

inspiring
inclusive
creative
learning



**Bow Arts Learning
Impact Report**

2023-24



About Bow Arts Learning

At Bow Arts, we believe in the right of every child and young person to have access to arts and culture and the positive impact this has. Against a challenging climate for art education, our programme strives to deliver innovative and inclusive projects which have real impact for children and young people, as illustrated in this report.

We are committed to working with school leaders and teachers to plan collaboratively and meet their development needs. With costs subsidised by donations from our studio artists, we provide sustainable high-quality programmes and excellent value for money. Our programme creates meaningful learning experiences that improve skills, confidence, and well-being for students and teachers.

The success of our programme is down to the team and our learning artists who apply their creativity, ingenuity and enthusiasm to our creative projects. We are thankful to them and aim to support our artists through providing opportunities for continued development of their educational practice.

We know that access to quality arts education transforms the experience and well-being of children and young people, and that's why I'm incredibly proud of the work we have completed in 2023-24.

Helen Bradbury
Head of Learning

Bella Aleksandrova
Learning Administrator

Helen Bradbury
Head of Learning

Laura Lloyd
Learning Project
Manager

Liz Jeal
Learning Manager

Michelle McGrath
Head of Learning
(until Nov. 2023)

Sheyamali Sudesh
Learning Project
Manager

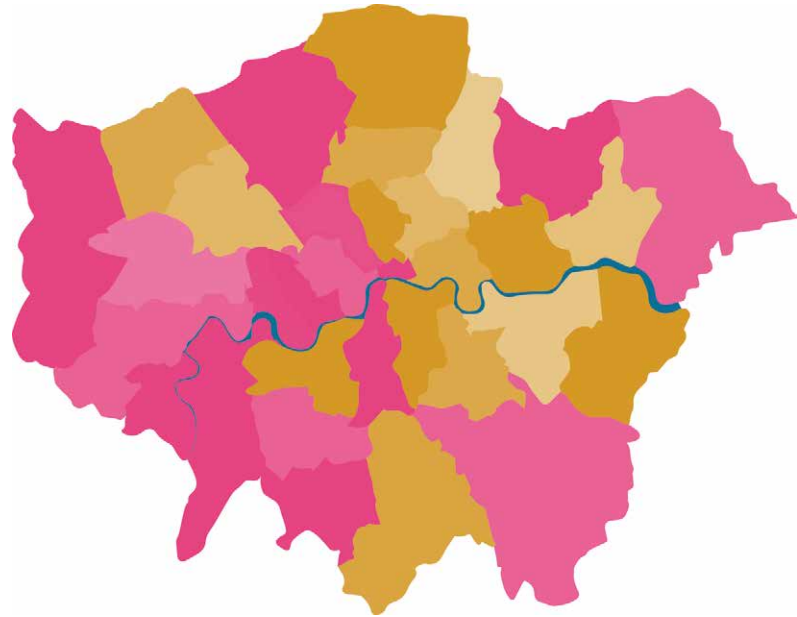
Tom Sherriff
Learning Project
Manager

April 2023 to March 2024 in numbers

We have worked with
78 schools across
17 boroughs*

86% of our projects
were based in
East London

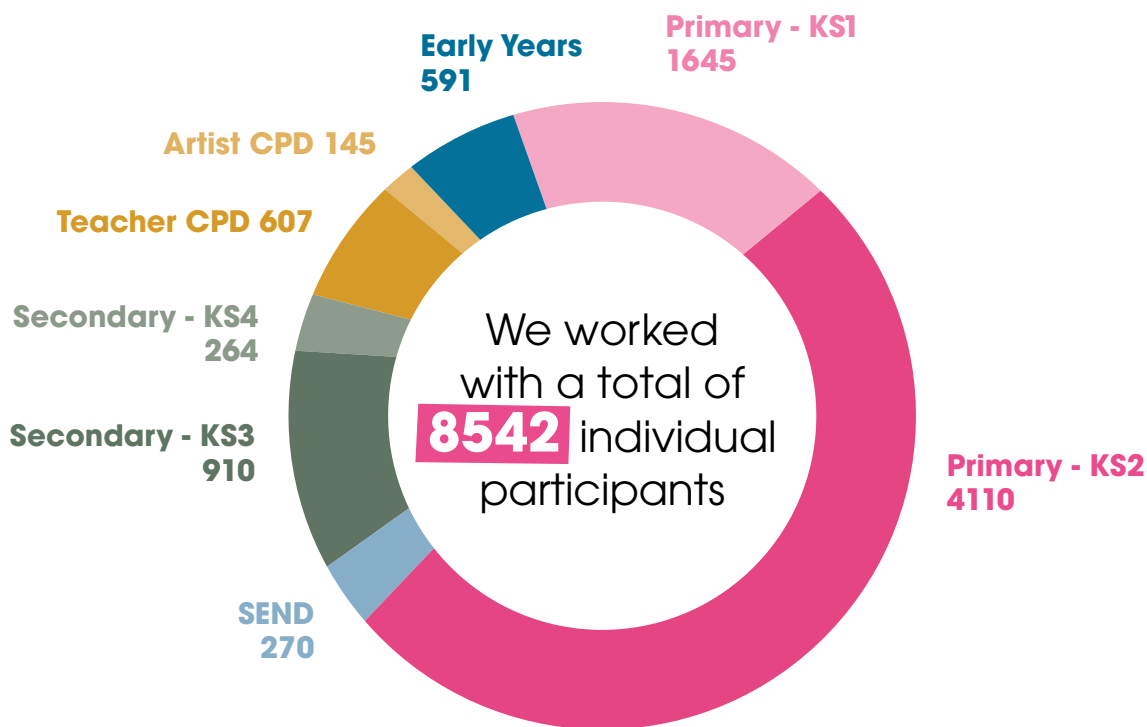
*Barking & Dagenham, Bexley, Brent,
Croydon, Enfield, Greenwich, Hackney,
Haringey, Harrow, Islington, Lewisham,
Newham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets,
Waltham Forest, Wandsworth,
Windsor & Maidenhead



62 young people
achieved an **Arts
