



OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD

Cultural & Creative Education Programme

In partnership with Curious Minds & Lancaster University, led by the Culture Co-op & Lancashire Youth Challenge

YEAR 1 REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The Our Place in the World: Cultural & Creative Education Programme is a two-year initiative funded by Arts Council England via their Partnership Investment (PI) fund and Lancaster University, in partnership with Curious Minds and Lancaster University.

Led by Lancashire Youth Challenge and the Culture Co-op, the programme aims to reach over 150 young people aged 13-19 (up to 25 for those requiring additional support) from working class, vulnerable and marginalised backgrounds, by engaging them in high quality arts and cultural activities, either in school or out in the community.

During this period of global uncertainty, the first year of the initiative focussed the Co-op's collective energy on providing digital and offline educational resources for young people to explore and interrogate their place in this new and unfamiliar world.

In year one the initiative also supported local artists, practitioners and small organisations with much needed financial investment to realise their work.



Change in a Box
Theatre in the Rough

AT A GLANCE

Through the OPITW programme and in its first year, we:

- Employed a freelance producer/ project manager
- Commissioned four projects/ resources
- Established a training programme for teachers and artists
- Developed an offline arts activity resource pack
- Set up a website/ HUB for the Culture Co-op

2020

**PROJECT
MANAGER
RECRUITMENT**

APR

JUN

AUG

MAY

JUL

SEPT

OCT

NOV

DEC

JAN

REPORTING

MAR

FEB

**CREATIVE
CHALLENGE PACK**

**WEBSITE
DEVELOPMENT**

**CULTURAL CARE
SERIES #1**

**CULTURAL CARE
SERIES #2**

CREATIVE COMMISSIONS
[LEO&HYDE, GRAFT, SHAR & THEATRE IN THE ROUGH]

**YEAR 1
TIMELINE**

2021

CREATIVE COMMISSIONS

Acting as a catalyst to inspire and empower, each commission enabled young people, especially those from working class backgrounds and vulnerable individuals, the space to make critical comment on their lived experiences during this time of unprecedented change and uncertainty.

A diverse selection panel met (consisting of representatives from the cultural, education and youth & community sectors, as well as young people) and selected four projects (out of 19 initial proposals); Our Place in the World Now (**Charlotte Barber**), Change in a Box (**Theatre in the Rough**), Double Life (**leo&hyde**) and GRAFT's Young Changemakers (**GRAFT**).

CREATIVE CHALLENGE PACK

Over the Summer of 2020 we developed an offline creative activity pack for young people aged 13-19 (up to 25 requiring additional support) across the Lancaster District. Inspired by Arts Council England's Let's Create initiative, the pack was crammed full of activities aimed at challenging young people's creativity. A digital version was also produced and distributed to partners.

Working with Lancaster City Council and the following organisations, we were able to successfully distribute 125 packs to young people across the district:

- Family Wellbeing Service (10)
- CAMHS (27)
- Cancer Care (17)
- Princes Trust (4)
- NHS Children Nursing & Integrated Therapy (22)
- Stanleys & the Marsh Community Centres (40)

CULTURAL CARE SERIES

A professional development programme for teachers, artists, community practitioners and cultural education enthusiasts wanting to develop their skills, learn about current practices and share experiences with peers.

Series #1 (Oct – Dec 2020)

In the first series we hosted a workshop on the Language of Disadvantage with Dr Diane Potts from Lancaster University and ran two Creative SALONS (themes: creative joy & sparking creativity).

Series #2 (Jan – Mar 2021)

In this series we hosted a digital tools workshop from Curious Minds and ran an additional SALON around the theme of collaboration.

WEBSITE/HUB

In December 2020 the Culture Co-op launched a new website (www.culturecoop.co.uk).

It is a space for members, teachers, artists and young people to connect to one another and access activities and valuable resources.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW



4

Creative
Commissions

238

Young People
Engaged

15

Artists
Employed

STATISTICS

15

New pieces of creative and cultural education responses produced by young people.

2

Offline resources produced (Creative Challenge Pack & Change in a Box).

5

Lancashire based artists supported via the first round of creative commissions.

21

Pieces of digital content created (videos posted on YouTube, podcasts & artistic responses created via the challenge pack).

6

Professional development sessions hosted via the Cultural Care Series in partnership with Lancaster University and Curious Minds.

8k

Given to local artists to support their ambition for creating high quality cultural experiences.

33

Artists, teachers and community practitioners attended our professional development sessions. 100% of respondents rated the quality as excellent and 90% stated that it met their initial expectations.

