



Presented by

METRO MAYOR  
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

IMAGINEER

imagine bamboo  
is everywhere

# Liverpool City Region Climate Partnership

29<sup>th</sup> June 2023

# Today, we hope to..

- Introduce ourselves
- Sarah Lovell, LCR Culture Lead, to set the scene / context
- Orit Azaz, Creative Director, to provide an overview of Imagine Bamboo project and what's happening in LCR this summer
- Explore opportunities to connect and collaborate

# **Sarah Lovell, Culture Lead for LCR**



# About Imagineer & Orit

Outdoor Arts, Engineering, Sustainable Design  
and Community Activism

















# Building on Bridge 2019 & 2021





IMAGINEER

IMAGINE. MAKE. INSPIRE.



# bridge 2 bamboo

Research & Development

**An ambitious new outdoor arts, engineering  
and performance experience for 2022 and beyond,  
led by artistic director Orit Azaz**

bridge2bamboo R&D has been commissioned as part of the Birmingham 2022 Cultural Programme in partnership with our International Research & Development funder, The British Council.

Supported by



ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND



# Why Bamboo?

**Bamboo is widely held to be the future sustainable building material for the planet.**

**What might this mean for us in the UK?**





# Technology Transfer & Radical Indigenism

“Three hundred years ago, intellectuals of the European Enlightenment constructed a mythology of technology. Influenced by a confluence of humanism, colonialism, and racism, the mythology ignored local wisdom and indigenous innovation, deeming it primitive. Guiding this was a perception of technology that feasted on the felling of forests and extraction of resources.”

Julia Watson, “Lo-TEK: Design by Radical Indigenism”

# International Collaboration

We are working with bamboo specialists and artists in 4 continents through a virtual Bamboo Creative Lab to exchange skills and ideas



**'we want to learn from specialists in bamboo growing nations in the global south – we made design models'**

# **Some images from Imagine Bamboo Summit**

**Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games  
July 2022, Sunset Park Birmingham**

# imaginebamboosummit

1ST – 4TH JULY 2022

SUNSET PARK, BIRMINGHAM















































# What's Happened Since

## **West Midlands Bamboo Summit – Feb 2023**

- Hosted by Bruntwood and West Midlands Combined Universities at National Brownfield Institute, with input from international collaborators
- Bruntwood pledged £50K towards prototype bamboo building
- Coventry City Council is planning a bamboo plantation

## **Imagine Bamboo at Keele Green Festival – March 2023**

- Building mark 2 prototype bamboo arch swing for professional aerialist and the public to swing on

## **First European Bamboo EXPO held in Dortmund – June 2023**

- Attended by Imagine Bamboo UK and international partners

## **Imagine Bamboo Partnerships continue to develop**



# What's been happening in Liverpool City Region

# Bridge2Bamboo R&D 2022 in LCR

14 LCR based artist-maker-engineers

- Took part in Bamboo Creative Lab
- Led pilot workshops and projects with community groups and the public in each of the 6 boroughs
- Attended Imagine Bamboo Summit in Birmingham, working alongside international bamboo specialists from Bali, India, Ghana and Australia to build a prototype 14 metre high bamboo arch swing in a neighbourhood park

25 LCR residents took part in Taking Root, working together to nurture baby borinda bamboo plants in their homes and find out about this incredible carbon sink material

















































Be one thing, but





Presented by

METRO MAYOR  
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

IMAGINEER

imagine bamboo  
is everywhere



# **A Creative Enquiry Approach**

**inviting communities, specialists,  
designers, artists, makers,  
growers, policy makers to explore  
creative responses to these  
themes**



