



# 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 2 ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT**  
**Apr 21 - Jun 22**

# INTRODUCTION

The Our Place in the World: Cultural & Creative Education Programme was a two-year initiative funded by Curious Minds via their Partnership Investment Programme 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 and marginalised communities, by engaging them in high quality arts and cultural activities, either in school or out in the community.

The second year of the initiative focussed the Co-op's collective energy on providing live, in person activities for young people to explore and interrogate their place in the world.

In year two the initiative continued to support local artists, practitioners and small organisations with much needed financial investment and CPD opportunities to realise their work.



# AT A GLANCE

Through the OPITW programme we:

- Employed a freelance producer/ project manager
- Commissioned three creative projects
- Developed an offline arts activity resource pack
- Ran a Creative Careers EXPO with LMC
- Established the New Radicals Young Peoples Group
- Employed an Assistant Producer via the Kickstart Scheme
- Piloted a new Arts Award initiative with Central School, LMC and More Music
- Ran a series of CPD sessions via the Cultural Care Series
- Supported Theatre in the Rough with phase two of Change in a Box

**2021**

**CREATIVE COMMISSIONS**  
[LMC, GINNY KOPPENHOL & FUTURES]

**PLANNING**

**APR**

**CULTURAL CARE  
SERIES #3**

**JUN**

**AUG**

**KICKSTARTER  
EMPLOYED**

**CREATIVE  
CHALLENGE  
PACK**

**OCT**

**DEC**

**ARTS AWARD INITIATIVE**

**CULTURAL CARE  
SERIES #5**

**JAN**

**MAR**

**MAY**

**MAY**

**JUL**

**SEPT**

**NOV**

**FEB**

**APR**

**JUN**

**CULTURAL CARE  
SERIES #4**

**CAREERS  
EXPO**

**NEW  
RADICALS**

**2022**

**YEAR 2  
ANNUAL ACTIVITY**

## 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 #3 (May - July 2021)

For this series, each workshop was geared towards exploring equality, diversity and inclusion in education, the arts and society.

We hosted a SALON with Ellie Barrett and Saul Argent from GRAFT, where they discussed their process for working with young people to curate an exhibition of emerging black artists' work. We collaborated with artist and music producer SHAR to develop a podcast called *'The Black Square: How can we move past performative allegiance to enact real change in the arts.'*

### Series #4 (September - November 2021)

In this series, we explored the topic of young people taking the lead in the arts.

We invited Rachel Parsons from More Music to share their approach to giving young people a

voice in the work that they do. We also hosted a podcast with a group of students from Lancaster and Morecambe College, where we asked them what they thought the world would look like in five years, and where they saw themselves within that world.

### Series #5 (January - March 2022)

In our final series we hosted two workshops, one for professionals and one for young people around co-creation, the act of opening a project up to the participants, enabling them to make decisions about how the project runs/ develops.

For the professionals workshop, we invited Lauren Zawadzki from Deco Publique to reflect on The FOLD, a co-created programme with young people from the Lakes and Dales.

In the young people's session, we invited Matt Woodhead from LUNG Theatre to discuss their approach to incorporating activism into their work.



New Radicals  
LUNG Theatre

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

## CREATIVE COMMISSIONS

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

The three selected projects were; **Now You See It** from Lancaster and Morecambe College, **Brain Hacks** by Ginny Koppenhol, and **FUTURE5** from Lancaster University and Lancashire Youth Challenge.

### Now You See It

Art & Design students from Lancaster and Morecambe College were given the opportunity to work with site specific artist Steve Messam on a project exploring ideas for transforming their local environments.

Over six months the young people created large inflatable sculptures and located them in spaces across Morecambe, encouraging debate and discussion about the public landscape. After this, they then created visual proposals for longer-term interventions, which were presented in shop windows across Morecambe.

### Brain Hacks & the Light Bulb Moments Exhibition

A mobile phone photography project focused on using creativity as a tool for emotional wellbeing, Ginny Koppenhol produced and delivered this project with young people from Our Lady's Catholic College, Lancaster, which culminated in an exhibition at the college and More Music in Morecambe.

