












BRIDGE
CREATIVE

**IMPACT
REPORT
2024**

OVERVIEW

2024 was a year of powerful growth, bold moves, and lasting impact. At Bridge Creative, we champion inclusive employment by supporting young autistic adults and adults with learning disabilities to thrive in the creative industries and beyond. Here's how we made a difference this year:

THE STATS...

-  35 people supported into work
-  10,027 hours of supported employment delivered
-  2 branches: North East & London
-  1 Bridge Academy launched
-  5 award wins and shortlistings
-  50+ employers engaged
-  40 events & festivals made more inclusive
-  50% of our team have lived experience
-  Over 300 people supported across the North East





SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

- 35 young adults with learning disabilities and autistic adults supported into workplaces across the North East.
- Delivered a massive 10,027 hours of supported employment across sectors including live events, hospitality, the arts, retail, manufacturing and healthcare.
- Achieved a workforce where over 50% have lived experience of being autistic and/or having a learning disability – true representation in action.
- Delivered Inclusive Employment training across England.



EVENTS & INCLUSION

- Worked with over **40 festivals, events, and venues**, helping them build inclusive workforces and create meaningful opportunities.
- Delivered **on-the-ground support** at **40 events** across the UK – from intimate gigs to major festivals.





EXPANSION

- **Launched our London branch** with a brand new team, opening up new opportunities in the capital and reaching more people than ever before.
- **Launched the Bridge Academy**, offering inclusive training and apprenticeships that give people a foot in the door and the confidence to step through it.



PARTNERSHIPS + COLLABS

WHO WE WORK WITH



WE SEE YOU



NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

- Ran our co-produced **"We See You"** campaign during Learning Disability Week.
 - Engaged over 50 national employers, including Amazon, Tough Mudder, Emergency Exit Arts, and regional colleges.
 - Partners pledged to:
 - Create inclusive workplaces
 - Participate in Inclusive Employment Training, co-delivered by people with lived experience
 - Work towards having 5% of their workforce made up of adults with learning disabilities and/or autistic adults.




ACHIEVEMENTS + AWARDS

This year, our work was recognised at local and national level:


National Nominations & Awards


 **Inclusive & Diversity Award** – Winner at the **Access All Areas Awards**

 **Best Supported Employment Team** – Finalist at the **BASE Awards** (1 of only 3 organisations shortlisted nationally)

 **Music for Culture & Wellbeing Award** – Finalist at the **Nordoff & Robbins Northern Music Awards**

Regional Awards

 **Public Service Award** – Winner at the **County Durham Together Awards**

 **Highly Commended – Outstanding Social Enterprise** at the **North East Charity Awards**

- **Achieved Disability Confident Leader Status**
- **Achieved Investors in the Environment Bronze Status**
- **Joined the Better Health At Work Award programme**
- **Our events, organised by young adults we support, attracted 70,000 visitors to County Durham!**
- **All of our young adults paid at or above the Real Living Wage**
- **100% of our Board continue to have lived experience of the issues we aim to address**

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT

BRIDGE CREATIVE

BRIDGE CREATIVE IS THE BEST PLACE TO BE WITH PEOPLE WHO GOT LEARNING DISABILITIES LIKE MYSELF GAINING INTO EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEERING AT EVENTS AND MAKING NEW FRIENDS HAVING A GOOD TIME GOING TO THE FRIENDSHIP GROUP



I KNOW SOMEONE IS ALWAYS THERE TO TALK TO ABOUT ANY PROBLEMS I HAVE. BRIDGE CREATIVE HAS HELPED ME GET A JOB AT THE LEISURE CENTRE WHERE I WANTED TO WORK.

WHAT THIS TEAM DOES IS TRULY INSPIRING, GIVING ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES AND/OR AUTISM TONS OF EXPERIENCE IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE AS WELL AS THE SUPPORT THEY REQUIRE TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS. KEEP UP THE FANTASTIC WORK



WORKING AT BRIDGE CREATIVE HAS UPPED MY CONFIDENCE SO MUCH. I HAVE LOVED WORKING. I FEEL MUCH MORE INDEPENDENT AND HAD THE BEST SUPPORT EVER. I ALWAYS FEEL COMFORTABLE AND WE ALWAYS HELP EACH OTHER OUT. IT HAS HONESTLY CHANGED MY LIFE. IT HAS BEEN THE BEST THING I HAVE EVER DONE.

I WOULD BE IN A REALLY BAD PLACE IF IT WASN'T FOR BRIDGE CREATIVE. I DON'T KNOW WHERE I WOULD BE WITH OUT IT. THIS IS MY HAPPY PLACE. THIS IS MY SAFE SPACE.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

- Deliver Inclusive Apprenticeships through Bridge Academy
- Expand to new geographical areas
- Develop our co-delivered training offer, creating more employment opportunities for the young people we support.
- Expand our business support offer, giving young adults the chance to set up their own business

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO'S SUPPORTED US THIS YEAR!

