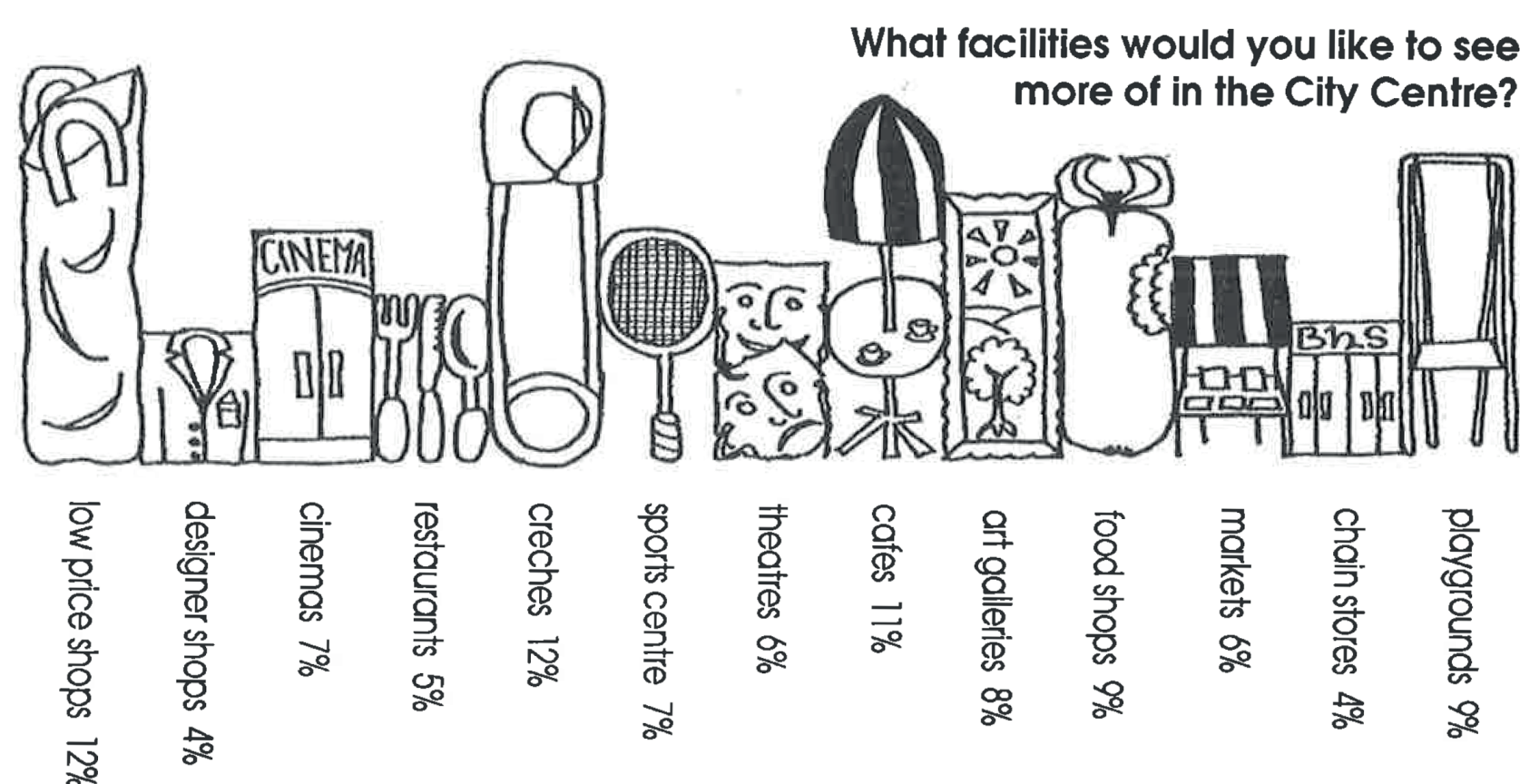


BIRMINGHAM

Standing on her shoulders: Herstories

Current campaigns have a strong women's history to draw on in Birmingham.



Women in the Centre Report by BfP Women's Group. Courtesy of BfP Women's Group.

Art continued....

Art can also have lasting influence. Heather Powell's 1988 *Paradise Circus*, continues to be relevant, shown in London in 2021 and at the Birmingham Museum

and Art Gallery in 2022. Artist Cathy Wade drew on Powell's film to make her video, *For the Car, for the Body* (2017), which explores the continuum of Birmingham's urban design that still undermines women's experiences.



