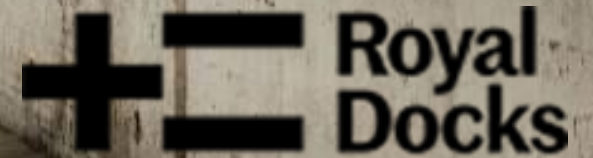


# **Royal Docks Creative Network**

## **Annual Survey – Results and Actions**



# Royal Docks Creative Network Survey – May 2026

## Responses and reflections

- 18 members completed the survey
- This represents 16% of the membership
- Respondents were anonymous
- Survey content aligned with previous surveys, in addition to new questions drawn from recent meetings
- As outlined in our terms of reference, this survey serves as our "annual health check"



## What makes a creative and useful Creative Network meeting?

### Feedback included:

- Shorter intros, and clarity about purpose and aim of specific meetings
- Introducing an Offers and Needs marketplace (to identify how members might be able to support each other)
- Presenting clear and accessible pathways to opportunities for all members
- More structured interaction such as short member presentations, facilitated introductions, or project matchmaking, rather than general networking.
- Meetings feel most valuable when they lead to tangible outcomes (collaborations, commissions, or clear next steps)

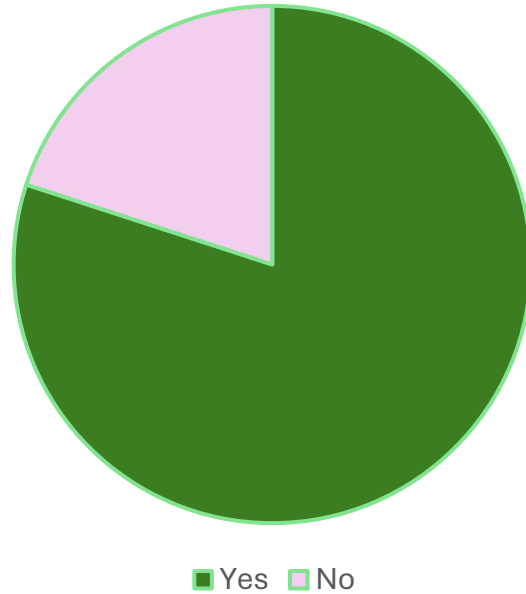
### Action

- To take all the above into account when planning meetings
- Where possible, to align network meetings with key Royal Docks updates or opening up of opportunities

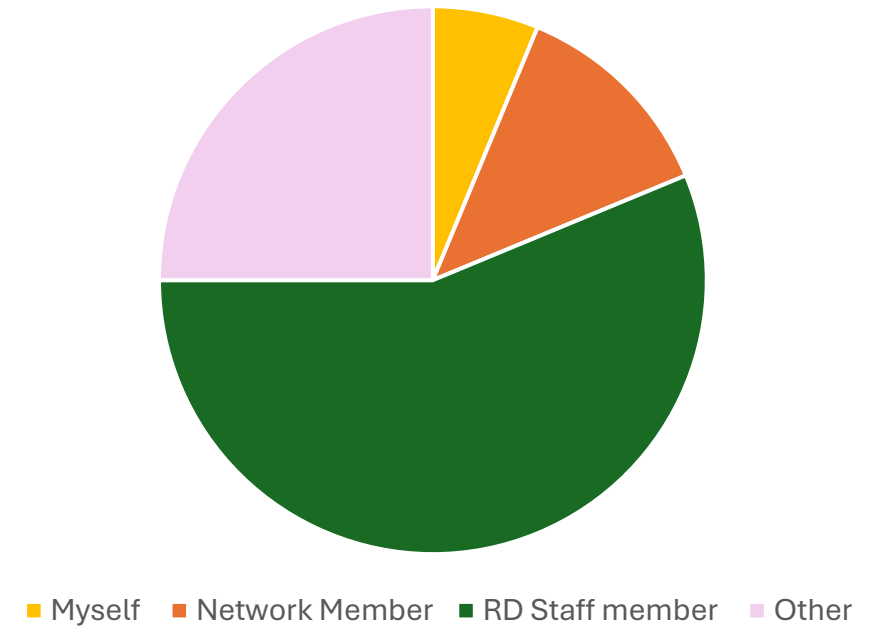


## Network Chairing

Do you think the group should have a chairperson?