### Future5

Working with a number of professional artists, five groups of young people were asked what life would look like for them in five years, and as a response, created five original one-minute short films for a public digital exhibition at the Arndale shopping centre in Morecambe.



## CREATIVE CHALLENGE PACK

Over the Summer of 2021 we developed and distributed another 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 inspiring young people's creativity.

For this second round, and with it being funded in part by the Craft Council, we sought support from the co-op members to update the activities, bringing it in line with the Craft Council's principles.

With support from young people at Lancaster and Morecambe college, the packs were built and then sent to groups at Carnforth High School, LMC (Aspire Group), Bay Leadership Academy, Central Lancaster High School and Our Ladies Catholic College.

The offline packs engaged 200+ young people across the district. A digital version was also produced and disseminated to all COOP partners and hosted on the Culture COOP website.



## NEW RADICALS

In January 2022, ten young people took part in a series of 12 weekly two-hour sessions to develop a brand-new project.

With support from the Project Producer, Assistant Arts Producer (Kickstarter) and visiting guests, the young people worked together to curate an LGBTQIA+ artistic safe space called 'Home is Where the Art is'.

The event consisted of an exhibition of the young people's work, a queer cafe, sensory chill space, and sustainable marketplace with materials developed by the young people.

### Exhibition

With a number of the young people identifying as queer, they each developed a unique artistic response to the theme of identity.

### Queer Cafe

Identifying a need for there to be more safe spaces for queer young people in the area, the group decided to create a Cottagecore themed cafe space within the Cornerstone Building.

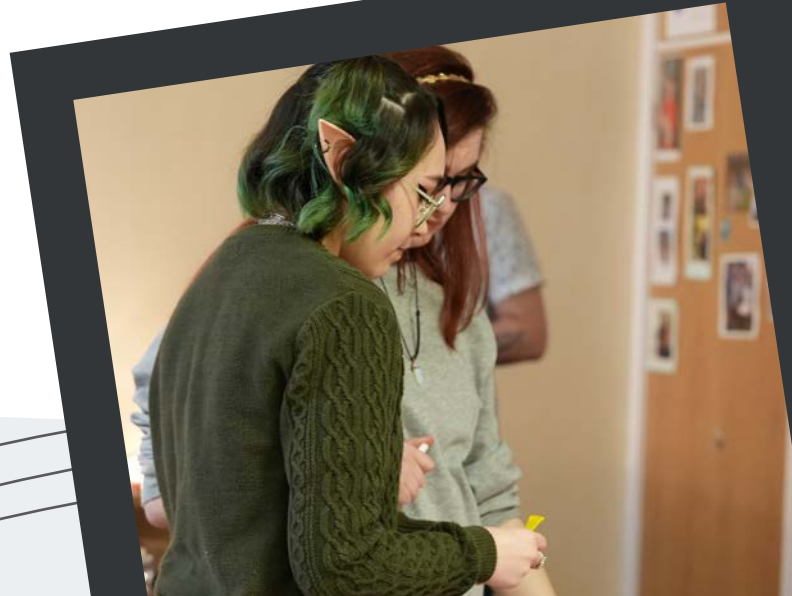
### Sensory Space

Wanting to support those with mental health issues, the group decided to create a sensory space with wireless headsets playing calming soundscapes, mood lighting and sensory toys.

### Marketplace

With many of the group being passionate about the environment and sustainability, they decided to develop a small marketplace with reprinted T-shirts from charity shops and small prints of their work.

The event ran on Sunday the 3rd of April 2022 at the Cornerstone Building, Lancaster.



## ARTS AWARD

In partnership with Lancaster and Morecambe College, the Co-op worked with More Music and Central Lancaster High School to develop a new pilot Bronze Arts Award project for year nine students.

The students worked with professionals in music production and animation, shared their skills with others, watched live and online performances and researched artists who inspired them.

The premise of the pilot was two-fold; firstly to see whether a bespoke offer could be developed via the Co-op to encourage more schools to deliver Arts Award, and secondly, to see if the Arts Award would inspire year nine students to pick an arts GCSE.

Of the 19 students that took part in the pilot 85% stated that they would be interested in continuing their artistic journey.





