

Bow Arts to send top designers, artists and makers into eight primary schools in Barking and Dagenham



Pupils from Becontree, Five Elms, Gascoigne, Grafton, Henry Green, Southwood, Valence and William Bellamy primary schools taking a tour of Bow Arts' artist studios IceHouse Court in Barking. Pictured: Pupils in Marina Gonzales del Cerro's studio. [See all photographs from the tour here.](#)

Over 6,500 children are set benefit from a new creative education partnership between Bow Arts and Barking and Dagenham Council, supported by Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

Award winning arts and educational charity Bow Arts and the Barking and Dagenham Council are pleased to announce a new three-year partnership that will see over 6,500 children in a consortium of eight schools benefit from programmes led by professional, practising artists.

Artists, designers, and makers from a range of disciplines will work alongside teachers at Becontree, Five Elms, Gascoigne, Grafton, Henry Green, Southwood, Valence and William Bellamy primary schools to deliver a rich and inspirational programme of creative education projects, which give students the opportunity to make and display artwork and learn valuable, life-long creative skills.

Visits to galleries, creative workspaces, and artist studios will give students an insight into the wealth of career opportunities in the rapidly growing creative arts sector, and work made by pupils, teachers, and artists will be celebrated annually with a curated exhibition, attended by the families of pupils.



The partnership follows the recent opening of Bow Arts' IceHouse Court, affordable new studios for artists and makers in Barking housing the likes of award-winning designer and curator Haidée Drew. An experienced artist educator, Haidée is just one artist working with Bow Arts to share creative skills with children and young people in East London.

The partnership, beginning in April, highlights the importance of artists and culture to Barking and Dagenham's vision for the positive growth of the borough. Bow Arts has worked with over 200 schools across East London since 1995, and is pleased to be extending its successful consortium model into the borough, improving the learning experience of thousands of children.

Marcel Baettig, Chief Executive of Bow Arts said:

"We're thrilled to be extending our successful consortium model into Barking and Dagenham, sending professional artists, designers and makers into schools to provide high-quality creative learning experiences for primary school children and teachers. Our education programme gives pupils the chance to build a create skillset and, importantly, enjoy making and creating."

Councillor Evelyn Carpenter, Barking and Dagenham Cabinet Member for School Improvement and Educational Attainment, said:

"We are very proud of the strong tradition of cultural participation across the borough, from our schools to our hugely successful Summer of Festivals programme. Culture helps our economy by creating jobs, providing learning opportunities for all ages, breaking down barriers, helping our communities thrive and supporting our young people to realise their potential."

Martin Nicholson, Headteacher at Grafton Primary School said:

"On behalf of all the PACE schools I would like to say how delighted we are to be working in partnership with Bow Arts. We firmly believe that the long commitment to working together will have an extremely positive impact on all our children. We are all really looking forward to starting the project as we feel this is an amazing opportunity for all our children and the whole school community."

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Images

To celebrate the partnership, pupils from Becontree, Five Elms, Gascoigne, Grafton, Henry Green, Southwood, Valence and William Bellamy primary schools were invited for a tour of Bow Arts' IceHouse Court studios in Barking, meeting artists, designers, and makers working there.

[View and download all photos from the visit here.](#)

Press Release
For immediate release



Contact media@bowarts.com for all further enquiries.

About Bow Arts

Bow Arts Trust is an arts and educational charity placing the arts, culture and creativity at the heart of learning and the development of sustainable communities. Bow Arts supports a community of over 500 artists with affordable creative workspaces, manages Nunnery Gallery, and runs an award-winning education programme.

About Bow Arts' education programme

Bow Arts education has worked with schools across east London since 1995. The education team launched their consortium programme in 2011 and have since worked with six different Consortia across 53 schools with approximately 30,000 children. The model was created for local schools to work together, develop partnerships, and further embed the arts into the school curriculum.

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