Self-help Safe Spaces for Women

During the 1960s and 70s the Birmingham Women's Liberation movement (BWL) led to multiple do-it-yourself actions, including setting up creches, consciousness-raising groups, safe houses and pregnancy advice centres.

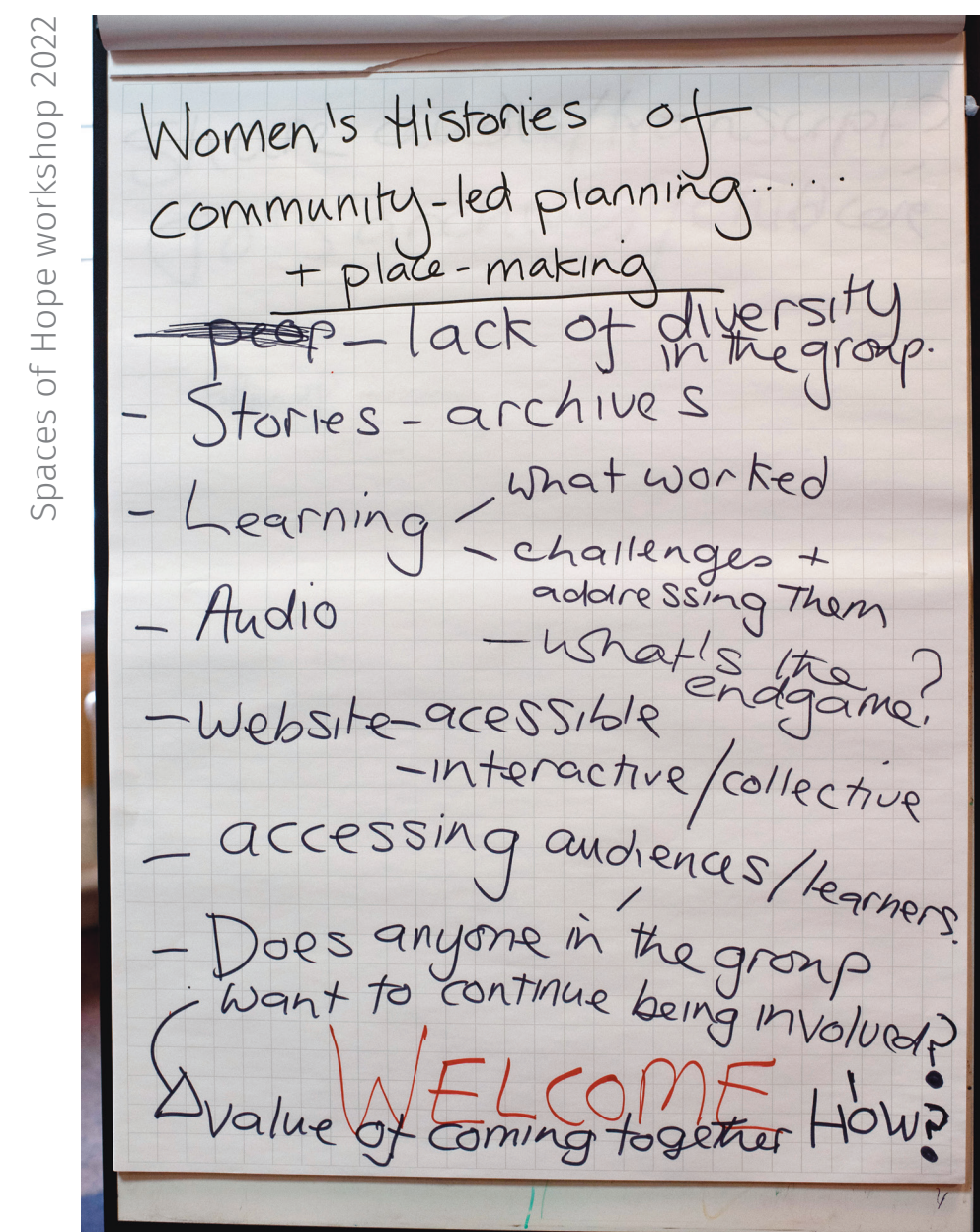
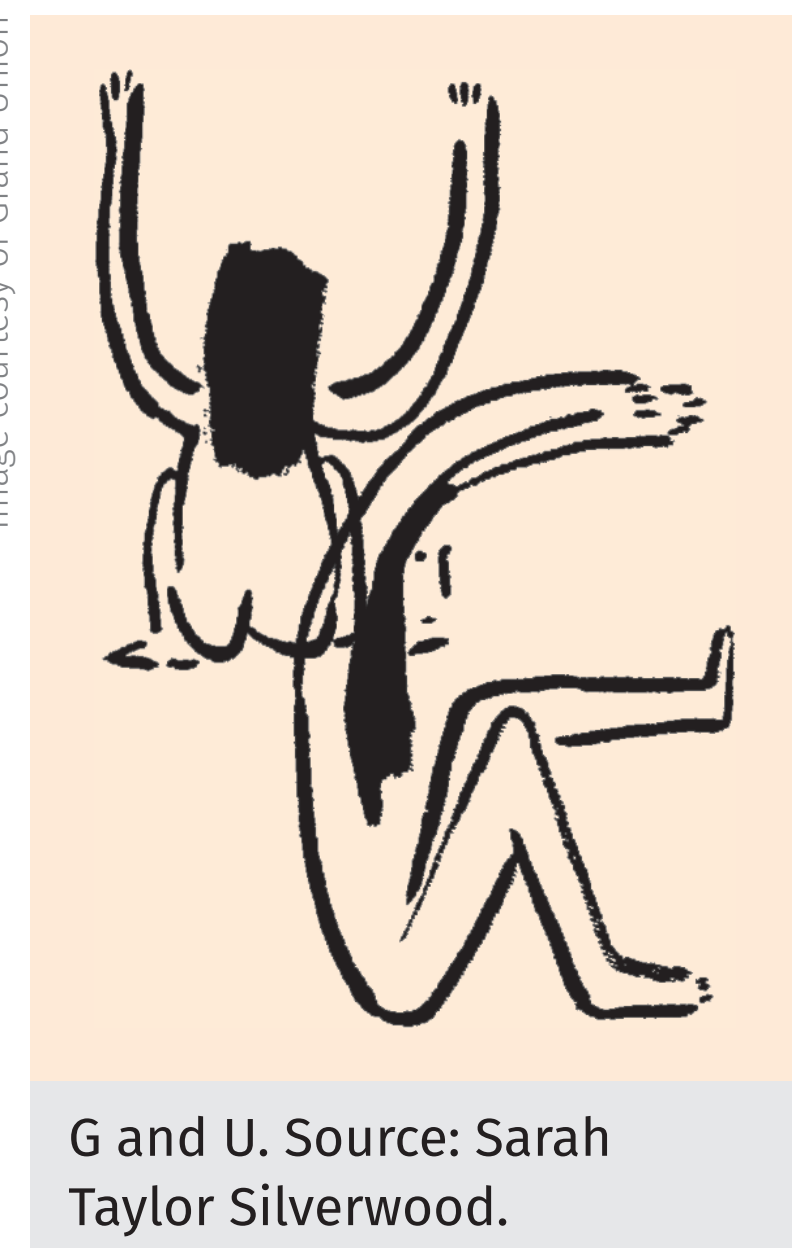
A local woman opened up her private house to BWL, used for group meetings, pregnancy testing, producing their Newsletter and providing a women's library, health advice, information,

support and referral, including for victims of domestic violence.

Then in 1986 two nuns opened up their home as a drop-in centre for local women involved in prostitution and vulnerable to exploitation, founding Anawim in Balsall Heath, still supporting women today. Women's Aid have also provided vital services and safe spaces for over 40 years.

Planning futures

Despite it's sometimes fractured nature, women's community planning in Birmingham persists. Women are key players in broader community-led planning campaigns (such as the Tower Ballroom campaign and Friends of Edgbaston Reservoir) and many place-based. projects draw in women's voices, including women of colour (such as the Grand Union Arts Organisation, Bertz Associates' arts education projects, MAIA, the black-led collective using arts to re-imagine place, Civic Square who demonstrate neighbourhood-scale civic infrastructures and many other brilliant groups).



What next?

Please use the blank panel to tell us about your own campaign, group and histories and what you think is now needed in Birmingham.