## CAREERS EXPO

In partnership with Lancaster and Morecambe College, the second Co-op Creative Careers EXPO was held on Tuesday the 8th of March 2022.

Consisting of workshops and a careers marketplace, participating organisations included; Lancaster University, Cumbria University, the University of Bolton, Edge Hill University, UCLan, Liverpool Hope University, Manchester Metropolitan University, More Music, Lancaster City Council, E2M, Good Things Collective, The Dukes Theatre, Ludus Dance, Prop Up Project, and Kendal College.

The workshops included:

**Workshop 1:** Architecture & Design with Lancaster University and LMC

**Workshop 2:** Scratch Orchestra with More Music and LMC

**Workshop 3:** Visual Storytelling with Cumbria University

**Workshop 4:** Special Effects for Film & TV with the University of Bolton

**Workshop 5:** Game Design with the University of Bolton.

Participating schools included; Central Lancaster High School, Our Lady's Catholic College, Bay Leadership Academy and Ripley.

92 young people took part in the event, with feedback being overwhelmingly positive.



## CHANGE IN A BOX V2

Change in a Box is an active citizenship arts project for young people aged 14-18. It includes a magazine of inspiring stories from history, creative challenges, and advice for making a difference in local communities.

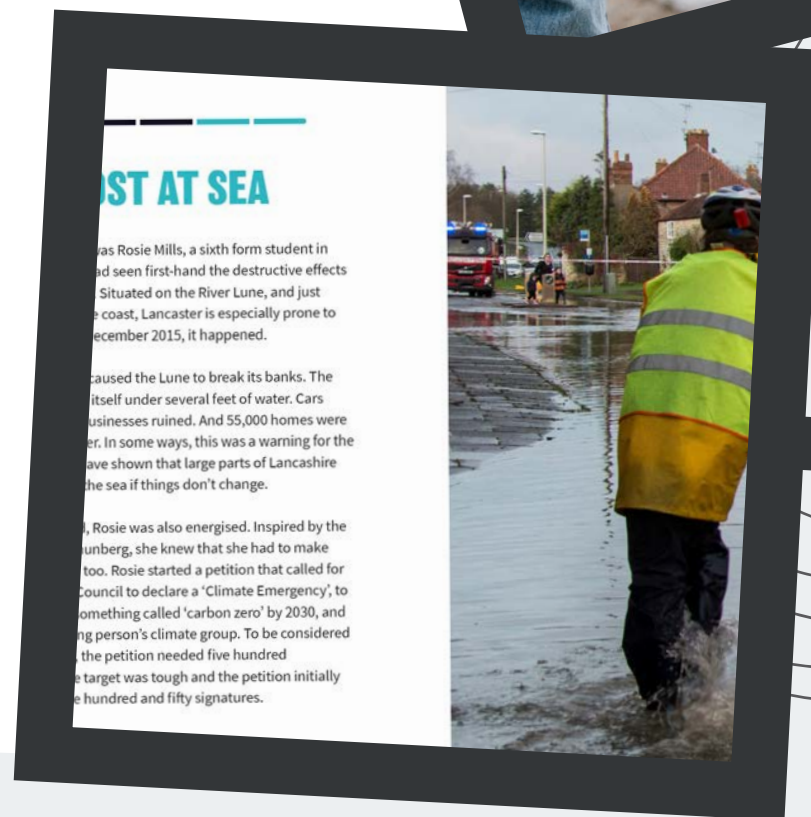
In 2020 Theatre in the Rough were a year one commission recipient, developing Change in a Box V1 for 500 young people across the District. In 2021/22, £1,000 was allocated towards phase two of the initiative, with them seeking and being successful in receiving Arts Council England Funding.

Many young people care about “making the world better” (88%, iWill survey). Still, real, or perceived barriers have produced a downward trend of young people engaging in meaningful community activities. Barriers include lack of opportunity/knowledge & fear of making mistakes. Change in a Box uses art to remove these barriers, empowering participants to speak out & get creative.

Each kit contains printed materials, trinkets & craft-based challenges. The crafts offer joy & a means of connection. They can be displayed online, in

windows or act as helpful conversation starters. Meanwhile, an accessible magazine helps learners understand their place in the world & engage with their community.

