

Kareem Dayes

Tel: 0754 888 5609

Email: hello@kareemdayes.com

Profile

Community-led development enabler with over 20 years experience of building impact driven projects, working with underrepresented communities across the built environment, science and technology, the arts and creative industries. Motivated by the urgency of addressing the twin crises of climate change and inequality I have delivered on ambitious collaborative projects across the public, private and civic sectors. Bringing together engagement, social value, social enterprise, financial modelling and leadership skills - I offer a bespoke service for anyone with a vision for change.

**Project management | Financial modelling | Community Engagement | Impact evaluation
Fundraising | Social enterprise | Partnership development | Working with young people
Public speaking | Training and coaching | Community organising**

Career History

Sept '24 - Jul '26 Community Engagement Manager | Be First

- Co-ordinated the community engagement on a complex regeneration scheme that involved seeking planning permission to demolish a district shopping centre rebuilding over 500 new homes and re-providing over 200 council homes on two adjacent sites.
- Managed the statutory engagement for all three respective planning applications. My role was to ensure residents had a meaningful input to the design development of new homes and to ensure the voices and concerns of local businesses and shopping centre users were listened to ahead of key decisions.
- I worked with key stakeholders to re-write Be First social value methodology and to design and implement a new social value offer for local partners in the voluntary sector.
- Collaborated with design, transport and capital works teams to deliver on local authority projects.
- Created a new partnership with the local voluntary sector hub to develop a new grant scheme for local charities and social enterprises.
- Line managed two officers.
- Navigated local authority procurement procedures to commission high value contracts.

Jan '24 - Aug '24 Community Engagement Manager | British Science Association

- Managed the BSA's [Community engagement programmes](#) portfolio and supported the BSA's [Community Engagement Network](#)
- Project managed the Community Led Research Pilot with Reading University - ensuring community groups were at the heart of new research across a range of departments including clinical psychology, agriculture and human geography. Funded by UKRI I facilitated multi-stakeholder workshops and managed a budget of over £300k.
- Line managed a Community Engagement Officer.

Oct '20 - Jan '24 Programme Manager | The Albany

- Programme manager of the '[Creative Coding Collective](#)', a youth programme training young people in the fundamentals of web development and software engineering.
- Managed a team of trainers, mentors and youth workers.
- Built partnerships with local authority and local housing providers to recruit young people and provide employment opportunities.
- Reported back to main funders, the Greater London Authority and London Youth, recording and analysing qualitative and quantitative data.
- Developed evaluation and monitoring framework, a certified Theory of Change and wrote impact reports.
- Worked with young people to co-design, develop and deliver the programme.
- Built relationships with corporate partners including HackaJob, JP Morgan and Bladonmore.
- Fundraised £80k through grants and social value contributions from local contractors.

Jan '18 – Oct '20 Community Relations Officer | Lewisham Homes

- Developed strong community relationships and key stakeholder partnerships.
- Planned and delivered public consultations.
- Managed the community investment program.
- Co-created new projects with residents.
- Fundraised over £140k.
- Evaluated and measured the social impact of projects using a [social return on investment framework](#).
- Engaged with local people about the development of new council homes.
- Worked with contractors to deliver social value for residents and the local community.

2009 – Jan '18 Founder and Chair | Rural Urban Synthesis Society Ltd ([RUSS](#))

- Grew membership from 4 people to over 1,000 members / shareholders.
- Built campaign strategy to secure planning permission to build 36 sustainable and affordable homes for local people in Lewisham.
- Organised and empowered teams of volunteers to deliver key projects.
- Developed strong and supportive relationships with local authority and the Greater London Authority.
- Project managed a large complex housing scheme with large team of professionals
- Fundraised (successfully raised over £1.5 Million pounds in grants, donations and loans).
- Sourced development loans and social investment of £7 Million.
- Represented RUSS at high profile conferences, events and in the media.
- Established series of workshops to train members and wider public in 'Community-led Housing'.
- Incorporated RUSS and set up governance and admin procedures including managing the bank account and reporting to the FCA.

Jun '17 – Aug '17 Consultant | Co-operatives Development Society and GLA

- Advised on the creation of the London wide Community-led Housing Hub.
- Co-produced the business plan.
- Advised on strategy and approaches to community engagement.

Education

2024 - 2026 Open University | (BSc Hons) Mathematics and Statistics (*ongoing*)

2007 – 2009 Goldsmiths, University of London | BMus (Hons) Music

1999 – 2006 Pimlico School | A-levels: Philosophy, Physics, Music, Music Tech

Training

2026 Beacon | Optamix | Scheme appraisal toolkit

2023 Google | Data Analytics Professional Certificate

2023 CITB | Site Supervision Safety Training

2020 Social Value UK | Accredited Social Value on Return CPD

2016 Newman University | Community Leadership Training Diploma

2014 Safeguarding Skills and Child Protection

Languages

English (Native), Portuguese and Spanish (Intermediate)

References available on request