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As part of our Spring 2022 exhibition, 'Seeing Stars,' Leeds University Library Galleries worked with community group 'The Highrise Project' to deliver 'Seeing Stars: Beyond the Naked Eye', a co-produced response to the exhibition themes with local refugees – connecting to our 'Welcoming Migrants' outreach programme.

'Beyond the Naked Eye' consisted of five workshops with refugee/migrant participants, between February and March 2022. Participants learned experimental photographic techniques and used these to respond to questions posed by the 'Seeing Stars' exhibition. A freelance ESOL tutor provided language resources to support the workshops, and an artist assistant with lived refugee experience was employed to co-facilitate the sessions. Travel costs were reimbursed and food vouchers to use on campus were provided.

The final outputs included a digital showreel of the participants' artworks, that was integrated within the wider exhibition, as well as a colour-printed 28-page A4 zine of their artwork and commentaries, available for visitors throughout exhibition (April - July 2022). Participants and their families were invited to reflect on and share their experiences on the project during the exhibition run as a special final workshop.

The project was commended in the October 2022 report by Freya Stancliffe for the University of Sanctuary Working Group, 'Institutional Engagement with Refugees and Asylum Seekers: Becoming a University of Sanctuary': *"The project is a great example of a creative engagement event which builds towards fulfilling the 'Share' principle of University of Sanctuary."*

Finding full funding to do the project was the biggest hurdle; partial funding was raised from the Leeds Arts and Humanities Research Institute and the remainder covered by Library investment. In terms of repeating the activity, we have managed to bid for more Library investment funds, but ideally to continue work regularly we need to find recurrent funding. There were also minor issues with catering, in terms of cafe staff being sensitive to these vulnerable participants, but we worked with their team to improve this and the food voucher process for next project in 2023.

The Highrise team were commissioned to create a report/toolkit to guide future work. This was shared with Leeds Arts and Humanities Research Institute (part funders of the project) and the Leeds University of Sanctuary working group teams.

This is a creative way to involve local refugees/migrants in a co-productive/co-curatorial way with our collections and events programme, as well as a way to share creative digital skills with these participants to enhance their opportunities in future. It opens pathways for these participants to access HE, in an informal way. Finally it helped feed wider institutional plans to become a University of Sanctuary ('share' principle), so would be helpful to other organisations aiming for this status.