If yes, who do you think that chair person should be?



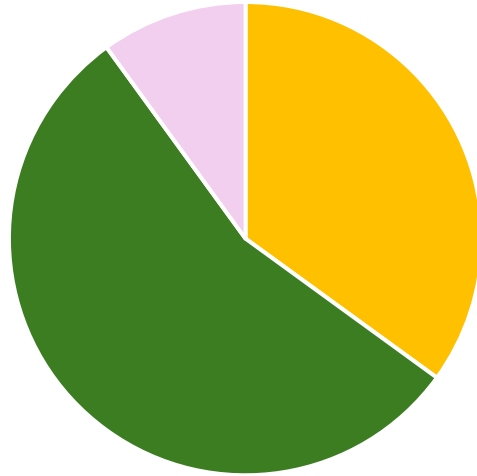
### Action:

- To continue with a Chairperson
- To continue with an RD team member chairing meetings



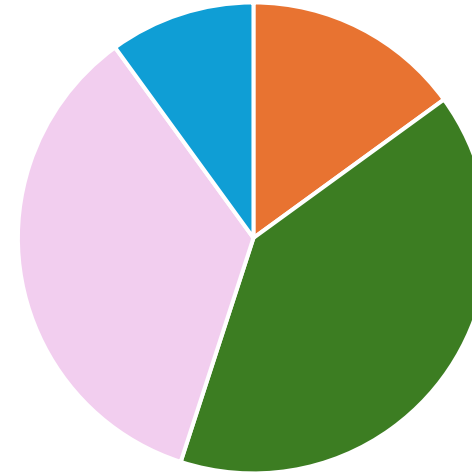
## Regularity of Meetings and Socials

How regularly do you think the Network should meet?



■ Monthly ■ Quarterly ■ Other

How often do you think we should schedule socials?



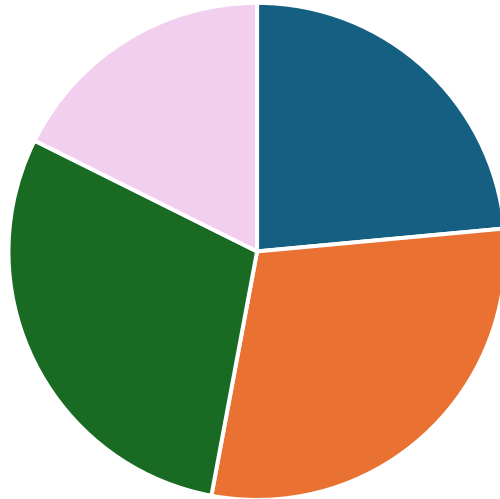
■ Monthly ■ Quarterly ■ Twice a year ■ Other

### Action:

- To continue meeting on a quarterly basis
- Given the slight preference for quarterly socials, we propose having a light touch social after each meeting, in addition to the organised biannual socials
- Discussion re. test period of alternating online and in-person meetings to enable greater attendance

