



Annual report 2022-23

Bow Arts Learning



inspiring
inclusive
creative
learning





About Bow Arts Learning

Bow Arts Learning works with artists to deliver an innovative programme of workshops, projects, and CPD (Continuing Professional Development) training for teachers in schools. We work collaboratively with schools to create bespoke projects that meet the needs of teachers and students, making visual 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 20% 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.

April 2022 to March 2023 in numbers

We have worked with
86 schools across
15 boroughs

80% of our projects
were based in
East London

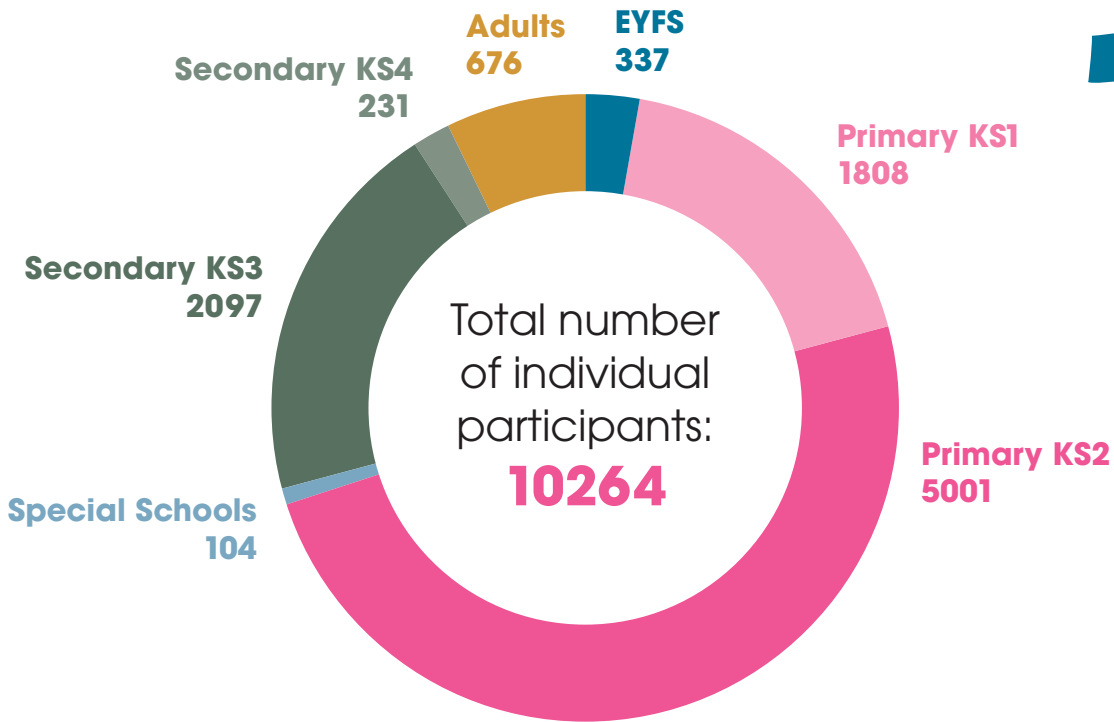


We have delivered **1369**
artist-led **workshops**,
65% of which were
in **primary schools**

Overall, we
worked with **15 more**
school clients
than 21-22

369 young people
received their **Arts**
Award qualifications
with us

We managed **130 projects**
with **217 artist contracts**,
& worked with **77 artists**



93% of children and young people said they **enjoyed** Bow Arts projects

88% of children and young people said they **learnt something new**

60% of teachers said our CPDs would have a **significant impact** on their teaching. The remaining 40% said the CPDs would have some impact

96% of artists said they have **learnt new skills** from our CPDs that can be applied to their practice*

*Read more about our Artist Educators on page 11



Programme highlights



Educators' Retreat

The October half term saw the return of our Educators' Retreat – a two-day event designed for teachers, artists, and educators from a range of education settings. Through a range of activities, we examined how art can improve children's and young people's lives, and reflected on how we, as art educators, could make our learning practice more accessible and inclusive.

Participants attended talks and discussion-based workshops led by our artist educator Jasmin Bhanji, Primary Education Consultant Emily Gopaul, and Ali Eisa, Autograph Gallery's Learning & Participation Manager. These workshops provided a space to share experiences of working in art education and the cultural sector and discuss strategies on how to shift arts education towards inclusivity and anti-racism authentically.

The event also included practical workshops led by our artist educators: James Randell, who demonstrated how an artistic process can be made accessible at all levels of ability; Lily Ash Sakula, who led an illustration workshop that encouraged educators to think how to engage young people in discussions about the future; and The Fandangoe Kid, who led educators in a discussion about equity and mental health in arts learning while making banners for protest and positive change.

KS4 and KS5 Creative Practice

Access to careers in the arts and creative industries sector is frequently challenging. The creative industries contribute significantly to East London's economy, yet this does not transfer into jobs for locals, particularly young people. So, as an arts charity, we strived to support young people in bridging the gap between education and work in the creative industries through our Access to Creative Careers programme.

