director of their young company, the Young Coneys. He has made interactive experiences for Coney for Alexandra Palace, Imperial War Museum, National Trust, BAC & the National Archives. Lastly, he is a Creative Climate Leader, who passionately advocates for a better sustainable practice and uses the art to spark conversation on the environment and sustainability.



## Emily Purser

London

I am a multidisciplinary practitioner as a curator, project manager and events coordinator with a background in both the arts and environment and climate work. I have always been interested in the intersection between subjects and in bringing people together in order to solve a problem or explore an idea. I am currently studying for a Masters in Environment, Politics and Development with a particular interest in climate justice and the law of natural resources.



## Andre Reid

Walsall

I am a Design Researcher & Strategist based in Walsall, UK who helps shape places by co-designing with communities. My design, research and production studio KIONDO CIC explores how we might create more sustainable, joyful and equitable spaces to live and work around the world, by weaving deep partnerships between people and place. Through KIONDO, Andre produces programmes, workshops and events which foster greater community cohesion, and undertakes design, research and advocacy work which challenges the future of societies, exploring possible new ways of designing the world.



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## Jason Shenai

London

I have worked for all my adult life as a photographer but have also undertaken various other tasks. I founded and for 4 years ran a project in Wandsworth Prison enabling prisoners to produce photographs of their environment. The subsequent book (and exhibition) we entitled Inside Eye. I lead the documentary photography module on the BA course at Westminster University for 8 years, and still lecture at various universities, and review portfolios, for instance at Rencontres de la Photographie in Arles. In 1997 I started Millennium Images a photography agency which now sells work by more than 1000 artist-photographers. I am still director of Millennium.





## Greta Solomon

Wimbledon

Greta Solomon is a writer, author, writing teacher, and journal healer. Through her books and courses, she guides people to use journaling, writing and creative self-expression to wake up, connect to inner wisdom, and heal the tender, violated parts of their inner worlds.

A former overachiever with a Head Girl badge and straight A grades to her name, Greta has spent her life shaking off the 'good girl' mask so that she can be true to herself. She is an ICF associate certified life coach, a Berklee-alumni lyricist, and a City & Guilds trained lifelong learning teacher. She has clocked up thousands of coaching and tutoring hours with her clients.

Greta has a degree in psychology from University of Warwick, and a former career as a women's magazine journalist. In total, she has over 13 years of experience in training individuals and multi-million pound companies in writing skills, delivering workshops and talks in Norway, Holland and across the UK. Greta was also a visiting business writing lecturer at University of London, City.

Greta still writes for newspapers and magazines, most recently for Red, Kindred Spirit and Forbes. She is the author of *Just Write It! How to Develop Top-Class University Writing Skills* (McGraw-Hill Education, 2013) and *Heart, Sass & Soul: Journal Your Way to Inspiration and Happiness* (Mango, 2019), which was shortlisted for best book in the 2020 Creative Impact Awards. She is also a published poet and songwriter. She lives in London with her husband and daughter.



## Tony Spencer

Eastleigh

I'm a freelance visual artist and sound therapist, with a background in Museum Outreach, Gallery Curating and Arts Development. I have worked with marginalised and underrepresented people including young migrants, refugees and BAME communities, offering safe spaces for social engagement and the development of creative skills. With a passion for West African Drumming, I lived in a rural village in The Gambia for two years, supporting performing artists, young people and the intercultural exchange of skills and knowledge between creative practitioners.

By reflecting on my own challenges, as an art professional with dyslexia, I'm currently creating safe, inclusive spaces and exploring a range of methods to help creative freelancers become self-aware and trauma informed. This will build a network of support, strengthen resilience and self-expression, to enhance our future opportunities. To achieve this, I'm building a community of passionate artists and wellbeing practitioners, who think differently about the function of art and wellbeing.



## Douglas Thompson

Harrogate

I am a multidisciplinary artist generating cohesive communities and audiences in Knaresborough and Harrogate through creativity. I challenge social isolation and create community arts events, exhibitions and theatre that provides opportunities and inclusivity for all. I specialise in creating networks across the arts that challenge isolation, promote wellbeing and bring equity to neuro atypical adults, people with learning differences and individuals with a wide range of disabilities.

I lead intergenerational projects with older people as well as creating a number of projects for people with dementia. I work with refugee groups in Bradford creating projects with artists, charities and community groups that value the inherent potential in all of us.

This is the crux of my community practice. I create networks that de-silo communities, that break down the barriers that have ossified in our culture and in a way that allows diverse groups spaces and projects which create connections between the young and the old, those with disabilities and for all connections between the known and the unknown in each other.

I do this through film projects, multi modal communication projects that include signing and audio description, theatre workshops, exhibitions and micro commissions.

My work is has a beneficial effect on individuals, groups, businesses and places of education.

I have a degree in theatre arts, a Masters in creative practice and have led professional workshops in theatre and fine art for Leeds Playhouse, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Harrogate theatre, BBC children in need projects and many more as a freelance practitioner.

I am also employed as an artist leading workshops and producing events and exhibitions for Henshaws Arts and Crafts Centre a day centre and arts venue that specialises in working with vulnerable adults through the arts. I'm leading the centre forward in our use of digital media platforms and creating new performance works for the centre regularly.



## Lynn Weddle

Brighton

I am an artist with a passion for sharing the power of creativity with others. I have designed and conducted participatory art and photography workshops since 2003. I have developed a sensitive, improvisational style working with an extraordinary array of people in diverse settings. I have a profound commitment to the power of art and conversation to allow us to learn and understand more about ourselves, others, and our environment and an intuitive talent for creating spaces to share and learn.

My facilitation practice has lead to working internationally running arts based projects, residencies and commissions in partnership with the British Museum, Tate Modern, National Maritime Museum, Photovoice, Photoworks, Fabrica Gallery, Focal Point gallery, Towner, Four Corners, HIV Alliance, Save the Children and Pallant House Gallery.



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## Holly Yeoman

Edinburgh

I'm Holly, the community engagement manager at Edinburgh Art Festival. Prior to starting my role in February 2020 with the Festival, I was a freelance producer and curator, working on performance art projects such as 'Not Dead Yet' for Glasgow International with XSexcentenary, a collective who identify as older. From 2015-2016, I was the visual art curator at Edinburgh's Summerhall multi-arts centre.





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