This project built upon past success to reach 1.5k young people in Lancaster. The aim: provide kits to every Year 9 student in the city & increase the participatory elements of the project.



## STATISTICS

**3**

Creative  
Commissions

**470**

Young People  
Engaged

**18**

Artists  
Employed

**85**

New creative pieces produced by young people.

**2**

Offline resource produced (Creative Challenge v2 & CIAB v2).

**8**

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

**12**

Pieces of digital content created (videos posted on You Tube, podcasts & artistic responses created via the creative commissions).

**4**

Professional development sessions hosted via the Cultural Care Series.

**12.5k**

Given to local artists and organisations to support their ambition for creating high quality cultural experiences (Future5, Creative Commissions, CIAB, Cultural Care Series & Arts Award Pilot).

**28**

Artists, teachers and community practitioners attended our professional development sessions. 100% of respondents rated the quality as excellent and 95% stated that it met their initial expectations.

**1**

Young person was employed as the Assistant Arts Producer via the Government Kickstart Programme.

# FEEDBACK

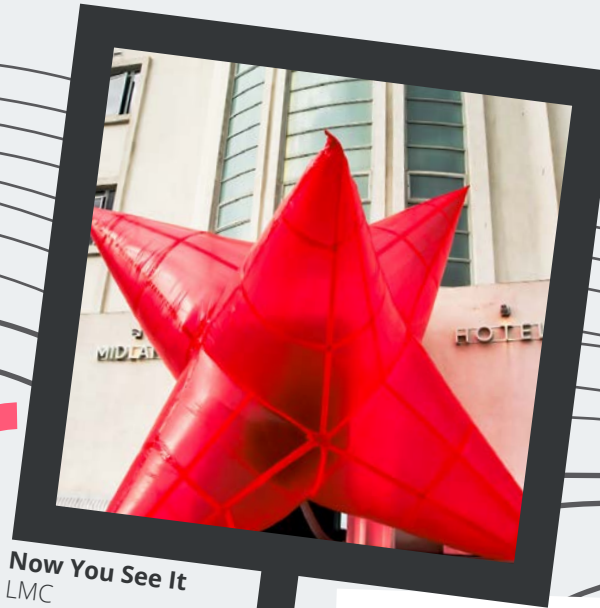
"I realised all of the things that might not seem interesting but given another thought they can become very beautiful things." - **Young Person (Brian Hacks)**

**Brain Hacks Event**  
Ginny Koppenhol



**Monster Making**  
EXPO

"The best workshop of them all! Welcoming introduction, included examples of creative careers, included progression routes. Fun, interactive and inclusive!" - **Teacher (Scratch Orchestra, Creative Careers EXPO)**



**Now You See It**  
LMC

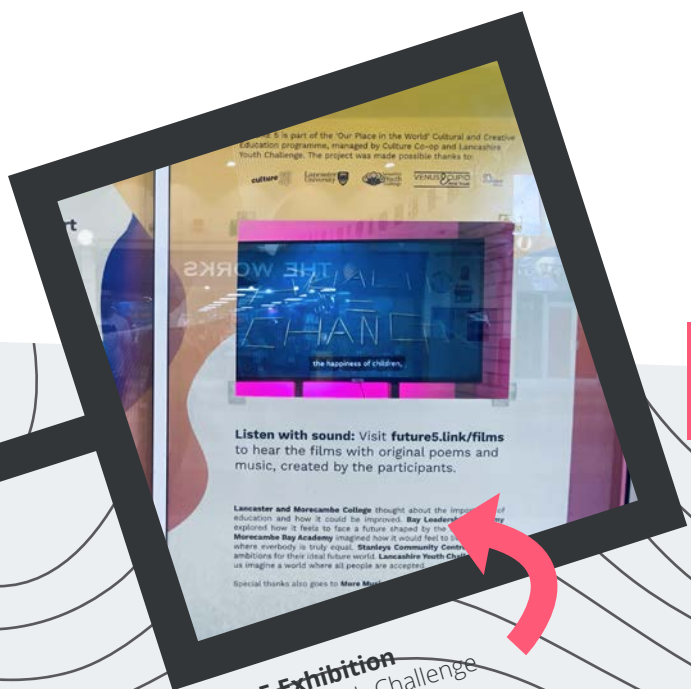
"The workshop sessions were the highlight of my week. I really enjoyed working in this way with the pupils and this is exactly the sort of thing we should be doing more of in school to support our students." - **Teacher (Brain Hacks)**



