



# ANNUAL REPORT

2021 - 2022

Bow Arts  
Learning

# Inspiring, inclusive, creative learning



## What is Bow Arts Learning?

Bow Arts works with artists to deliver an innovative programme of workshops, projects and training in schools. We work collaboratively with schools to create bespoke projects that meet the needs of teachers and students, making arts learning accessible and inclusive.

We believe in the value of arts and culture in our society and that it is the right of every child and young person to have access to it. With at least 25% of costs subsidised by donations from our studio artists, we provide high quality programmes and excellent value for money.

Our programme creates impactful learning experiences that improve attainment, confidence and wellbeing for all students.

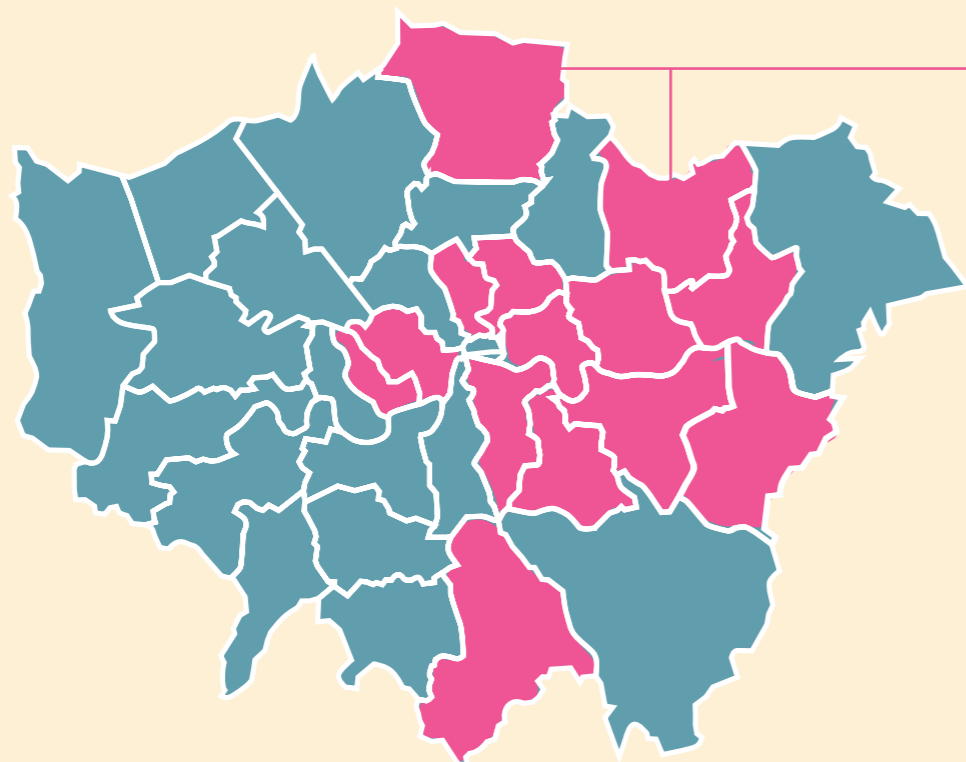
## 2021-2022

April 2021 to March 2022 was a year of transition for Bow Arts Learning. As schools settled back into the 'new normal' after multiple lockdowns, we tried to navigate a still extremely complex COVID-19 environment.

Despite this, Bow Arts Learning had an incredibly successful year, returning to pre-COVID levels of engagement and programming. We have undertaken several major projects, cultivated a new consortium and supported thousands of students across London to reconnect with their creativity.

We are delighted to share with you our highlights from 2021-22 as well as our aims for 2022-23.

From April 2021 to March 2022...