Award qualification**
on our programme

We have delivered **1319**
artist-led **workshops**,
75% of which were in
primary schools

We managed **93 projects**
with **228 artist contracts**,
& worked with **60 artists**



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

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

100% of teachers said our CPDs would have an **impact** on their teaching. **60%** said the CPDs would have **some impact**, & **40%** said the CPDs would have **significant impact**

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

Consortia highlights

Throughout 2023-24, we worked with five Consortia: Barking & Dagenham, Lewisham, Poplar, Sarah Bonnell (Newham), & Thamesmead.

Within the space of a year, each partner school completed their own bespoke project with our artist educators, participated in teacher CPD sessions, & pooled resources together to deliver a shared Arts Award programme.



Barking & Dagenham Consortium

Partnership of four schools in Barking & Dagenham

This year centred our efforts in building networks across the borough and establishing new partnerships. Our team facilitated three art coordinator meetings as a forum for school staff and our Bow Arts team to come together, exchange ideas and design the consortium programme in line with the needs of participating schools.

One of the outcomes of these meetings was the delivery of a Sensory Sculpture and Sounds CPD led by artist Jenny Pengilly.

Staff from across the consortium came together to gain a better understanding of sound recording equipment, and to find new creative ways of incorporating found objects, readily available materials and sound into lesson planning. Using a multisensory approach, with a combination of auditory and tactile activities, can improve comprehension and creative thinking skills in the classroom as students are encouraged to learn by hearing, seeing, and touching.



Thamesmead Consortium

Partnership of two schools in Greenwich & Bexley

Schools in our Thamesmead consortium this year sought to integrate new creative approaches and art techniques within their classrooms.