FEEDBACK

"It's been an incredible honour to be part of this project! From when I joined the first session the atmosphere has always been warm and welcoming. I never felt like there was any pressure to show things back or judgement of what you'd created if you did. The way Shar and Jo led the sessions created a really amazing and safe space to be creative in and the energy in the group was very positive and open. I always felt comfortable asking questions and for help with my project. It's just been an incredible project and I've met some people and learned skills that I'll never forget!" – **Young Person (Your Place in the World Now)**

"The rave lights were fun, and useful after the fact, as I am now using them as little lights for my pencil when I'm sketching in the dark." - **Young Person speaking about the Challenge Pack**

"Really interested to continue the conversations that started tonight about guilt associated with taking time to be creative and the loss of value put on personal and creative development in my sector." - **Artist (Creative SALON #1)**

"This project offers a unique opportunity to showcase some of the incredible work that young people have designed and taken part in during the Coronavirus lock down 1. The booklet highlights many of the new skills that children and young people have learnt." - **Nik Marsdin (Change in a Box)**

"The activities are pretty fun, and you can find a lot of use out of this pack. It kept my mind busy when I was alone." - **Young Person (Creative Challenge Pack)**

"I feel like this was the beginning of an important discussion and I would be interested in joining further events on this theme." - **HE Practitioner (The language of disadvantage workshop)**

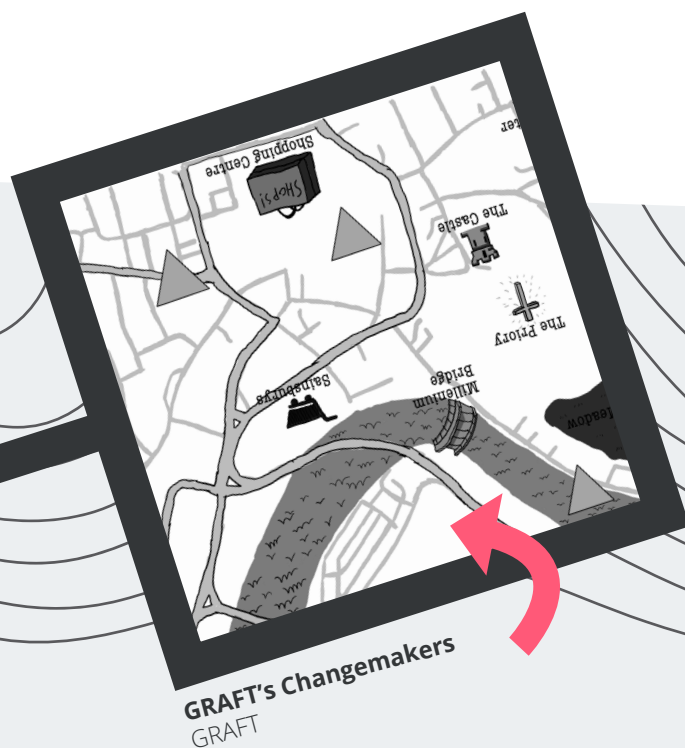
"It is really important and vital that the message is spread about Black Lives Matter and also for up-and-coming Black artists to get a chance. We chose these artists because they were the ones that we feel most represented our message – they had a story to tell that represented the project." – **Young Person (GRAFT's Young Changemakers)**

"I've just watched the video on you link below and it made me cry! We're in such desperate need of creativity and compassion for each other at the moment. And of course, it's a reminder of what we had only 12 months ago; and what we've all been missing for such a long time now. Beautiful." – **YouTube Comment (Double Life)**

Your Place in the World Now
SHAR



YEAR 1 BUDGET



INCOME

Curious Minds Partnership Investment	£22,000
Lancaster University Partnership Investment	£6,000
Curious Minds - Lets Craft	£690
Lancaster University Change in a Box	£600
TOTAL INCOME	£29,290

EXPENDITURE

Freelance Project Producer	£7,785
Project Management Costs	£3,000
Project Expenses	£368
Creative Challenge Packs - Art Boxes	£1,925
Creative Education Programme - Commissions	£8,000
Offline Resources (Change in a Box)	£1,700
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£22,778
<i>Carry Forward</i>	<i>£6,512</i>

REFLECTIONS

It is an understatement to say that 2020 was challenging, with everyone feeling the brunt of the pandemic in different ways; and whilst the Our Place in the World: Cultural & Creative Education Programme had to adapt to these new circumstances, the impact of the work can still be seen.

Producer/ Project Manager

Without partnership investment monies to employ a freelancer to manage the programme and administrate the Co-op itself, it is unlikely that much would have been achieved this year. With many of our member organisations furloughing staff for months at a time and schools being closed, it had a definite impact on the partnership.

Resources

With the development of a number of high quality online and offline resources for teachers, artists, community practitioners and young people, we have continued to offer pathways into arts and cultural education.

Partnership Working

Working with a variety of partners has enabled us to reach more young people than we initially anticipated, however the pandemic has highlighted just how fragile these can be. In year two we will focus on developing relationships with schools and community partners to build the network and our reach.