We worked with 71 schools across 14 London boroughs



We delivered **124 projects**, with 175 artists and 1,558 artist-led workshops **over 7 workshops per day!**

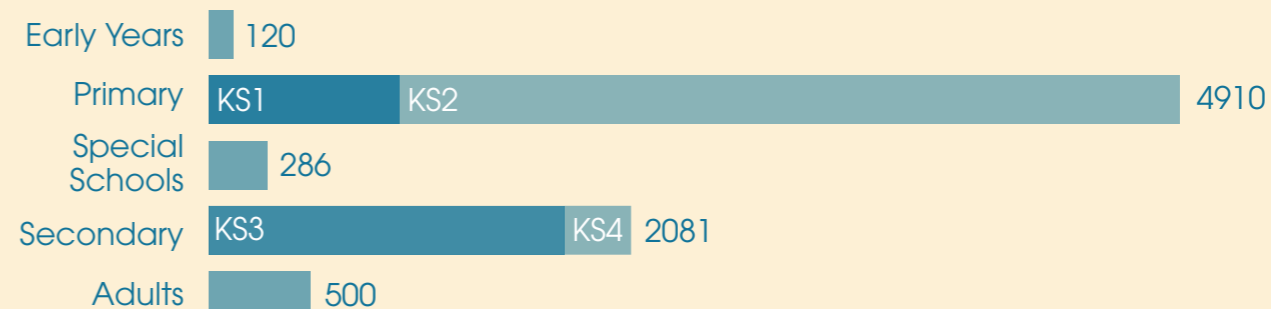


**84 young people** received an arts award qualification through us

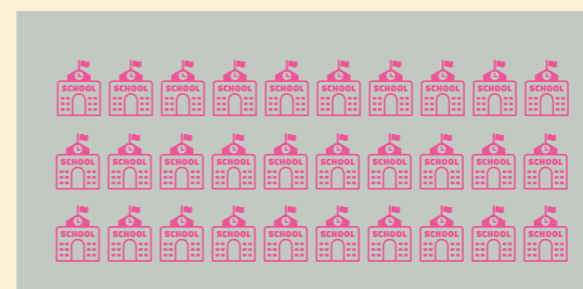


**94%** said they enjoyed Bow Arts projects  
**88%** said they had learnt something new

We had **7,897 individual participants**



**67%** of teachers said our CPD would have a **significant impact** on their teaching practice. The remaining 33% said it would have some impact.



Overall, we commissioned **30 more school clients** than 2020-21.

# Programme Highlights



## Arts Award

Year 5 students at Elfrida Primary School worked with Artist Educator Liane Harris in a 3-day creative programme to achieve an Arts Award Explore qualification. During the 3 days, Liane guided students through a series of creative activities to experiment with photographic techniques and create playful images. By taking inspiration from these techniques and other artists, they worked towards creating a collaborative artwork that celebrated their school, local community and themselves as individuals.



'I loved learning about art, photography and myself'  
- Student

"I've learned a lot about how much culture there is in Bexley, how diverse it is and how the place I've always lived has so much more stuff than I thought it had"  
- Student

## Creative Bexley Map

This project saw Bow Arts collaborate with four Bexley schools as part of the Local Cultural Education Partnership in the borough. The aim of the project was to produce a cultural map of Bexley, created from the drawings and ideas of the young people.

Artist educators Tom Berry and Maisie Maris worked with students across the four schools to develop drawing skills and explore the cultural sites and organisations within the borough. These were combined into a graphic map which is now on display in each of the schools.



## Creative Cover

This year Artist Educator Julie Vermeille has led practical art sessions every Tuesday at Thornhill Primary School, during teacher Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time. Julie delivers innovative art projects designed to reference class topics and develop pupil's skill progression.

Year 1's topic for Spring 2 was "Cooking/ Nutrition - What do People Eat?" As a Design and Technology unit, the focus was on designing and making an object or product. The students worked together to make a 3D fruit basket out of papier mâché, creating fruits from different continents to celebrate the diverse backgrounds of the school community.