Artist James Randell guided Year 1 to 6 children at St Margaret Clitherow Primary to create their own print artworks through methods of monoprinting, collographs, tetra pak drypoint and photocopy transfer. The workshops acted as a form of 'live' CPD for teachers, with the

goal of equipping staff with skills to replicate within their classrooms, alongside specialist insight into professional printing methods and tools.

Students, teachers and guardians had the chance to look back to the projects completed during the past year of partnership during a celebration event at The Nest. At the event, James introduced students to further printmaking techniques. On the day, artist Will Redgrove, who worked with pupils

at Willow Bank Primary to create two banners illustrating their school values earlier in the year, also ran creative activities exploring world-building through drawing.

*"(The best part was)
that I saw my
own work."*

Pupil



B&D Consortium photo courtesy of Jenny Pengilly; Thamesmead Celebration photos: Nana Ama Owusu-Ansah

Lewisham Consortium

Partnership of four schools in Lewisham



This year's Lewisham consortium programme included the delivery of a series of CPD sessions, with the aim of broadening the range of creative tools available within the partner schools.

Art Coordinators across the consortium formed a steering group to select shared interests leading to the development of a bespoke CPD programme across the year. One CPD workshop, delivered by artist Paige Denham, focused on exploring a range of collaging techniques. The session included practical

activities, artist references, tips about managing materials within the classroom and ideas for differentiation, highlighting core skills that students can gain through engaging with arts-based processes. Afterwards, Paige shared a presentation for teachers to use as a resource when applying the techniques in the classroom.

"This session expanded my idea of what a 'tool' can be in art."

Teacher

Poplar Consortium

Partnership of six schools in Tower Hamlets

This year several schools in the Poplar Consortium chose to create artworks for their school environment, to illustrate their school vision or values in different ways.

Francesca Telling worked with all children from Years 1-6 at St Saviour's Primary and St Paul with St Luke Primary to create large collaborative woven artworks for their schools, inspired by themes of connection and community. Children brought in old clothes and textiles from home, as existing woven pieces, which they wove into willow structures to create the artwork. Pupils also created small pieces with yarn and fabric, which were attached to the main structure. At St Saviour's, the finished piece takes the form of two 3-D mobiles which will be

suspended in the school. St Paul with St Luke School's artworks are woven panels installed in the windows of each classroom.

The woven pieces were showcased at the Poplar Celebration, alongside other artwork created by students and teachers across the schools throughout the year.

"The exhibition was beautiful, curious, fun!"

Pupil



Sarah Bonnell Consortium

Partnership of seven schools in Newham

A common focus across our work with this year's consortium schools included connecting students with artists, to co-create permanent artworks improving their school environments, and fostering positive experiences.

Echoing the above themes, Year 5 pupils at Portway Primary participated in drawing and design workshops with artist Tom Berry. By practising their newly acquired creative skills, the group brought to life a bold staircase mural inspired by classic fairy tales from around the world. The young people's input during the workshops significantly shaped the final artwork, embedding a sense of pride for building on their creative capabilities while simultaneously leaving a lasting mark in their school.

"I learnt new skills along with the students... I was inspired by the artist to create more artwork with students at school."

Teacher



Poplar Celebration (left & overleaf cover)
photos: Madeleine Waller

Programme highlights

We design innovative arts-based learning for early years, primary, secondary & college settings, inspiring both students & staff. Tailored to each school's needs, projects range from curriculum-focused & skills-based to artwork commissions.

Our Access to Creative Careers initiative connects the young people in the communities we work in with opportunities in the creative industries.

Additionally, we support teachers by enhancing their skills through artist-led Teacher Continued Professional Development (CPD) workshops, introducing them to new creative approaches.