- Strong, consistent leadership pivotal to move things forward (co-chairs/ management)
- The larger the membership the greater it's reach (membership growth)
- Greater emphasis is needed in year two around measuring the impact of the work on young people's confidence, skill, attitude and behaviour (impact evaluation)
- Schools are our gateway to engaging with young people from diverse backgrounds. Reaching out to schools (new and old) in 2021/22 will enable greater reach (schools engagement)
- There is value/ worth in linking with academics to support with learning and measuring impact (academic partnerships)
- We already have a number of tools at our disposal (Arts Award and Artsmark) to demonstrate the value of cultural education (advocacy)
- Young people being agents of change and supporting the development of the Co-op is of paramount importance (New Radicals)

LEARNING/ DEVELOPMENT

2021

NEW RADICALS

CREATIVE COMMISSIONS

CULTURAL CARE
SERIES #4

ANNUAL
GATHERING

APR

JUN

AUG

OCT

DEC

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NOV

FEB

APR

CULTURAL CARE
SERIES #3

CREATIVE CAREERS
EXPO

CULTURAL CARE
SERIES #5

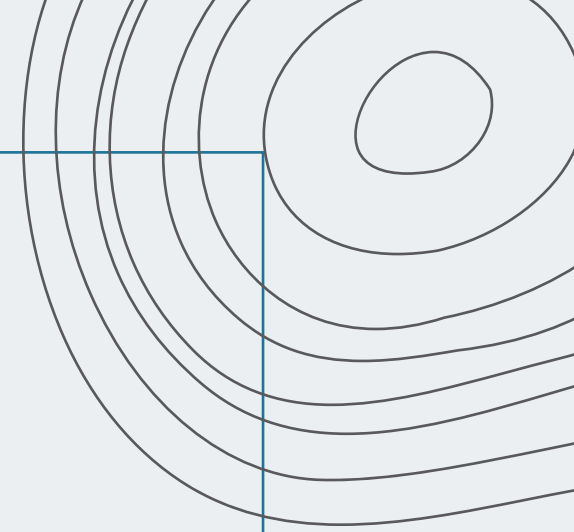
REPORTING

2022

ARTS AWARD INITIATIVE

9

YEAR 2
TIMELINE



NEW RADICALS

[Apr 2020 - Mar 2021]

An initiative set up to support young people's voice, identity and autonomy when it comes to not only taking part in arts activity, but also making, producing, curating and managing experiences for peers and other professionals.

This will be achieved via a paid work-placement scheme, a young people's group and the development of a tool-kit or series of resources for young people to carve out their own path within the creative industries.

CREATIVE COMMISSIONS

[May 2020 - Jan 2021]

Over the Summer and via an open call, the Culture Co-op will commission four new projects, products and/ or resources that specifically target young people aged 13-19 (up to 25 for those requiring additional support) across the Lancaster District.

We are interested in working with organisations and individuals from across Lancashire that share our interest in engaging working class, diverse young people that may not have experienced quality arts and creativity.

CULTURAL CARE SERIES #3, #4 & #5

[Apr 2020 - Mar 2021]

A professional development programme for teachers, artists, community practitioners and cultural education enthusiasts.

In each series we will explore a different topic/ theme. These will be; Young People & Agency, Equality & Diversity and Mental Health Awareness.

In each series topics will be explored via workshops, podcasts and shared meeting spaces.

ARTS AWARD INITIATIVE

[Aug 2020 - July 2021]

We will explore a 'pick 'n' mix' type of service for teachers to develop Arts Award programmes within their schools.

We will work with our cultural members to formulate a compelling and cost effective offer for schools to further engage young people in art and creativity.

This will be a pilot programme explored in year two.

CREATIVE CAREERS EXPO

[Sept - Dec 2020]

An EXPO for young people aged 15-17 yrs to learn more about creative career opportunities, in addition to the traditional performer, maker roles.

Either online or IRL (or a mix of both), young people will be able to hear from a variety of industry professionals, take part in high quality arts workshops and explore a vibrant marketplace filled with information about local, regional and national opportunities.

ANNUAL GATHERING

[December 2020]

An online gathering for Culture Co-op members, partners, stakeholders and local professionals to highlight the good work happening in the district.

The event features case studies from the Co-op and its members, presentations from guest speakers, showcased work from young people and professional development break-out sessions.

YEAR 2 OVERVIEW



The Our Place in the World: Cultural & Creative Education Programme is a two-year initiative funded by **Arts Council England** and Lancaster University, in Partnership with **Lancaster University** and **Curious Minds**.

Managed by the **Culture Co-op** and **Lancashire Youth Challenge**.



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**ARTS COUNCIL
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