

DRAFT**EXPRESS***The children and young people's arts strategy for Brighton & Hove***INTRODUCTION:**

Brighton and Hove is an exceptionally dynamic, creative and vibrant city, in which the arts thrive, providing inspiration that is recognised locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

We believe that arts and cultural activities have a unique contribution to play in the lives of children and young people. We would like to thank our partners and all those who have been involved in the consultation and development of Express. Everyone who has signed up to Express is committed to working together to celebrate and recognise this dynamic environment, and to develop a shared vision with children and young people at the heart of arts education.

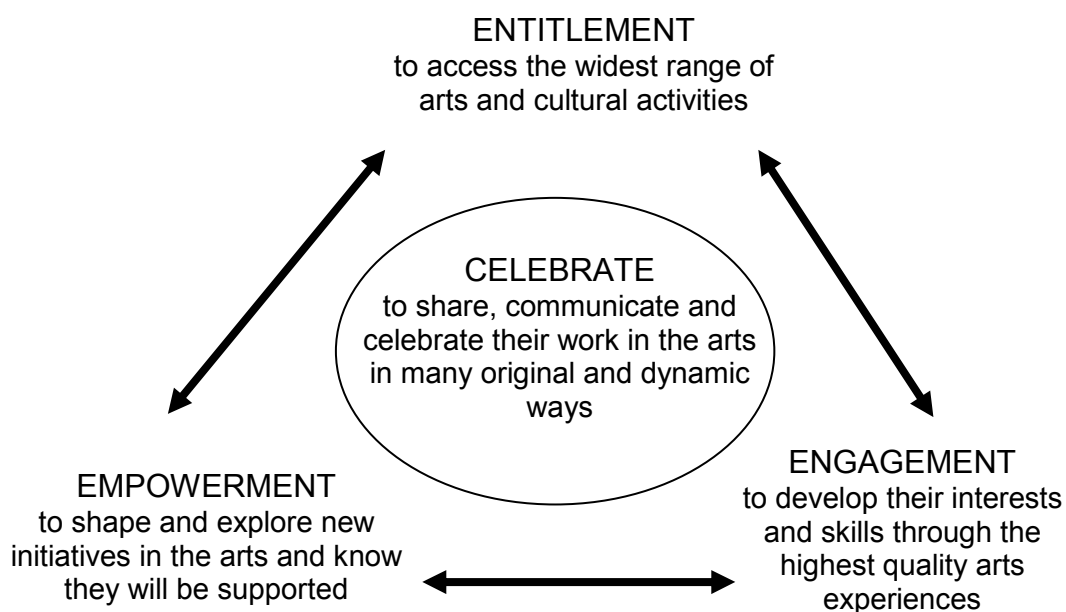
This vision for arts education in the city will play a key role in delivering the Children and Young People's Plan alongside the national agenda of Every Child Matters.

Our Vision:

We want all children and young people from 0-19, whatever their cultural background, to be able to engage with, to enjoy, and to be inspired by the highest quality arts and cultural activity that the City can offer.

OUR AIMS:

Our aim is for all our children and young people:



ACTION

To achieve our vision that all children and young people can participate in the arts as makers, performers, audiences and leaders, we have identified clear targets that we aim to deliver over the next three years. These targets have a clear action plan with success criteria which are available on our website.

Entitlement

- Support the establishment of the Young People's Arts Award across the city
- Ensure that every child in the city has an opportunity to learn a musical instrument
- Develop targeted programmes for vulnerable children and young people, including looked after children, those at risk of offending or with a disability
- Establish an Arts champion in each school, youth centre and children's centre who will form and implement arts policy.
- Provide access to information about opportunities in the arts to children, young people, parents/carers and arts organisations
- Develop targeted projects that reflect the cultures and aspirations of children and young people of the diverse communities in the city.

Engagement

- Support schools in achieving an Artsmark Award so that 50% have the Award
- Create a 'club' for arts providers, educators and artists to share experience, connect and share good practice and raise standards
- Increase targeted training opportunities for those working with children and young people in the arts
- Increase the range of high quality out of schools arts education opportunities

Empowerment

- Work with partners, children and young people to set up a Youth Arts Council that will shape, inform and develop future arts education policy
- Expand arts focussed work experience and apprenticeship schemes for young people across the city, including those not in education, employment or training
- Increase the opportunities for children and young people to take part in mentoring and volunteering schemes.
- Provide opportunities for young people to create, develop and market performance events

Celebration

- Provide a range of diverse performance events to celebrate the achievements of children and young people in the city
- Explore innovative ways for young people to express, present and celebrate their ideas and work through performance, media and technology
- Provide children and young people the opportunity to experience high quality art forms in venues and locations across the city
- Develop an annual Children's Festival

THE POWER OF THE ARTS

From our earliest moments of engagement with life, the arts enable us to learn and make sense of ourselves, each other and the world around us. They record and illustrate our histories and create directions for the future. They are the foundation and expression of our own culture and through them we learn about the cultures of others.

