

Working with artists and arts organisations – finding inspiration and sourcing partners

1. Looking for an arts partner – where do you start?

Take note of your local arts and cultural organisations. Most will work with children and young people and can help advise you on finding suitable arts partners. Many London based national arts and cultural organisations will work outside of London. Secondary schools, particularly those that were specialist arts colleges may be able to recommend people or organisations to work with. In some local authorities there may be an Arts Development Officer who can advise.

2. Regional support

The new network of ten **Bridge Organisations** have been funded by Arts Council England, to use their experience and expertise to connect children and young people, schools and communities with art and culture. The ten organisations are:

South East: Artswork www.artswork.org.uk

London: A New Direction www.anewdirection.org.uk

South West: RIO www.realideas.org

East: Royal Opera House www.roh.org.uk & Norfolk and Norwich Festival www.nnfestival.org.uk

East Midlands: The Mighty Creatives www.themightycreatives.com

West Midlands: Arts Connect West Midlands www.artsconnectwm.wlv.ac.uk

Yorkshire/Humberside: Cape UK www.capeuk.org

North East: Sage Gateshead www.thesagegateshead.org

North West: Curious Minds www.curiousminds.org.uk

3. A national overview

The **Cultural Learning Alliance** is an organisation working on behalf of the cultural sector to lobby for and promote the value of arts and culture in children and young people's lives. It contains inspiring case studies of arts and cultural partnerships and reports such as ImagineNation which sets out a convincing case for cultural learning. <http://www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk/>

Creativity, Culture and Education (CCE) is a UK-based charity, which works internationally to unlock the creativity of young people in and out of formal education. Check out <http://www.creativitycultureeducation.org/category/literature-reviews> for a series of useful literature reviews. CCE ran the Creative Partnerships programme. To see a range of their partnerships projects go to <http://www.creative-partnerships.com/projects/>

Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. It supports a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries - from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. To know more about what's happening in your region go to <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/who-we-are/working-in-the-regions/>

Early Arts is a professional development network for those working creatively with young children and families. The network provides a range of resources on aspirational practice to support the training needs of the arts, cultural, early years and family learning sectors. Its primary focus is to develop skills, ideas, connections and passion for building creative learning environments with children and families. www.earlyarts.co.uk

4. Art form organisations it useful to know about

Art and Design

- Engage www.engage.org.uk
Engage promotes access to, enjoyment and understanding of the visual arts through gallery education – projects and programmes which help school children and the wider community become confident in their understanding and enjoyment of the visual arts and galleries.
- Crafts Council www.craftscouncil.org.uk
The Participation & Learning team at the Crafts Council promotes life-long learning in craft across the UK. They offer a range of fun and accessible programmes, a craft handling collection and a new professional network for educators, makers and academics interested in contemporary craft and education.
- National Society for Education in Art and Design www.nsead.org.uk
NSEAD is a membership organisation and leading national authority concerned with art, craft and design across all phases of education in the United Kingdom. NSEAD aims to create a vital, articulate, well-informed community of committed art and design educators and practitioners, and to be the key provider of high-quality continuing professional development in the subject area.

Music

- Youth Music www.youthmusic.org.uk
Youth Music is the leading UK charity using music to transform the lives of children and young people, particularly those with least opportunity. They support hundreds of projects across the country encouraging young people to recognise their potential: from a troubled teen discovering a talent for opera, to a group of disabled children mastering skills on DJ decks. They manage an online Youth Music Network for all those with a passion for music to share good practice and get regular information and updates.
- Music Education Hubs
The 122 new Music Education Hubs across England are charged with ensuring that every child aged 5-18 has the opportunity to sing and learn a musical

instrument and perform as part of an ensemble or choir. Music Education Hubs will build on existing music services. A hub is a collection of organisations working in a local area, to create joined up music education provision for children and young people, both in and out of school. To find out about your local hub go to www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/past-funding-programmes/music-education-hubs/.

- National Association of Music Educators (NAME) www.name.org.uk
NAME is a membership organisation that exists to promote and develop accessible and high quality music education. It provides a strong and unified voice for music education nationally, offers opportunities for professional exchange through local, national and regional events, and informs members of current developments via publications and newsletters.

Drama

- National Drama www.nationaldrama.org.uk
National Drama is the UK's leading professional association for drama teachers and theatre educators, dedicated to ensuring that all children and young people have the opportunity to learn through drama. It lobbies for drama teaching and theatre as a curriculum entitlement and provides professional support for practitioners in the sector.

Creative writing - Literature, Spoken Word, Poetry

- National Association of Writers in Education (NAWE) www.nawe.co.uk
NAWE supports the development of creative writing of all genres and in all educational and community settings throughout the UK. NAWE incorporates literature training – providing information and advice on professional development for writers and other literature professionals.
- Poetry Society www.poetrysociety.org.uk
Through its innovative education programmes the Poetry Society provides development opportunities for poets, teachers, pupils and emerging writers. It works to create a central position for poetry in education through advocacy and links with government initiatives. Find out more about SLAMBassadors UK, YM: Poetry and the Young Poets Network on their website.

Dance

- National Dance Teachers Association (NDTA) www.ndta.org.uk
NDTA is the leading subject association for dance in schools. We are a membership organisation led by teachers for teachers who work to ensure that all young people in the UK have equal access to a high quality dance education.
- Dance UK www.danceuk.org
This website is for all those passionate about dance. Usefully it has a map of the UK showing all of the regional dance agencies. These are a useful first point of contact for questions about dance partnerships. See www.danceuk.org/resources/navigatingthedanceworld