Much of this year's programming focused on engaging GCSE and A-Level students in art workshops and studio visits to provide them with a better understanding of the pathways into creative careers, to develop the skills required to become creative professionals, and to improve access and diversity in the sector. These workshops included photography, fashion, textiles, public art, and illustration. One of the studios visits we organised was for GCSE Art and Design students from Barking Abbey School, during which they participated in a short photography workshop led by Jonny Bosworth, heard from fine artist Hun Kyu Kim about his work, visited a special FX studio, an architecture studio, and listened to a talk by our Head of Arts and Events about opportunities in the arts and heritage sector.

Overall, we worked with 119 participants from 6 schools and colleges and worked with 14 creative professionals.

'I was able to take part in something I never would have done'
Student

'Really liked the first talk today with so many examples of how to increase representation'
Artist

Teacher CPD

Part of the work we do with schools across London is to support teachers with Continued Professional Development (CPD). The focus of our teacher CPD can range from specific skill development, to strengthening their delivery in the classroom. These artist-led sessions also equip staff with understanding of creative approaches and provides a deeper insight of how to lead arts-based activities in the classroom.

518 teachers benefitted from our CPD sessions this year

Some of these teachers accessed CPDs through our Poplar Consortium shared programme. Teachers from Poplar schools, such as Wellington Primary School, St Paul with St Luke Primary School, and Mayflower Primary School, participated in a digital photography workshop led by artist educator Liane Harris. The group explored lo-fi methods of manipulating and experimenting with imagery and made use of iPads and other basic resources to create playful and intriguing photographs.

'I learned everything I was scared of is actually doable when taught by an artist thinking about the process not the convention'

Teacher



Lewisham Consortium

We worked with a partnership of four schools in the borough of Lewisham to deliver creative visual arts projects led by our artist educators. Within the space of a year, each school completed their own bespoke project with our artist educators, participated in teacher CPD sessions, and pooled resources together to deliver a shared Arts Award programme where 29 young people completed their Arts Award Explore qualification.

At the end of the year, we held a celebration event and exhibition at Lewisham Arthouse to share the achievements and artworks created through the partnership. The event also consisted of a certificate ceremony, an exhibition trail, and workshops for a selection of students from each school ran by our artist educators Jasmin Bhanji, Ceri Davies, Carlos Cortes, and Liane Harris. The workshops focused on elements of the bespoke projects in the consortium.

Early Years Creativity Project

We partnered with 10 nurseries in Barking and Dagenham from January to March 2023 to produce engaging workshops for young children focusing on creative play. These workshops were taught by five of our artist educators: Bhajan Hunjan, Sara Heywood, Lily Ash Sakula, Carlos Cortes, and Amy Leung.

The project saw Bow Arts artist educators use the book 'My World, Your World' by children's book author Melanie Walsh as a starting point. The workshops encouraged the children to learn, to be aware of themselves and others, as well as

'Children got a lot of creative enjoyment from having the freedom to make choices in their art making'

Artist

celebrate their individuality and backgrounds – a common theme in Melanie Walsh's books. These workshops also provided a live CPD for the nursery practitioners, who could observe and learn from the artists. A resource was created to impact nurseries in the long-term for the 50 other nurseries in the borough. This project was commissioned by London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Early Years Team.

'A child that rarely engages with anything creative was actively involved towards the end of the session ... a major success!'

Teacher





Our artist
educators

97% of artists enjoy being a Bow Arts Educator

80% of our artists' arts practices are influenced by the work they do with us

Our artist specialisms include: Sculpture, Painting, Textiles, Illustration, Photography and Animation, to name a few

We currently have a pool of 66 artist educators with diverse artistic practices and specialisms. We value the vital role they play in the successful delivery of our programme and seek to create opportunities for them to grow and develop as artists and educators.

We strongly encourage our artist educators to continue developing their artistic and educational practices. Bow Arts supports this by providing regular training opportunities for them, free of charge. This year we held 12 CPD sessions including focuses such as delivering projects within SEND (Special



'Really enjoyed being part of the programme, and I feel like it provided an invaluable learning experience that is difficult to gain as an individual'

Artist Trainee

Educational Needs and Disabilities) settings and promoting engagement in the classroom. We also held Skill Exchange workshops for our artist educators to teach and share their specialisms, such as accessible photographic processes, with each other in hands-on practical sessions.

100% of participants said the sessions were useful and relevant

96% said they had learnt new skills and/or knowledge that they could apply to their practice or career

'There were lots of examples of how to interact with pupils that were very helpful and really practical'

Artist Educator

'The discussion about trauma was really helpful and I'm excited to bring all of this learning into my practice.'

Artist Educator

Artist Trainee Programme

Our Artist Educator Trainee Programme is for artists looking to develop their learning practice and experience working in schools as an artist educator. Over two school terms, trainees support lead artist educators on Bow Arts projects in a range of school settings, lead an activity or session with support from our artist educators, and gain skills in planning and delivering formal learning projects.