"This is one of my favourite lessons"  
- Student

## Cross-curricular

Year 7 students at Sarah Bonnel School created textile artworks which creatively responded to their English and Drama topic 'Visionary Women'. After creating monologues and newspaper articles which explored the life and work of inspirational women from a variety of backgrounds, the students worked with Artist Educator Amy Leung to create screen prints which visually reflected these pieces of work.

**This was one of 15 cross-curricular projects we delivered at Sarah Bonnel School this year, providing young people with creative ways of engaging with subjects such as Maths, Geography and PE.**

'It was really fun making our own designs about our visionary women'  
- Student



## Making a Mark, Enfield Town School Partnership

Bow Arts are working with Enfield Town School's Partnership to deliver a programme funded by Paul Hamlyn Foundation's Teacher Development Fund. Staff from 10 Primary Schools in Enfield are working with artists over a two-year period to develop skills in a particular art form through a mixture of CPD, mentoring, team teaching and tutorials. The art forms include drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking and photography. The project aims to support teachers to become autonomous in their delivery of arts-based learning.



"The sessions have really made me think about how I teach - in a good way. It's been many years since I've thought about changing my pedagogy that much."  
- Participant Teacher

## New Thamesmead Consortia

This year we have established a new Thamesmead Consortium. Formed of eight primary schools, this will be our first working partnership with these schools, in close collaboration with the Lakeside Centre.

**This new partnership will join our other 5 consortia across East and South East London. In 2021-22, across our 5 consortia we worked with 32 schools, impacting 18,200 students.**

The Bow Arts Consortia Model brings schools together to create inspirational learning opportunities for young people. Working in partnerships allows schools to pool resources to create a more robust arts education offer for their students. It supports relationships between neighbouring schools, creating a network of collaboration and support.

"I enjoyed everything about Bow Arts"  
- Student



## Permanent Artwork

Artist educator Will Redgrove worked with Year 5 students at Graffon Primary School to transform one of their school entrances. All 120 students in Year 5 were involved in every stage of the artwork's creation from initial ideas and designs to painting, making this bold and playful mural truly their own.



"Participants learned the whole process of designing and completing a public artwork."  
- Will Redgrove, Lead Artist



We have created over 40 permanent artworks for schools this year.

## SEND

Over the course of a term, Bow Arts artist Isabel Castro Jung spent one afternoon every week making coil and slab pots with a small class of KS5 students from Phoenix School in Bow, a well-established special school for children and young people with autism.

Discovering the medium of clay in incremental, experimental and exploratory steps, students were exposed to new materials, tools and resources, often with surprising results. The wonderful outcomes of this project were sold by the students at Phoenix's termly 'Enterprise Fayre', echoing the process of a professional artist and promoting the value of the young people's work.



"I've been working with this class for three years but I've not seen that level of focus and creativeness from them before. They don't normally get this opportunity, to just create on their own terms"  
- Teacher



**This year we delivered 274 workshops in SEND settings. The bespoke nature of our programme allows projects to be tailored to students' individual needs making them inclusive and accessible.**

## Skills-based

Year 10 and Year 12 students at Oaks Park High School took part in painting and drawing masterclasses with Artist Educator Heather Libson, creating large scale tonal works to contribute to their GCSE and A Level coursework.

The session aimed to encourage students to experiment with working on a large scale, using new techniques and mediums, including paint, ink, chalk pastels, charcoal and rubbers. The session supported students to focus on and develop a sustained piece of work over a full day, and to push their work in new directions.



"I never worked this big before. I learnt to trust the process because it didn't look great at the beginning, but I like the final piece"  
- Student

## Social Justice and Visual Arts Learning in Schools

An important and exciting project from this year is our Social Justice and Visual Arts Learning in Schools project, a response to the social injustices that have been highlighted by recent global events. Funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, across two years we will be working with five schools to help students creatively address some of the social issues affecting them, from mental health to racism. Working on this project are five Artist Educators, all of whom have a social justice-based practice and lived experience of the challenges faced by the young people we are working with.

