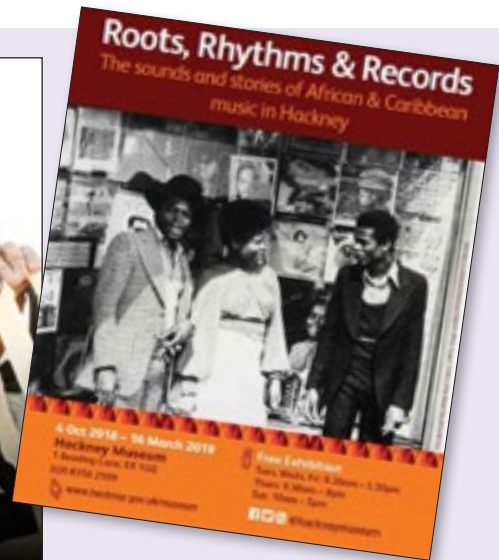


PurpleSTARS and the Pride of Place project with Hackney Museum



The RIX Centre hosts the purpleSTARS, a mix of artists and technologists with and without learning disabilities who work with museums using electronics, media and sensory art to help make the visitor experience more inclusive. In 2019 the purpleSTARS

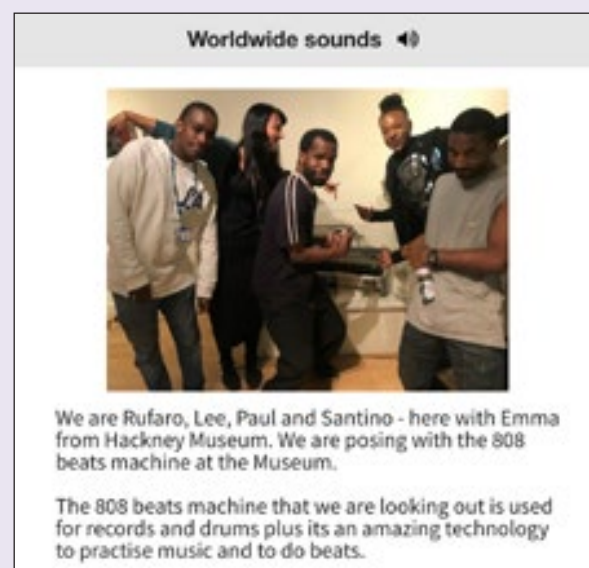
worked with the Hackney Museum in response to the **Roots, Rhythms and Records** exhibition that showcased the rich presence of African and Caribbean Music in the Borough since the 1950s. This photo-story charts the methods and achievements of the project.



▲ The purpleSTARS chose to work on Hackney Museum’s Roots, Rhythms and Records exhibition because they are major fans of black music – and Paul lives in the Borough

◀ Before they visit the show they review publicity material, research the themes explored in the display and make personal connections

▼ The team liked the old-school styles that went with the music. It reminded them of their parents and grandparents, their stories of immigration and their cultural roots



▲ They met the Museum’s curator at the exhibition, took photos of the displays that caught their attention and used the Wiki to document and reflect on the experience

▼ A Windrush tea party at Hackney Town Hall inspired the team with the stories they heard, alongside the music, food and clothing and the display of flags from Caribbean nations



▲ They built a new Wiki to organise their retelling of the exhibition's themes with a personal, sensory and accessible emphasis

▼ The team developed these themes with a sensory focus, comparing their experiences of the tastes and smells of their own families' cooking and its links to their own roots



They produced music, raps and poems with community music & media group Raw Material, re-interpreting the exhibition's themes and linking with their own musical tastes

▼ They made artwork for vinyl, cassette and CD versions of their recordings, using flags to portray their heritage



They produced models of jollof rice, chicken, peas and dumplings for interactive display



◀ The team created a suitcase for their sensory handling objects and decorated it with the flags of the countries from which their families came

▶ They used a photoshoot to explore styles from their heritage and showcase their artwork





They worked with local disabled adults in the Advanced Art Group to create their own Jamaican sound system installation



▲ The STARS worked with Hackney rapper Badladee to provide workshops for local school children at the exhibition



◀ Their work culminated in a purpleSTARS Take Over event with food and performance on the last day of the exhibition, which coincided with World Disabled Access Day



◀ They shared their sensory objects and retold the stories that inspired their creation



▼ The team performed raps, poems and a DJ set. Judith wore Kente cloth from Ghana and the men chose the styles of the African and Caribbean performers of the 60s and 70s

▼ After the Event the team used their Wiki to capture what the Pride of Place project had meant to them...



...and Judith joined the volunteer team to work as a receptionist at the Hackney Museum!