## Activity in Socials and Get Togethers

Socials/Get Togethers



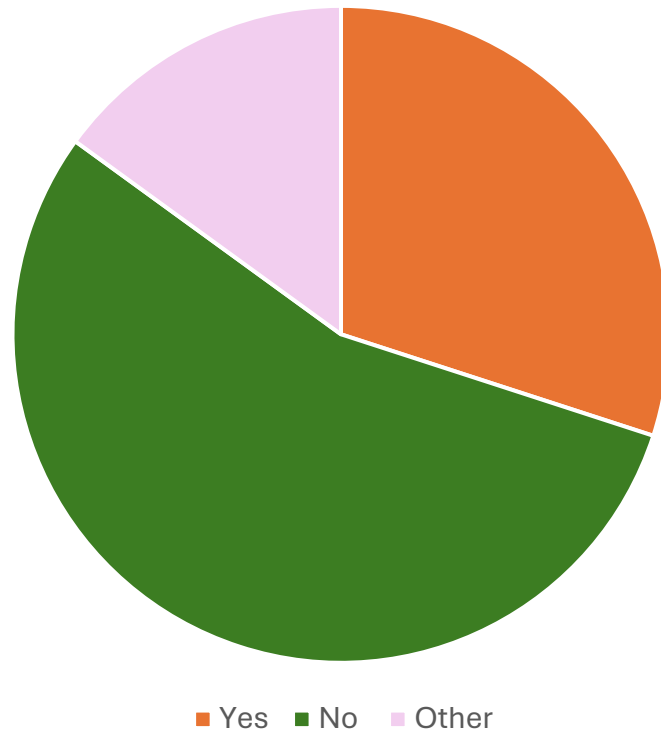
- Informal get togethers
- Organised socials with speed networking
- Organised culture trips
- Other

### Action

- To continue with more organised biannual socials with speed networking
- AND introduce at least 2 free local cultural visits ie a tour of a new building, RD local exhibitions and happenings

**Attendance at Meetings:** Network members shape and drive the Creative Network. Do you think members should be required to attend a minimum number of meetings per year?

Attendance at Meetings



**Action:**

- No minimum meeting attendance required



**Guest Speakers:** Is there anyone in particular you would like to hear from as a guest speaker?

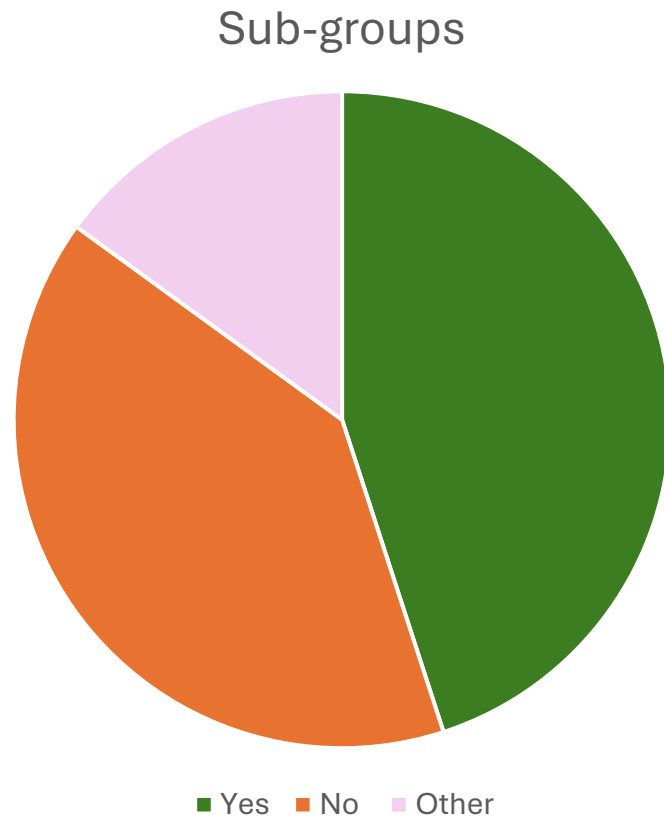
### **Feedback included**

- Mayor of Newham
- All is Joy
- Councillors responsible for culture/arts (Cabinet Member for Culture)
- Other Network Members / New Creatives to the Borough
- Mayor of London
- Funders, developers and people with tangible opportunities or funding available.
- Organisations or curators who actively commission or fund artists, particularly those who can explain their selection processes and how artists can realistically access opportunities, AND artists who have successfully navigated similar networks, especially those who were not already established.
- Individuals from organisations with programmes on offer for young people and local creatives/businesses.
- Individuals from organisations involved in interesting cultural projects across the city.
- GDIF / Southbank, East Bank
- Individuals from Creative Workspaces and other Creative Networks
- Key people from GLA/City Hall

### **Action**

- Already drawn the above to inform the selection of the guest speakers of this meeting, and have added the other suggestions into a file collating suggestions for the future

**Sub-groups within the Creative Network:** in the original Terms of Reference written with the Creative Network's ten pilot members, there is a suggested model of "sub-groups" does this feel of interest?