# Creative Enquiry Themes for the Project

- How can we realise our vision for Imagine Bamboo is Everywhere in Liverpool City Region?
- How can connect artists, communities and specialists in different disciplines and walks of life across LCR through creative collaborations involving bamboo?
- How can we work as a collective of artists to build confidence and capacity for working outdoors at scale?
- How can we amplify the role that art and culture play across societal and community agendas, especially in relation to sustainability and environmental goals?
- How can we share stories and passion for bamboo with the widest possible audience and inspire and build the inter-disciplinary community of interest around bamboo in UK and elsewhere?
- How we connect a project about bamboo with raised awareness of materials and sustainable choices?
- How can we shine a light on indigenous craft and engineering skills in the global south and enable a transfer of bamboo related technologies to global north, in the context of



# Creative Overview (work in progress)

- Each borough will host a 'Garden / Funfair of Bamboo Curiosities'
- With commissioned artwork/s, celebrating and responding to green spaces across the region
- 10 artists from different disciplines and backgrounds are exploring bamboo as an important sustainable material and inviting communities and audiences to ask 'why this material in this place at this time?'
- Inspired by local stories / themes and organic patterns and form, we are collaborating with living and recycled materials, exploring what other materials enable bamboo to do and what bamboo enables other materials to do, that they couldn't otherwise
- Animated by and responding to the nature and the elements – wind, rain, light, sound
- We are inviting communities, audiences, the public to **Play with Nature, in Nature**
- To Imagine Bamboo is Everywhere in Liverpool City Region (Dan's Bamboo FunFair)
- The process of experimentation is filmed and compiled into a film that also tells the story of what will happen to the materials and artworks next
- Idea for this to be screened on a bamboo framed screen as part of the final Imagine Bamboo is Everywhere event in Sefton, which then stretches into the evening, with illuminated installations



Sat 5 August, 11am-5pm – FREE

Newton Town Show, Mesnes Park, Newton le Willows  
With special guest appearance from NoFit State Circus!

Sun 6 August, 11am-5pm – FREE

Knowsley Flower Show, Courthey Park  
Free for all pedestrians & cyclists, £5 all-day parking on-site for cars

Sat 12 August, 12-4pm – FREE

EcoFest, Victoria Park, Widnes, Halton

Sat 19 August, 11am-4pm – FREE

Wirral Country Park, Thurstaston, Wirral

Sun 20 August, 11am-4pm – FREE

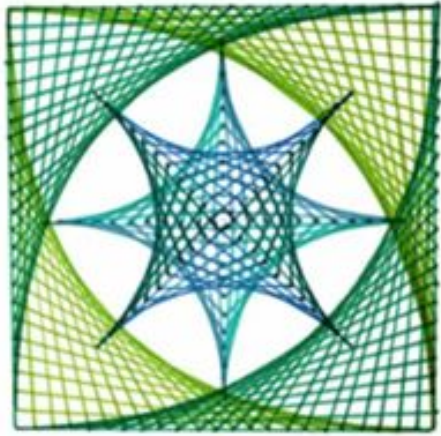
Great Georges Square, Chinatown, Liverpool

Sat 26 August, 11am-4pm – FREE

Kings Gardens, Southport, Sefton

Please walk or cycle if you can! Check our website for active travel routes.

