

Examples of making and design in phase 1 of the Making Spaces project

Phase 1 of the Making Spaces project supported and fostered innovation among young people from underserved communities. Young people participating in the project with makerspaces have created and designed a range of innovative solutions to current social and environmental challenges, including:

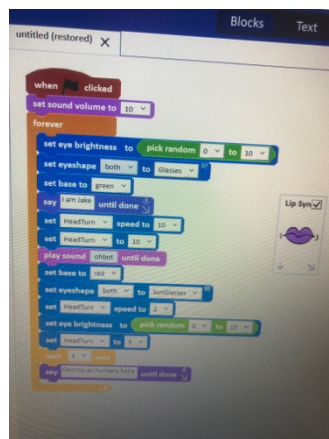
- Homeless person's bed-backpack. A young person was concerned about the amount of homelessness he was seeing in his community, so he wanted to design something that might help people. He made a proto-type of a bed-backpack, that would mean people didn't have to sleep on the floor. It could be carried in the day and then folded out when needed into a bed that was raised off the floor.



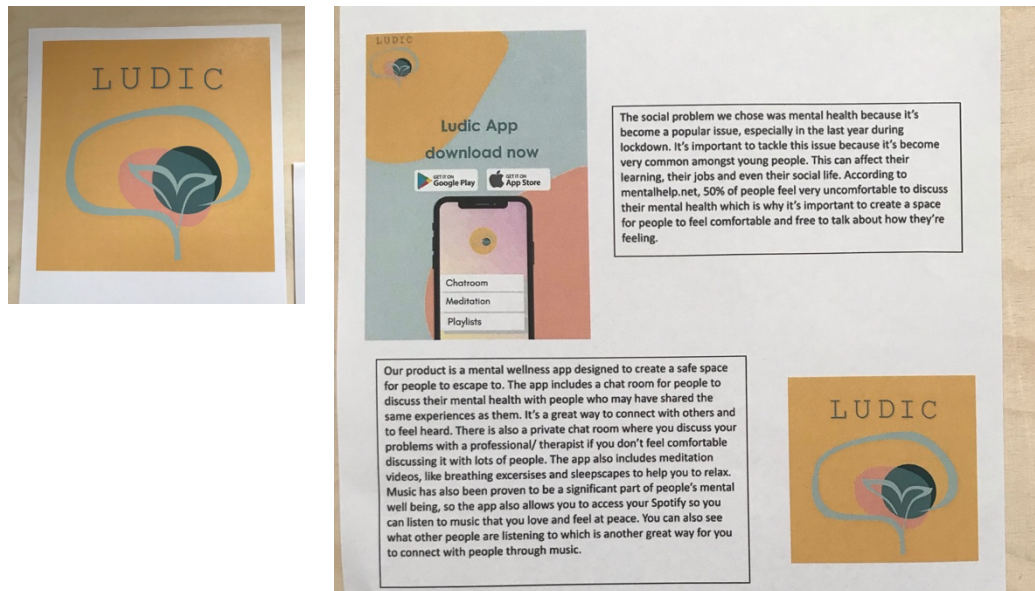
- Recycled trainers. Young people made trainer designs out of household rubbish as an alternative approach to design and create new perspectives on the value of waste materials and the fast-fashion industry.



- Coding a robot. Young people learnt how to code using a 'Pico' Robot. They thought about good and bad uses of AI and showcased this in their coding programmes.



- Mental wellness app. Young people recognised that in the pandemic, young people's mental health was really suffering. They wanted to create a safe digital space for people to escape to, and designed an app that had messaging features, meditation videos and music. They made graphics of what the app would do and look like and pitched the app to practitioners.



- Climate change and polar bears awareness campaign. Young people were worried about climate change and thought about what they could do to help. They decided to make products to raise awareness of the impact of climate change, specifically on polar bear habitats. Young people made soap moulds of icebergs that represented icebergs melting as you used the soap. They also made jewellery and models of polar bears using acrylic and laser cutters that they could sell to raise money. A jigsaw puzzle was also made which had messages on that would be put together to reflect the bigger picture of climate change.
- Tackling the waste textiles industry. Young people thought about how they might re-use old materials and clothes to reduce textiles waste. Young people made bags from old jeans and upcycled other clothes into useable products.