Feedback included interest in sub-groups such as:

- Sub-groups with a clear purpose and outcome, such as developing specific projects or creating shared opportunities.
- Theatre/Drama - Cultural Producers - Funding/Grant accessing
- Immersive / site-specific / use of space sub-group.
- Opportunities and referrals/business tips (from marketing to financial and so on)
- Digital media

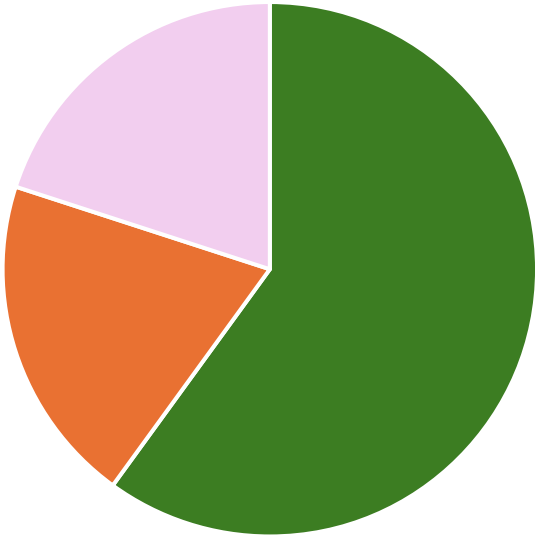
**Action:**

- Consider this in more detail and present some options for routes forward at the next RDCN meeting
- RDCN members to identify "missions" for sub groups

# Membership Fee:

The network was established to be accessible to all Royal Docks creatives, and so there is no membership fee, and the Royal Docks Team covers the basic costs of running the network. Some similar networks charge a small membership fee and the income is used to support small projects and events. What do you prefer

Membership Fee



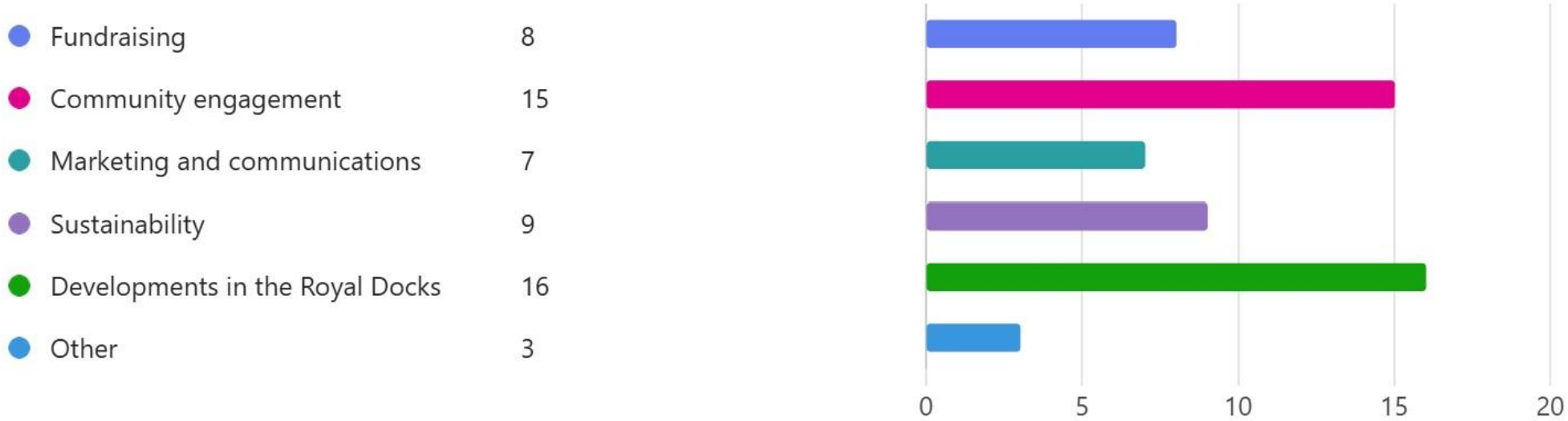
- I think its important for the network to remain free
- I'd be willing to pay a small fee if it enabled additional activity
- Other