Primary Settings

In a year, we have developed & delivered **987** sessions for primary school children

Emily Hopkins and Woo Jin Joo teamed up with all Year 3 children across the Opossum Federation in Waltham Forest, on a project with a focus on sculptural textiles. Designed to build on the children's sewing skills, the workshops explored sustainability and environmental themes, linking

"The best day ever in school."
Pupil

to the Year 3 topic of Plants. By repurposing old textiles from home, each child created a leaf-shaped soft sculpture decorated with embroidery stitches and appliqué.

99% enjoyed the project
94% learnt something new

Specialist Settings

Children & young people across ages participated in accessible & inclusive activities in **108** workshops developed for SEND settings

"Class teachers & TAs were amazed by the amount of interaction & engagement the children were showing with the puppets during & after the workshops."
Teacher

Watergate School, a specialist school for students aged 4-11 in our Lewisham consortium, collaborated for the first time with our artist educator Isabel Castro Jung who developed a puppet-making project for students and staff, inspired by their topic Amazing Animals.

This project began with an artist-led staff CPD for all teachers and HLTAs from across the two school sites - where teachers could acquire newfound creative tools for

classroom engagement. Isabel then worked with two classes at a time over three days to create a series of puppets in the school hall. Children chose from a range of scrap materials and were encouraged to sew, tie and glue pieces together.

At the end of the session on the final day, children and staff took part in a parade around the playground with their finished puppets to celebrate the project.



Artists in Schools

Five schools worked with an artist in residence to embed new creative approaches in their curriculums



Natalie Ryde has completed a second year of a bespoke placement at St John the Baptist CE Primary, providing a programme of specialist provision across the whole school. Natalie delivered over 100 weekly art lessons to classes from each year group, which also functioned as live CPD for their teachers, across Autumn, Spring and Summer term.

The placement focused on the goal of embedding a range of art skills and creative approaches across the school, reflective of topics covered in the wider school curriculum.

“Children are always happy to see me & ask if it’s their art lesson today. My current Year 4 classes are enthusiastically engaging in conversations about historical & contemporary figures in their project & actively putting effort into improving their face drawing skills.”

Artist

Arts Award

This year, **62** children & young people built upon their artistic skills & knowledge by participating in our Arts Award programme

The Arts Award programme aims to provide children with little access to arts the opportunity to take part in a range of different creative activities and learn about artists and arts organisations, outside of school. Each young participant creates a finished piece and gets the chance to present their work.



Eighteen KS2 students from our Thamesmead Consortium schools achieved their Arts Award Explore qualifications over October half-term. The children explored fabric banner making, block printing, clay making, and abstract drawing alongside artists Amy Barnes, Emily Hopkins and Paige Denham.

The Thamesmead students’ hard work culminated in a showcase at Willow Bank Primary, where teachers and guardians gathered to celebrate the young artists’ inspirational artwork.

“I am proud of my work, this was the best thing.”

Pupil

Artist Cover

Across the academic year, **11** schools benefited from Artist Cover for teacher PPA time

Paige Denham, Matt Ponting, and Katka Krajčiova delivered artist cover for classes across Reception to Year 6, totalling over 370 students, at Lansbury Lawrence Primary over Summer, Autumn and Spring term. The three artists each had a term of leading art sessions designed to build on the school’s key learning aims. Each workshop focused on developing pupils’ skills progression in terms of knowledge of art in relation to curriculum themes, alongside practicing new art techniques. The children each had their own sketchbook as a space to test out ideas and new approaches.



Permanent Artworks

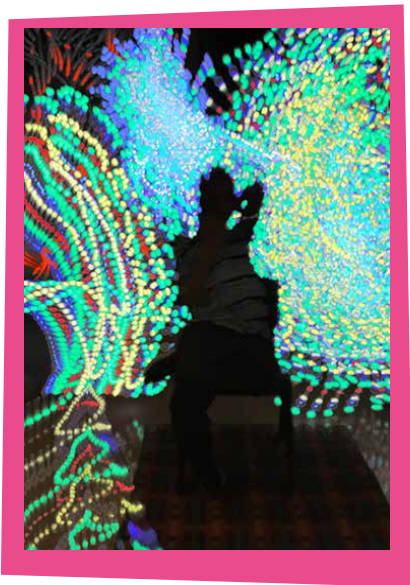
We have created **23** permanent artworks with bespoke designs responding to their unique school environments.

