

DREAM NETWORKS

A YEAR IN REVIEW

HOW WE CREATED PLAY4ALL



CHILD-CENTRED CO-DESIGN



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



INCLUSION



REGENERATIVE SPACES

 Dream Networks

2024

LET US HELP YOU TO CREATE PLAY SPACES
WHERE EVERYONE CAN THRIVE IN 2025



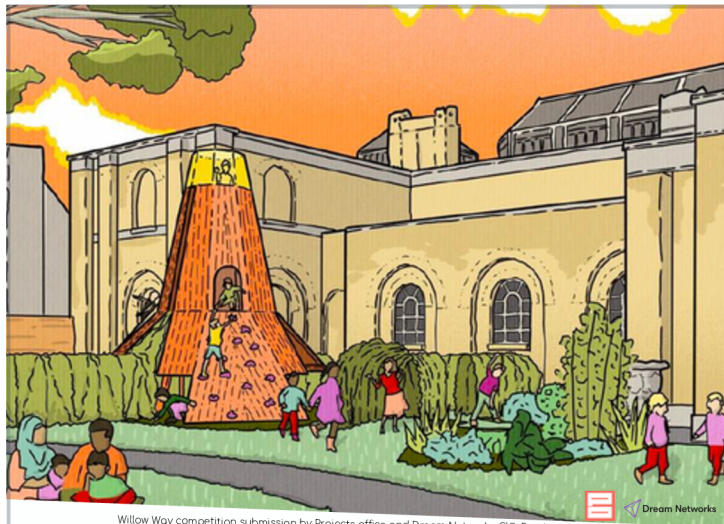
CREATING INTERGENERATIONAL PLAY AT DULWICH PICTURE GALLERY

Earlier this year we held an interactive workshop at Dulwich Picture Gallery incorporating play, nature and connection.



The children got to discover how they could play through connecting with nature and themselves. They learned about the indigenous ways of sharing memories, used symbols to paint their favourite memories of playing - then got hands on creating their own 3 dimensional interactive play tunnel!

At Dream Networks we bring imagination to life with interactive workshops that encourage everybody to explore creativity in a whole new way.



Willow Way competition submission by Projects office and Dream Networks C.I.C. Render produced by Projects office

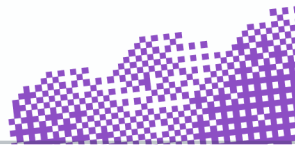
REIMAGINING PLAY IN DULWICH, LONDON

We at Dream Networks C.I.C are really grateful/excited to have been shortlisted in collaboration with Project office for the London Festival of Architecture Reimagining Play competition for Dulwich Picture Gallery playful sculpture. We decided to create the Willow Way, a playful sculpture that was generative and fluid. A playful space that celebrated nature and different ways of playing.

Well done to the other 5 shortlisted teams! and to the final winners.



LONDON FESTIVAL OF
ARCHITECTURE



CO-DESIGNING PLAY AT NAIROBI DESIGN WEEK



This year, Dream Networks had the privilege of hosting an incredible workshop as part of Nairobi Design Week's festivities. Together with a group of passionate participants, we explored how to create inclusive play spaces that truly reflect the needs and dreams of children from different cultures.

A heartfelt thank-you to @nairobidesign_ and all who joined us for this meaningful experience. This workshop reaffirmed our belief that play can build not just spaces but also connections and shared purpose.

ADVOCATING FOR REGENERATIVE & INCLUSIVE PLAY



LONDON BUILD 2024

"It was great to be invited to speak on 2 panels at this year's London Build Expo. I loved finally meeting fellow panel members in person, hearing their perspectives on culture, identity and human-centricity, and of course responding to the thoughtful questions from the fantastic audience." - Marie Williams



REGENERATIVE BUSINESS SUMMIT



"People who create systems and structures that enable others who have been excluded, oppressed and suppressed to not only engage in the conversation but to liberate an alternative, regenerative reality." - Marie Williams



RAE FRONTIERS SYMPOSIUM

"I am grateful to have co-chaired alongside David McGovern and Urvaksh D. Patel during Royal Academy of Engineering Frontiers symposium in Perth Australia. It was enlightening to hear attendees discuss managing risks, engaging stakeholders, and distributing finance for transformative climate adaptation." - Marie Williams



PLAY AND PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCE



"During the play and philosophy conference held in Madrid, I spoke about how aesthetics influenced access to play and more specifically how colonial perceptions of how play spaces should look, eurocentricity, modernity have caused playgrounds to be produced that conflict with children's ways of doing and being." - Marie Williams

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH PLAY

Marie Williams discusses the importance of play, co-creating with children, and tackling play inequality around the world



IN THE PRESS

Our CEO, Marie Williams was extremely humbled and honoured to be part of the latest magazine from Citizen Zero.