### Action:

- To continue to keep the membership free for now
- Scope what new events/projects might be useful to network, their potential costs – and how these could be covered (e.g. fundraising or membership fee)
- To reflect on this scoping in a RDCN meeting



**Meeting Discussion Topics:** Is there anything in particular that you would like us to cover in terms of content?

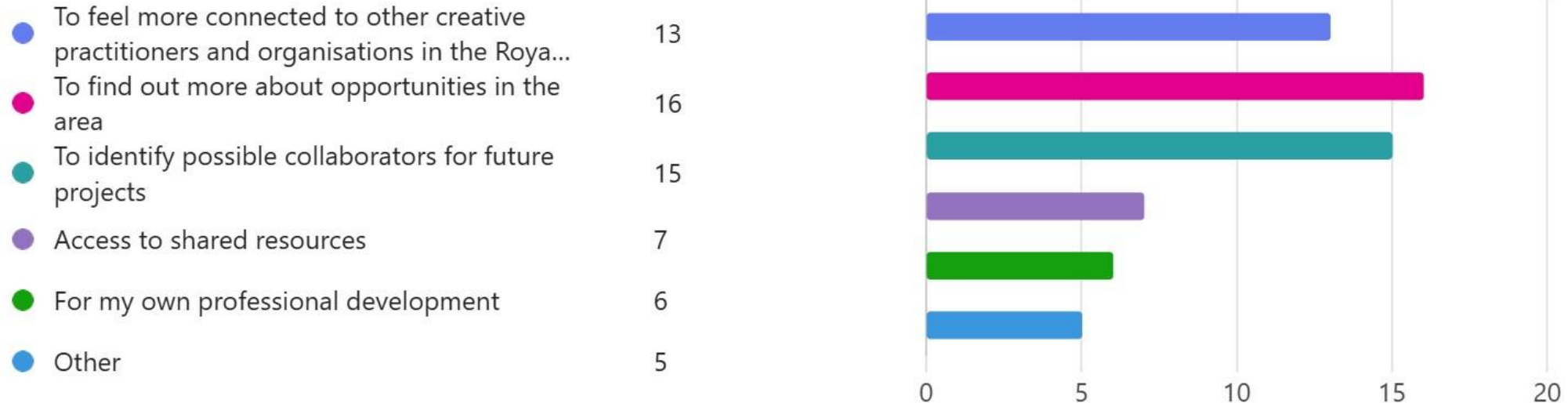


**Action:**

- Introduce a standing agenda item for RDT to update on news/developments in Royal Docks
- Use these topics to inform selection of guest speaker



## Reasons for Joining: Please tell us your reasons for joining the network



### Action:

- The most popular of these relate to finding out about **more opportunities in the area** and **identifying possible collaborators** for the future – we will draw on this to inform and shape the planning and delivery of these meetings going forward

## Suggestions for Improvement

Please let us know of any suggestions you have for improving the future of the network, or let us know about anything else you'd like to share

Feedback included:

- Maintaining a mix of individual creatives and larger local organisations within the network.
- Clearly distinguish the Creative Network from the Royal Docks Programming Group.
- Improve transparency and accessibility around opportunities, including clearer open calls, selection processes and feedback.
- Create more structured ways for members to share work, connect with organisations and access opportunities.
- Introduce problem-solving sessions to support creatives and encourage idea-sharing.
- Invite guest chairs or collaborators to help shape and lead meetings, bringing fresh perspectives, networks and activities.

### Action:

- Embed new "Hive Mind" agenda item into standard Network meeting practice
- We will draw on all of the above to shape and plan future Creative Network Meetings and communications