'I have a much better understanding of how working with different ages and school settings varies'

Artist Trainee

Project highlights





'It has been so wonderful to see all of the children being involved, being so creative'

Teacher

'I enjoyed when we worked together and made the paper cut out animation'

Pupil

Rights Respecting Animation

Artist educator Reza Ben Gajra taught Year 5 pupils of Grafton Primary School how to make animations, and together produced a series of short animations linking to the school's values and their Rights Respecting School Award status. The award recognises a school's achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into practice. In this 12-day project pupils learned different animation techniques including pixilation, clay, and cut-out techniques. The animations drew ideas from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and included some environmental themes. Reza also spent time with the Rights Respecting ambassadors from Year 4 and 6 to gather initial ideas for the content of the animations through conversations and drawings. The animations were viewed by parents and children in a celebration event of the pupil's hard work.

The project is part of our PACE Consortium, a partnership of schools from the borough of Barking and Dagenham working on an annual programme of arts and cultural learning to create inspirational learning opportunities for children and young people.

Specialist Settings

Students at Phoenix College, a well-established special school for young people with autism in Bow, worked with our artist educator Phoebe Kaniewska on a Creative Enterprise project for over a month. The students learned batik techniques to decorate tote bags, Christmas stockings, t-shirts, and created illustrations to sell at the college's termly Enterprise Fayre. The fayre is run by the college's Enterprise team and promotes the value of the young people's work. This project was the pilot to our Access to Creative Careers programme in specialist settings and aims to teach practical skills linked to working in creative careers and technical skills, echoing the processes of professional artists. The bespoke nature of our programme allows our projects to be tailored to the individual needs of the students, making them inclusive and accessible.

This year we delivered over 100 workshops in SEND settings



'Peer to peer engagement has worked really well across all classes'

Teacher





Social Justice

Last year we piloted our Social Justice and Visual Arts Learning in Schools project as a response to global events. We worked with a partnership of five schools from across East and South London to help students creatively address social issues such as those relating to mental health and racism. We worked with five artist educators, including fashion designer Thomas Harvey who worked with the students at Riverside School in Barking. Building on last year's pilot project, this year's project focused on identity, linking the school's celebration of students' sense of self and the collective pride in the school community.

Thomas taught Year 10 GCSE Art and Design students how to create blazers – a symbol of

collective identity both in terms of school and the workplace - from pattern pieces, and they decorated their blazers reflecting their personal identity using a variety of textiles and adornment techniques. The students learned practical garment making skills and explored ideas of identity through fashion and textiles printmaking. The blazers they made contributed towards their GCSE coursework portfolio. Students now have skills they did not have previously, with some saying they have now started to use the sewing machines of family members at home. The school now has a bank of sewing machines for students to use, with some 'How To' resources designed by Thomas Harvey. This project was funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation.



Creative Cover

Artist educators Matt Ponting and Matilda Ellis led art sessions in the Autumn term at Osmani Primary School during the teachers' Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time. Our PPA sessions are designed to reference classroom topics and develop the pupils' skill progression using artist references for inspiration. Matilda worked with Year 2 pupils on the topic of Fire and Ice with the aim for the children to experiment with colours and temperatures associated with the topic and explore printmaking and mark-making techniques. Matt taught Year 5 and Year 6 in creative sessions about Johannesburg and London. The children experimented with textiles, printmaking, and tried out different drawing techniques in their sketchbooks.

This year we worked with 8 schools across the academic year to provide creative cover for their PPA time

'Art is way more fun than you think'

Pupil

Arts Award

A selection of Year 3 to Year 6 pupils from our Thamesmead Consortium, were supported by our artist educators in a 3-day workshops to achieve their Arts Award Discover qualification. This programme allowed children who had little access to arts outside of school to develop new skills in a relaxed social environment. The children took part in activities including making jesmonite sculptures, designing games, turning 2D drawings into 3D artworks and working with clay. On the last day they shared their arts discoveries with friends and family after creating displays with their outcomes.

'The project was amazing, and it made me feel relaxed'

Pupil

'I was able to use examples from the lesson to teach science more effectively based on a similar topic'

Teacher





Legacy Makers Artwork

Children from Bygrove Primary School investigated the concept of legacy and helped to create a permanent artwork for their school with artist educator Maria-Alejandra Huicho. In this project, the children discussed the legacies of Nina and Helena Gualinga, young Indigenous environmental activists from the Sarayaku community under Maria-Alejandra's guidance. The children considered the Sarayaku's vision of a world in which humans are connected to the natural world, as well as their worldview of respect for all other living beings in the rainforest. Following

these discussions, the children experimented with making their own paints from organic materials such as spinach, turmeric, and beetroot, and created paintings that were utilised in Maria-Alejandra's final permanent artwork.

We have created over 30 permanent artworks for schools this year

'I really enjoyed making paint out of plants'

Pupil







Contact us

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:

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