Painting with light

Artist Damien Robinson led sensory and light play workshops for six students with additional needs at Greenvale School, culminating

in a permanent artwork design for their school building. Damien introduced the children to a user-friendly approach she has developed to create long exposure photographs of a light source in low light, rather than in complete darkness, which can be inaccessible to some. The students captured long exposure photos producing colourful, mesmerising and dynamic images. Selected

in collaboration with the school, the final images were edited by Damien to produce digitally printed window decals overlooking the school gardens, turning the students' visions into striking visual statements to decorate their school building.



Studio Visits

Lakeside Centre

Year 2 pupils from Willow Bank Primary visited Lakeside Centre in their local area of Thamesmead, where artist Jamie Zubairi holds a Bow Arts studio. The group learnt about what being an artist can be like, and why artist studios are important. Jamie introduced the children to abstract drawing techniques he uses in his art making, which they applied in a participatory silhouette drawing workshop and then later to record the plants in the garden outside the building.

Access to Creative Careers

This programme aims to remove barriers to opportunities in the creative industries, through signposting pathways and teaching young people the relevant technical & life skills needed in this sector. This year, we reached 270 young people across 11 specialist colleges & universities, in collaboration with 22 creative professionals & 5 arts organisations.

97% learnt something new

96% enjoyed the event

77% gained a better understanding of career pathways in the creative industries

82% gained a better understanding of the skills needed for a career in the creative industries

Sarah Bonnell

At our Sarah Bonnell Creative Careers Fair, 150 secondary students listened to guest speakers, met professionals across a range of creative industry backgrounds, participated in creative activities at stalls such as screen-printing tote bags, using music production software and taking photographic portraits.



"I believe this event has shown me that there are various paths to take within the creative industry & I am confident that I will take on a career within them."

Student

Teacher CPD

Our artist-led sessions introduce teachers to new approaches and ideas on how to use tools and resources already available to them, to run arts-based activities in the classroom and consider the benefits of integrating art into other subject areas. By embedding cross-curricular links in schools, we believe in fostering a creative curriculum and a creative culture, in order to engage students in alternative ways.



100% of teachers say there is an improvement in the art curriculum since start of project

69% of teachers say children's outcomes in art have significantly improved

69% of teachers say their confidence in teaching art has improved after receiving specialist training



Essex Primary School

In Essex Primary, part of our Sarah Bonnell consortium, Sara Heywood continues working on a three-year project focused on developing the school's arts curriculum through equipping teachers with the skills and confidence to implement

newly designed units. This includes a collaborative evaluation of the project's positive impact and embedding a reflective approach in assessment and delivery after the project's end.

"The collaboration has infused new energy & creativity into our teaching methods, offering innovative approaches & resources that engage students at every level."

Teacher

"The project has given us so many fantastic ideas; it has been a real gift. I thought I was confident already & didn't realise I had barriers, but it has opened & expanded my mind about how to approach Art."

Teacher

Enfield Town Schools' Partnership

Between 2021-2023, Bow Arts collaborated with Enfield Town Schools' Partnership (ETSP) on a two-year CPD programme, funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Teacher Development Fund (TDF). Together with five artists and ten schools, we delivered the 'Making a Mark - developing Art Specialists in the Classroom' programme. The aim of the programme was to deliver high quality, skills-based artist-led CPD for teachers from ten primary schools in Enfield over two academic years, to support them to become autonomous in their delivery of arts-based learning. Each school chose their preferred artform for the CPD, and focused on either Clay with

Esther Neslen, Drawing with Jasmin Bhanji, Painting with Daniel Wallis, Photography with Sara Heywood or Printmaking with Tom Berry. On completion of the programme the lead teachers were confident in embedding their chosen skill into the curriculum and leading on practical classroom delivery.