Thank you so much for Steve Shipley and Matt High for interviewing me and creating such a beautiful and impactful magazine. For even suggesting the work we do at Dream Networks C.I.C is trail blazing.



[Or click this link to view](#)

Read the full issue!

PLAYFUL ENGINEERS

A recent project by Dream Networks showcases how local communities can be empowered to take climate action through in outdoor play spaces.

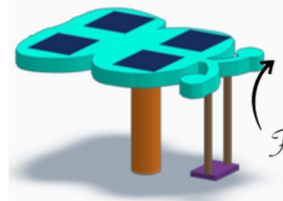
In our Playful Engineers programme, funded by the Royal Academy of Engineering, we delivered playful, interactive workshops, where children explored how engineering can help tackle sustainability challenges. Led by fantastic volunteer engineers and architects, these young minds identified local climate issues, then used design tools like modelling and CAD to develop creative solutions to provide solar power and rainwater harvesting in their playgrounds

Over 120 children from primary schools in south east greater London, a specialist school for children with autism, and Peckham based scouts group were empowered to co-design.

The impact was inspiring:

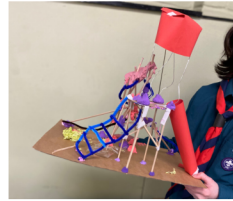
"When I am older I would like to be an engineer." – 9 year old

"It made me feel like I would change the world."



Find out more!

[Or click this link to view](#)



PLAY HERE EXHIBITION

"Seeing the joy on their faces when they put on their superhero masks and saw themselves in the exhibition was a highlight for me."
- Teacher feedback

Our Play Here exhibitions completed in August 2024, and we are so glad over 3000 people were able to experience it!.

To exhibit their sustainable solutions, we temporarily transformed a public alleyway and a space in a shopping centre Greener & Cleaner. This not only made the spaces more playful and welcoming, but it also allowed children's ideas to occupy spaces that are normally used by adults.



You can experience the online exhibition here

Their designs were showcased in the exhibition but and the fantastic visitors contributed too.

How?

- By taking superhero selfies to remind them they can also help to sustain our world
- By commenting on 3D printed models of the children's ideas (made and donated by Fixie)
- By completing a playful workbook that helped them to reflect on what they had seen and touched
- By decorating laser cut flowers and animals that showcased the biodiversity that rain gardens can produce





WE SHARED OUR EXPERTISE

FREE GUIDES TO EMPOWER YOU TO CO-DESIGN

7 STAGES OF CO-DESIGN

In this guide, we shared how we at Dream Networks have enabled children and marginalised groups to design inclusive and engaging spaces. We invite you to take out **7 seven days** to go through each one, reflect on the and consider how they can help you to design in a more inclusive and equitable manner.



DESIGNING INCLUSIVELY WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

At Dream Networks we want our workshops to be a safe and engaging environment for all. We recognise that each child has their own unique interests, preferences, fears, and needs.



WE PROPOSED PROVIDED 5 WAYS TO LIBERATE MORE INCLUSIVE PLAY

In April, our CEO shared a LinkedIn article that suggested how designers, communities, planners, play practitioners and more, can liberate more plural play spaces by decolonising play. We were overwhelmed and humbled by the positive and supportive responses.

We propose ways to deconstructing and decolonising play and produce an alternative, more inclusive reality for our play spaces. One that recentres the design and production of play on plural ways of seeing and experiencing our world. Experiences that often deviate from the euro-centric design culture that dominate play spaces and can widen inequities in access to play.



How to Decolonise Play?

Check out the [How to Decolonise Play by Liberating Plural Worlds](#) article That provides 5 strategies you can adopt to progress on your decolonising journey.

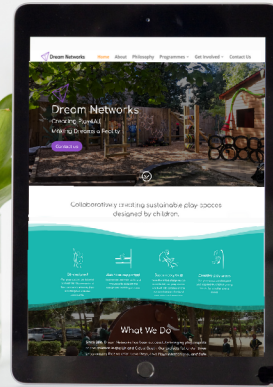
[Marie's LinkedIn profile](#) provides five additional posts and articles that expand on these 5 strategies .

LET'S CO-PRODUCE SO MUCH MORE PLAY SPACES IN 2025.

GET IN TOUCH



dreamnetworks.co.uk/contact/
Email: info@dreamnetworks.co.uk
Business Hours: 9:00am-5:00pm EAT Mon- Fri



THATS A WRAP!

Now is the time to make more play spaces play4all.

We exist to empower people like you to create inclusive spaces where all children can thrive.

Please contact us if you want to find out how we collaborate to reduce play inequity and create vibrant, playful places for all.



www.dreamnetworks.co.uk

