Tania's Story: Rooted

The Beginning:

Tania, a well-connected local resident, got in touch with Slung Low with an idea for an evening arts and crafts group. She wanted to make arts and crafts more accessible and had noticed that most opportunities in the area took place during the day, making it difficult for people with work or other commitments to attend.

The idea was met with plenty of enthusiasm. Following a series of workshops Slung Low held recently at The Warehouse in Holbeck, where people explored design, drawing and batik, many participants said they were keen to continue developing their creative skills and trying new techniques.

Building on this interest, Tania was able to access Small Sparks funding to test the idea through a programme of monthly evening workshops. The sessions were developed in partnership with local organisation Re:establish, creating a new opportunity for people to come together and be creative!

"I haven't done this since school and I'm in my 50s now" - Rooted attendee





The Journey:

For Tania, arts and crafts are about more than learning new skills. Creative activities can boost wellbeing, build confidence and bring people together, especially when they take place in a friendly and welcoming group.

Tania used her local contacts and welcoming approach to get the group off the ground. She called it Rooted, with the first few sessions inspired by nature and natural materials, including activities like wreath-making and gelli plate printing using leaves. The sessions were a real hit, attracting 22 enthusiastic local people and lots of positive feedback. One participant even commented, "Why can't we do this every week?".

Tania has continued to shape the group around what people want, adapting future workshops based on the skills and activities that attendees are interested in exploring. This has helped Rooted build momentum and has created a real sense of ownership amongst those taking part.

The Impact:

Feedback from participants shows that the workshops are already having a positive impact. People have talked about feeling more confident, enjoying the chance to pick up creative skills they haven't used since their school days, and getting to know others in their local area. Most attendees live in the LS11 area, helping to build stronger local connections and spark new friendships.

Although Rooted is still in its early stages, it is already demonstrating the value of community-led activity. The group has created a new opportunity for adults in South Leeds to explore arts and crafts, connect with others and take part in something that fits around their lives.

