

WEST MIDLANDS WISHES

A SNAPSHOT FROM OUR IMPACT EXHIBIT



THE NEXT CHAPTER

From 9–12 April, we hosted an interactive exhibition at Birmingham New Street, celebrating the community legacy of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Through fairytales and podcasts, knights and lions, we brought the story of United By 2022 to life—engaging the public with the lasting impact of our work. While we had their attention, we asked one simple question:

What's your wish for the West Midlands?

The Next Chapter in numbers:

10,924

People Engaged

238

Wishes Made

193.5

Volunteer Hours

210

Faces Painted

“ I wish to see equal opportunities for all young people of Birmingham + beyond. We have some amazing young people who have the talent, aspiration and commitment to really develop and grow. We just need to help them to unlock their potential **”**

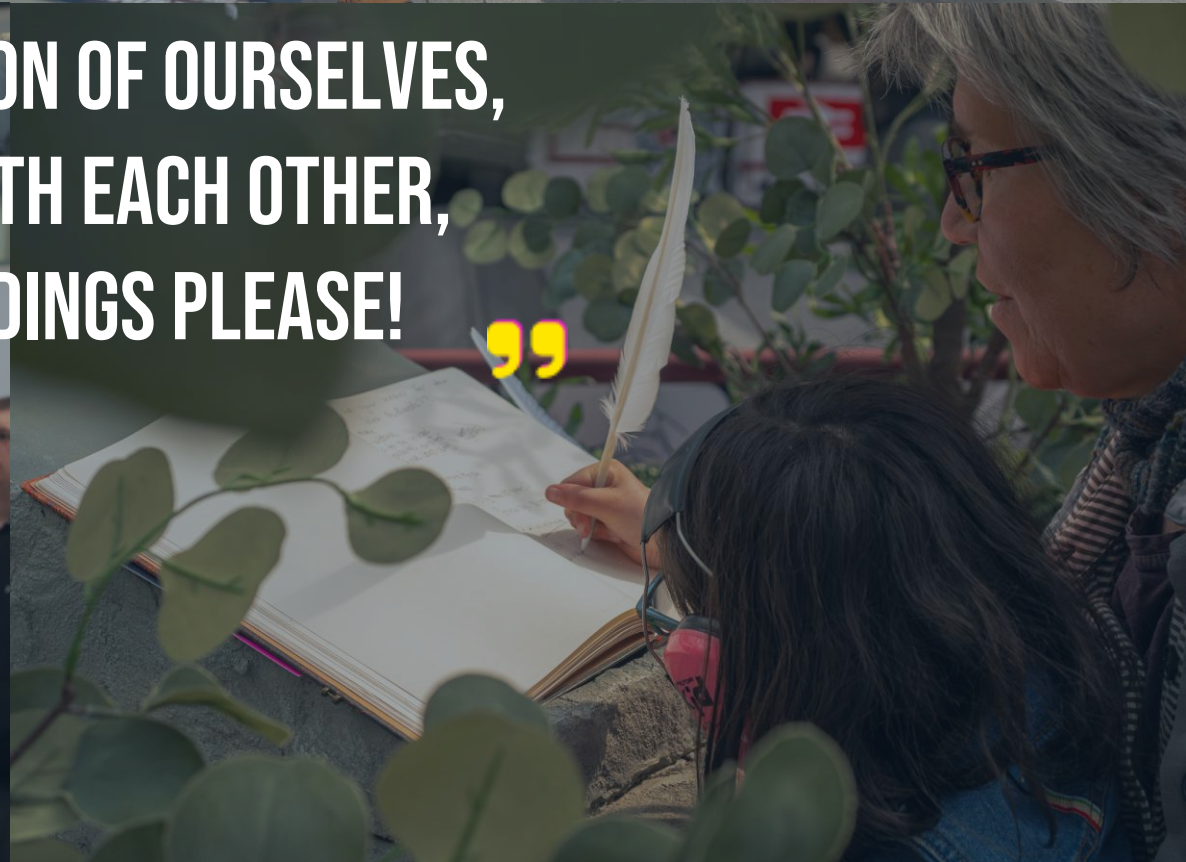
- A wish from the Next Chapter





“

I WANT TO LIVE IN A CITY THAT HAS MORE OF
THIS – MORE CELEBRATION OF OURSELVES,
MORE CONNECTION WITH EACH OTHER,
MORE FAIRYTALE ENDINGS PLEASE!



”

KEY THEMES OF THE WISHES

Overwhelming sense of civic pride came through almost every wish- chances for people to be proud of the region, and come together at more events and activities

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

The **most common theme** was a desire for more community events, festivals, and opportunities to bring people together.



SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Many wishes focused on youth—calling for **better access to education, jobs, extracurricular activities.**



MENTAL HEALTH

There was a significant emphasis on **improving mental health services**



RECREATION AND SPORT

People want more accessible sports facilities, organized teams, and recreational activities, **especially for children and teens.**



ECONOMIC CONCERNS

Jobs, career support, and economic development were **frequently mentioned, especially in relation to young adults and post-university transitions.**



PUBLIC SERVICES

Wishes included better transport, cleaner streets, reopened libraries, and **improved public amenities.**



ENVIRONMENTAL

Green spaces, pollution reduction, and **nature-friendly initiatives** were also valued, though mentioned slightly less often.



Wishes were made by the general public and collected by volunteers at the exhibition, written in our wishes book, or submitted via our website