"It inspired to learn more about climate change and how things are going in the world." - **Young Person (Future5)**

"Really useful to hear about a project that had lots of different kinds of youth engagement - it was well presented and answered questions well too." - **Artist (Co-Creation with Deco Publique)**

# YEAR 2 ANNUAL ACTIVITY BUDGET



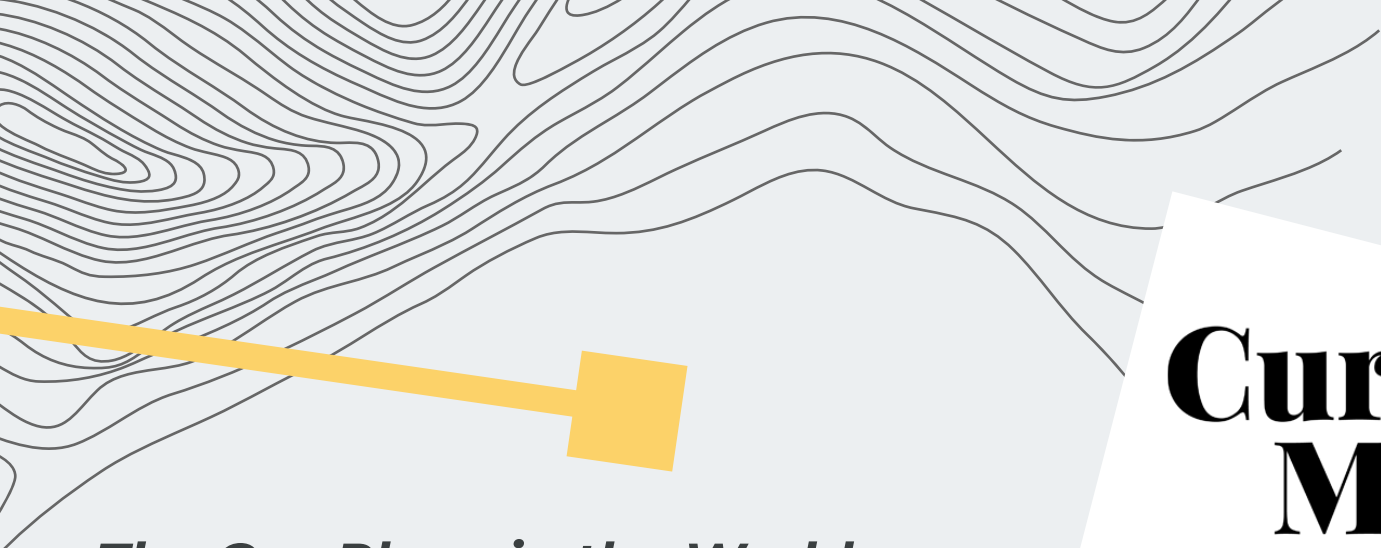
**Future5 Exhibition**  
Lancashire Youth Challenge

## INCOME

Curious Minds Partnership Investment	8000
Lancaster University Partnership Investment	24292
Craft Council	650
Venus & Cupid Trust	2000
Carried Forward from Year 1	6512
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>41454</b>

## EXPENDITURE

Project Producer	13825
Project Management Costs (LYC)	2000
Expenses	1400
Creative Programme	20734
CIAB & Challenge Packs	2495
Evaluation Report & Highlights Film	1000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>41454</b>



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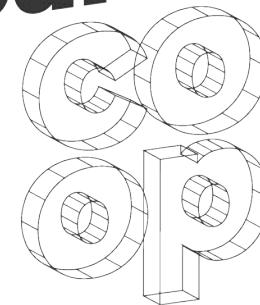
# Curious Minds

Lancaster  
University 



Lancashire  
Youth  
Challenge

**culture**



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**ARTS COUNCIL  
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