"You can take clothes from your ancestors. You could remake what was before in the olden days and create it into something modern ... It would intrigue people to know more about the culture"  
- Student



## Studio & Gallery Visits

In December we welcomed 120 Year 8 students from Harris Garrard Academy to our Lakeside Studios in Thamesmead. Throughout the day the students had the opportunity to meet studio artists and see their working environments and creative processes first-hand.

**With over 500 artists and makers across our 15 studio sites and a wonderful rotation of exhibitions at our Nunnery Gallery, we hope to use these rich resources to show young people what a career in the creative industries could look like.**



"Before today I thought art had to be a drawing or painting"  
- Year 8 Student

## Teacher CPD

As part of the Lewisham Consortium shared programme, teachers from Elfrida Primary School, St Joseph's Primary School and St James Hatcham Primary School participated in an Expressive Drawing Continued Professional Development (CPD) session led by Artist Educator Rebecca Griffiths. Rebecca worked with teachers to create non-traditional drawing tools from everyday objects which were then dripped in drawing ink and used to explore mark-making.

**520 teachers** benefitted from our CPD sessions this year. We are committed to supporting the professional development of teachers with hands-on sessions with artists that equip staff with the skills and confidence to lead arts-based activities in the classroom.

"I now feel confident in telling the children that what they create is art"  
"There is no right or wrong, you can all draw"  
- Teacher



# Artist Educators

We currently have a pool of 60 Artist Educators with a wide variety of artistic practices and specialisms. We greatly value the vital role they play in the successful delivery of our programme and hope to provide opportunities for them to grow and develop as both arts and education practitioners.



## Artist Educator CPD

This year we held 16 free CPD sessions for Artist Educators. These included external training from a variety of different organizations covering topics such as Philosophy for Children, Poverty Proofing, Growth Mindset and Anti-Racism.

100% of participants said the sessions were useful and relevant. 76% said they had learnt new skills and/or knowledge that they could apply to their practice or career.



“One of the best trainings I’ve ever had. I feel so energised and full of ideas.”  
- Artist Educator

“I had found the CPD sessions that I have attended invaluable. I am always taking things away with me that I can use in all my art projects. It is always incredibly rewarding to meet other Artist Educators and hear about the work they are doing and to share the challenges we all go through with this kind of work.”  
- Artist Educator

## Artist Educator Trainee Programme

Our Artist Educator Trainee Programme is for artists looking to develop their education practice and experience working in schools in order to become an Artist Educator with Bow Arts.

This year we introduced a new Thamesmead specific trainee programme, training artists living in Thamesmead to deliver high quality learning experiences to young people in the area.

Over two school terms, Artist Educator Trainees have the opportunity to support lead artists in a range of school settings, lead an activity or session with support and gain practical skills in planning and delivering formal learning projects.

“This training gave the confidence and belief I could follow a path I didn’t know was available, let alone I could thrive at.”  
- Trainee





# Aims and focuses



## The upcoming year

**In 2022-23 we aim to build on the successes of the past year and continue to produce innovative opportunities for young people to engage with their creativity.**

We will begin the second half of both the *Social Justice* and *Making a Mark* projects. We hope to create a lasting legacy within the schools involved in both projects. We will be continuing to develop our Access to Creative Careers programme. In the hope to create more support for young people wanting to pursue a career in the arts, we will be piloting a mentoring programme for sixth form students and picking up our work experience placements post COVID-19.

This year we will be running the sixth year of our Artist Educator Trainee Programme. We intend to specifically recruit artists from communities underrepresented in the arts as we strive towards having a pool of Artist Educators that better reflects the population of the schools we work with. This year we will also be recruiting trainees from our Royal Albert Wharf (RAW) and Lakeside Studios, to strengthen our creative learning programmes in these areas.

If you are interested in working with us this year or would like to know more about our programme, please explore our website or get in touch via [learning@bowarts.com](mailto:learning@bowarts.com).

# Contact Bow Arts Learning

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