The arts are able to bring together and link diverse communities in unique and profound ways. They encourage us to see things differently, gaining insights that are not possible through fact alone. They can enable us to consider what might be possible and through bringing together intellect, creativity and skills transform those ideas into reality.

Research has demonstrated that engagement in the arts develops confidence, self esteem and social skills. The arts develop transferable skills - the creative use of imagination, thinking skills, empathy, problem solving, taking risk, co-operation, flexibility and tenacity. These skills are recognised as vital in the work place and throughout adult life.

THE ARTS IN BRIGHTON & HOVE

Brighton & Hove is home to a large number of arts agencies and is the home of Arts Council England South East. The city is recognised as a regional cultural capital and is one of the 12 national cultural cities. The city hosts the largest mixed arts festival in England the Brighton Festival and Fringe. Highly creative and gifted artists, arts teachers and trainers live and work in the city, in which 1 in 5 businesses are in creative industries.

Children and young people can access the arts in a variety of ways whatever their background, ability or interest. The city has a number of specialist arts schools, a thriving community and voluntary sector, and a huge range of venues, professional companies and independent practitioners working within and across all art forms.

Our challenge is to capture this range of activities and bring them together to share a vision and develop a common language so that all children and young people in the city have access to the highest quality arts education opportunities.

PARTICIPATING IN THE ARTS

It is clear that we have a thriving arts scene across the city. Thousands of children and young people participate in the arts in many ways, as makers, performers, audiences and leaders. These forms of activity are often interrelated and can enable participants to work as individuals as well as working as part of a team, developing skills, knowledge and understanding about the arts.

Creative Makers

Makers are engaged in the creative and imaginative interpretation of ideas and feelings, transforming them through a process of experimentation and risk taking, leading to new forms of art and cultural expression.

Painting, drawing, writing, constructing, building, composing, filming, designing

Examples:

Children's Parade

A House of our Own

Creative Performers

Performers and presenters interpret ideas and feelings, communicating them in a whole variety of forms in a variety of spaces.

Acting, singing, dancing, exhibiting, broadcasting,

Examples:

Youth Theatres (Dome and YS)

Sure Start Early Years Music

Creative Audiences

Audiences make connections between art they have seen, heard or touched and the feelings and thinking this generates, asking questions that can provide profound insight into both the creative process and into the wider human condition.

Watching, listening, discussing, criticising, learning, communicating

Examples:

Young Critics

Sensitive

Creative Leaders

Through organising, managing, brokering and producing their own work and that of others, leaders develop their own creative and entrepreneurial skills. Leaders enable others to be makers, performers and audiences in different spaces and places.

Directors, producers, curators, managers, choreographers, teachers

Examples:

SED Community Sport Leaders Dance

Digitally Born Kids

Express sets out a shared vision, and aims for the development of the arts for children and young people over the next three years.

Our website gives a flavour of the dynamic and high quality arts education activities already taking place across the city and which we hope will provide a focal point for future developments. Visit www.webaddress..... to find out more about our partners and how to sign up and get involved or contact Peter Chivers, Head of Music Arts and Study Support, on 01273 293425 or Donna Close, Arts Development Manager on 01273 292008!

Express has been developed with a wide range of partners in the city and beyond. We would like to thank colleagues in the Children & Young Peoples Trust and across Brighton & Hove City Council. The development of the strategy has been led education consultant Marigold Ashwell. Thanks also to our consultees: Arts Council England SE, Brighton & Hove Music Trust, Brighton Festival & Dome, Blatchington Mill School, Downs View Special School, St Andrews Primary, Simon Fanshawe, Kentake Chineylu-Hope, Judy Grahame, Fabrica, Gardner Arts Centre, South East Dance, Glyndebourne, Brighton Music Network, Youth Dance England, Youth Music, Creative Partnerships, Birmingham City Council and of course children and young people from the city.