

Challenge your imagination

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Libraries, Archives & Media Arts

CASE STUDY

Widening staff engagement Layers Upon Layers



A multi-artform story-hacking project for York Explore staff to celebrate York Explore's 90th birthday.

Taking just one story from the city archive, staff retold, explored, enhanced, embellished and added layers to the story through poems, music and printmaking. Through creative writing, with storyteller Catherine Heinemeyer, they peered

inside the story, finding where it resonated with their own experiences – at the library and beyond, to form a story that celebrated the life of the library in 2017.

Through music, with percussionist and composer Janet Foulton, they explored a vast range of soundscapes to create, as a group, the sound world of the story.

Through print making they

created a series of images, creating the story visually to complement the words and music.

The final creation is a book showcasing the images and poems created by staff, currently being illustrated by artist Stephen Hodgkins. Work is also underway to exhibit the images and poems to animate spaces at York Explore.

“I really enjoyed Printmaking, it challenged me in a new way, and enabled me to get to know my colleagues better via a creative avenue. I think the library should close one day every month so that the staff can have a day of cutting and sticking!!”

“I loved it! It was fun trying out all the different instruments and making lots of noise. Beforehand some staff were a bit nervous, as they said it was out of their comfort zone, but you wouldn't have guessed because everyone got stuck in and had fun! It was great for teambuilding.”



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