



Participant
survey
2026

Since August 2023, we have held a badgemaking hangout at Rich Mix in Shoreditch every Sunday. At these hangouts, we have helped hundreds of people make thousands of badges. In February 2026, 103 participants shared their views in an online survey.

93%

95%

99%

100%

are neurodivergent,
living with mental
health challenges,
disabled, LGBTQ+
or global majority

think Badge
Cafe supports
their **health and
wellbeing**

think Badge
Cafe helps them
feel more
creative

think Badge
Cafe helps them
feel **connected**
to other people

would
recommend
Badge Cafe to
other people

"Having a re-
occurring creative
space is wonderful
for my mental
health"

"Makes me feel
less alone and
more like a part
of a community"

"My favourite
activity in London
and possibly the
world"



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Figures express proportion of respondents to a given question (may be <103).
Average response rate was above 90%. Lowest response rate was 72%.

**95%
or more
think Badge Cafe
helps them feel
more**

supported

relaxed

hopeful

calm

confident

capable

inspired

connected to people
whose identities,
experiences or age
differ from their own

motivated

in
control

proud of
themselves

happy

positive

able to express
their identity,
experiences, ideas
and/or feelings

able to
concentrate

comfortable
being
themselves

informed
about the
queer past



Welcoming Community

Uncommon Amazing
Enriching Relaxing Collaborative
Enjoyable Happy
Wholesome Cosy Liberating
Calm Delightful
Respite Chill Friendly Safe
Joy Fun Friendship
Activism Relaxed
Informative Lush Experiment
Cathartic Peaceful Quiet Inspiring
Colourful Creative Fabulous
Accepting Restorative
Sanctuary Wonderful
Accessible
Inclusive



55%

think Badge Cafe helps them feel more physically active and/or coordinated

91%

think Badge Cafe helps them deal with challenging feelings or experiences

85%

say it's important Badge Cafe runs year round

44%

would be interested in joining the Badge Cafe team... and

say it's important Badge Cafe has no fixed charge

**4%
have
done!**



Who comes to Badge Cafe?

3 in 5

identify as
neurodivergent

7 in 10

live with mental
health challenges

17 in 20

don't identify as
straight

2 in 5

identify as trans,
nonbinary or
genderqueer

**Ages
6 to 79**

1 in 4

identify as disabled
or longterm unwell

1 in 4

don't identify as
white

1 in 8

receive Universal
Credit



In participants' own words...

"Uncommonly welcoming and caring"

"Making badges has unleashed my creativity and imagination, and given me something to share with others as well"

"A kind of paradise garage of badge-making"

"So creative yet so accessible. I love it!"

"I feel more hopeful knowing a place like this one exists"

"Brought me innumerable amounts of joy"

"Very calming, almost meditative"

"I love Badge Cafe because there are barely any queer-led spaces that aren't nightlife ... I wish it had existed when I was a teenager looking for community"

"I don't consider myself very creative but ... I couldn't help but be drawn in"

"The positive impact really ripples over into my whole week and supports me in other areas like more confidence being around others, more able to have conversations, helps anxieties, gets me outdoors into daylight, gives me exercise travelling there and back and helps reduce agoraphobia for me which has crippled me for years"

"It completely took hold of and enhanced my life"

"As a neurodivergent person who often struggles to socialise ... I am incredibly grateful for Badge Cafe"

"I struggle with depression, anxiety and stress a lot ... and always feel lighter after attending Badge Cafe"

"A way to express, externalise and process difficult stuff"

"It truly is the one public place that I can fully unmask and be myself, where I can be the confident social person I strive to be"

"Surprisingly empowering"

"I can interact with people who I may not usually connect with"



What might make Badge Cafe better?

More badge sizes/shapes

Food/drink options

Having more space

Having more hosts

Longer hours/
more events

Bringing own materials

More themes/
materials

Enhanced accessibility

Making space less busy/loud/bright

Different locations in/
beyond London





Email hello@badgecafe.com

Website badgecafe.com

Insta [@badgecafe](https://www.instagram.com/badgecafe)