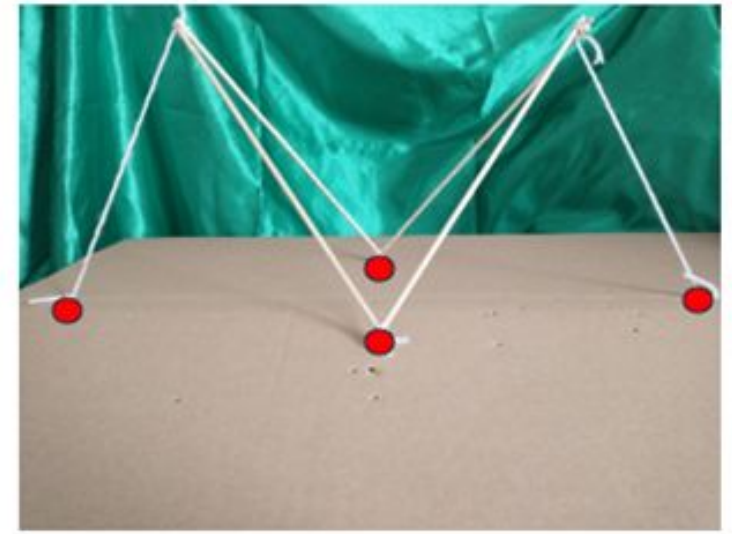




Triangles – Parabolic Curves



Sample at 215cm

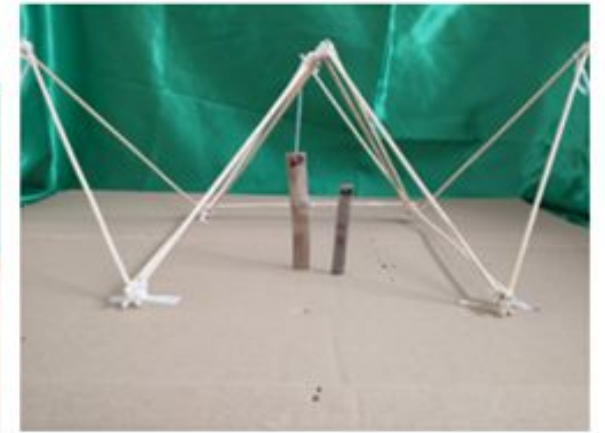


Model with Rigging Points



Small 1.2m/ Med 2.15 or 2.3cm/  
Large 4.5m

Multiple Curves in Various Formations



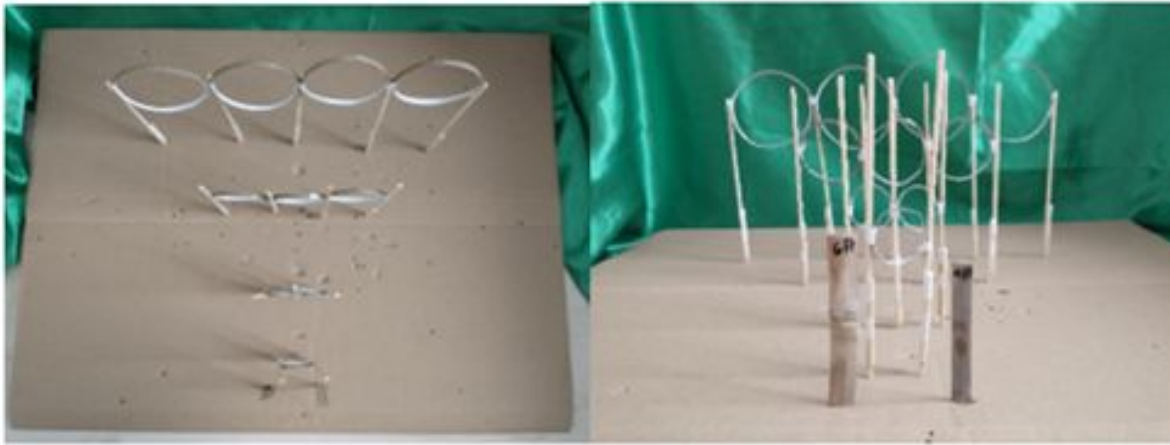




Multiple Split Bamboo Circles – Decorated with Bamboo Cord



Triangular Frame Formation



Triangular Row Formation



Tree Line Formation



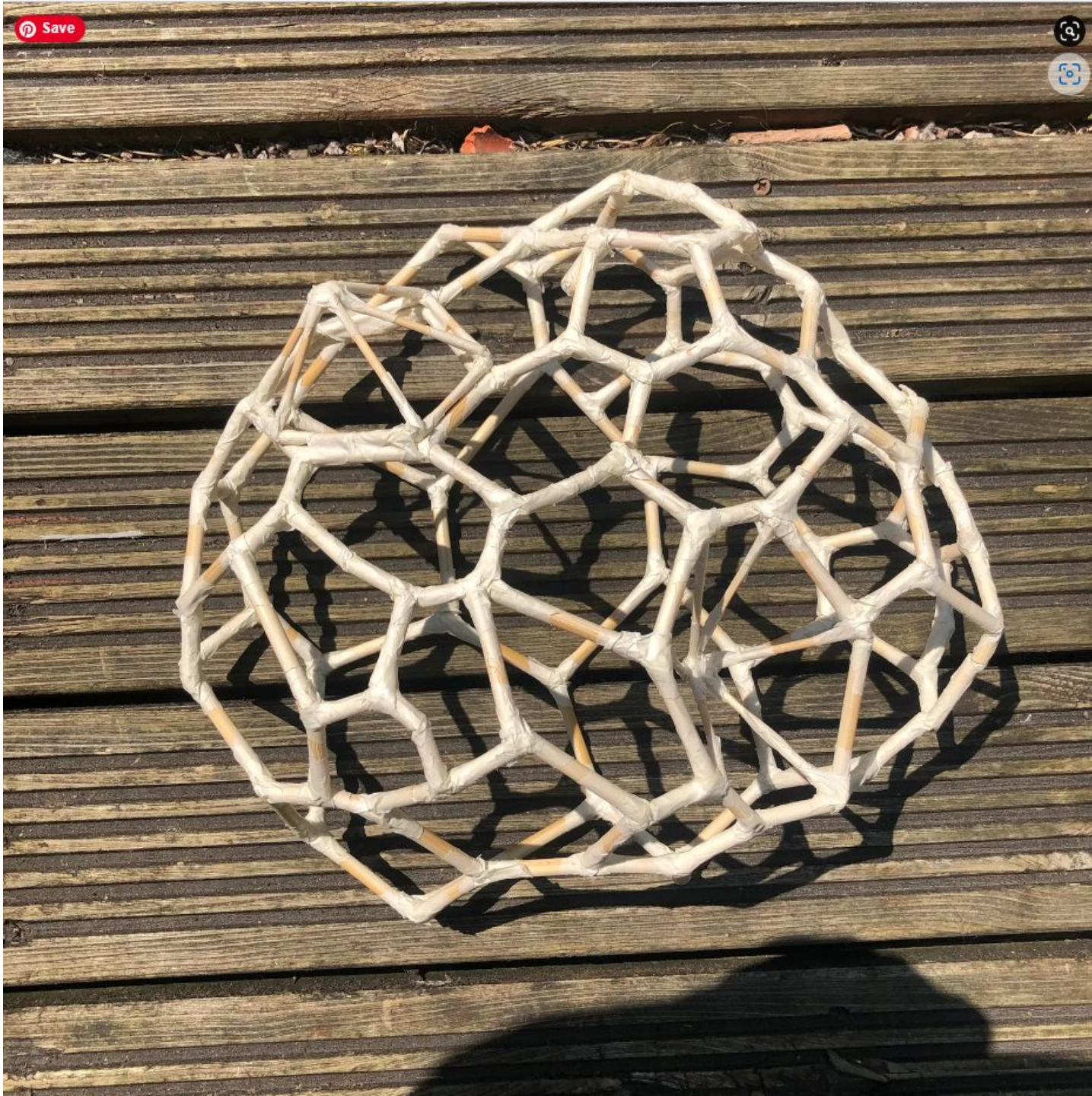




Handwritten notes on a piece of cardboard, including the numbers 56, 54, 52, 50, 48, 46, 44, 42, 40, 38, 36, 34, 32, 30, 28, 26, 24, 22, 20, 18, 16, 14, 12, 10, 8, 6, 4, 2, 0.



Save

















# Questions to explore

- Are there synergies with what you are doing / planning?
- How can this project help to support and amplify your work?
- Do you want to attend / host something at the event/s eg Talks, a conversation, a workshop...
- Do you want to partner in an Imagine Bamboo Summit in September?
- Who else (that isn't in this meeting) needs to know about this?
- Young climate leaders – a bespoke programme for 1-2 young people from each borough





Presented by

METRO MAYOR  
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

IMAGINEER

imagine bamboo  
is everywhere