5 artists

10 schools

2 academic years

226 teachers engaged

229 CPD sessions

35 group meetings

41 online resources

Our Artist Educators

We value the vital role our artist educators play in the successful delivery of our programme & seek to create continuous opportunities for professional growth & development.

We currently have a community of 69 artist educators, with diverse artistic practices & specialisms.

Our annual artist educator survey shows that 58% of respondents have engaged in wider Bow Arts opportunities, such as Bow Skills & Bow Families.

Three of our artist educators, Tom Berry, Miyuki Kasahara & Woo Jin Joo, were also selected for the annual Bow Open exhibition at the Nunnery Gallery in 2023.



Educators' Retreat 2024: Climate Conscious Arts Learning

As part of our commitment to develop artists' education practice, we facilitate an annual two-day programme for artist educators and creative education practitioners, free of charge.

This year's iteration of the programme prompted discussions around the value of the visual arts as a tool of addressing

the complexity of climate issues and environmental justice when working with children and young people.

Over two days in February, 48 artist educators gathered at the Old Diorama Arts Centre to gain insights from guest speakers and researchers Andy Belfield and Beatriz Lobo Britto, and to explore

new art-making techniques through workshops led by Bow Arts artist educators Yuliya Krylova, Sadegh Aleahmad, Hernan Guardamagna and Cecily Loveys Jervoise. Together, participants engaged in conversations around how artistic practice can make a positive impact inside and outside the classroom.

"I have gained so much - theoretical ideas to delve into & explore, some tips on how to embed climate action & social justice theories into my thinking & very playful processes to bring to my practice."

Participant



100% of attendees said the event was relevant & useful

100% of attendees said they learnt new skills/knowledge to apply to their practice

Artist CPD

We strongly encourage our artist educators to continue developing their artistic and educational practices. Bow Arts supports this by providing a programme of free training opportunities in response to the needs of the artist educators we work with.

This year we held 15 CPD sessions for our artist educators. Training covered topics such as developing a trauma informed practice, poverty and anti-racism awareness, promoting positive engagement in the classroom, and behaviour management. We also facilitated skill-sharing workshops where our artist educators exchange knowledge around their specialisms, such as animation skills, in hands-on practical sessions.

100% of participants said the sessions were useful & relevant

75% of participants said they had learnt new skills/knowledge to apply to their practice

"The understanding that the challenges I've encountered in the classroom are normal, & that during teacher training, skills are taught to manage this."

Artist Educator



Artist Trainee Programme

Our annual Artist Educator Trainee Programme is designed for artists who are looking to develop their practice as an artist educator and gain experience working in schools. Over one academic year, trainees support lead artist educators on Bow Arts projects in a range of school settings. In 2023-24, we welcomed three new artists as our cohort. Each artist trainee had up to 15 opportunities to shadow lead artists delivering projects to partner schools across primary, secondary and specialist

school settings. The programme includes the chance to lead an activity or session with support from a lead artist educator, with the aim that they are ready to become lead artists by the end of the programme.

Trainees also had access to professional development through artist-led training sessions covering areas such as Behaviour Management, Promoting Positive Engagement, and Session Planning.

“The experience I have gotten both observing & delivering parts of sessions over the course of this traineeship have made me very confident about delivering my first session in a school on my own.”

Artist Trainee



The year ahead

Next year will bring some exciting opportunities to expand our networks & support more artists, teachers & children in their creative practice.

Artist Educators cover photo: Madeleine Waller; Retreat & Artist CPD photos: Emily-Jayne Nolan; Artist Trainee photo: Nana Ama Owusu-Ansch







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:

learning@bowarts.com

www.bowarts.org/learning

020 8980 7774

@bowarts

**Bow Arts Trust
183 Bow Road, Bow
London E3 2SJ**

