



Community Project Case Study

A Patchwork of Culture

Where? Quilt Museum and Gallery, York

When? February-July 2010

Who with? York Unifying Multicultural Initiative (YUMI)

From January through to July 2010, the Quilt Museum and Gallery worked with members of the York Unifying Multicultural Initiative network on a project entitled 'York – A Patchwork of Culture'. The aim of the project was to teach new patchwork and quilting skills, share experiences and create an artwork on the theme of identity for the YUMI festival in July.



Above: the completed YUMI banner. It is proudly displayed at all the group's events.



Participants came from many different parts of the world, including India, China, Poland, Russia, USA, New Zealand and Britain. Their sewing experience and knowledge about quilting varied hugely, from complete beginner and non English speaker to a City and Guilds qualified crafter.

Left: Devi, one of the YUMI participants tackles using a rotary cutter for the first time.

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After a five-week course in patchwork and quilting taught by local textile artist Christine Shaw and the Museum's Education Officer, YUMI members and their friends were invited to create a patchwork block based on the theme of identity, culture or celebrating where they lived.

Block makers worked at home or attended 'Community Quilters' workshops at the Museum once a month. The finished blocks were put together by volunteers at the Quilt Museum and Gallery and the banner displayed at the Festival in July.



YUMI continue to use the banner at events and have encouraged participants to use their new skills to lead and support further community activities in York.

Several YUMI members are also now active volunteers at the Quilt Museum.

Below. A quilting and patchwork 'basics' session in the Museum's Education room.



Above. The superb blocks made by Linda, YUMI member.