

barbican

Creative Learning

Our year in review 2016/17



GUILDHALL SCHOOL

The delivery of our Creative Learning programme would not be possible without the supporters and funders who give to the Barbican Centre and to the Guildhall School.

We would like to thank all of our Barbican Patrons and Barbican Fund donors who have provided a valuable contribution to the programme, and to Guildhall School donors who support students working with Creative Learning.

We are also very grateful to the following funders who have played an important role in a number of projects and initiatives that we have delivered over the year:

- Allen & Overy
- Arts Council England
- City Bridge Trust
- The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
- The Government of Flanders
- J Paul Getty Jr Charitable Foundation
- Linklaters LLP
- Dr Mike Shipley & Mr Philip Rudge
- Nomura
- Paul Hamlyn Foundation
- The Sackler Trust
- SHM Foundation
- Tower Hill Trust
- UBS
- University College London Hospitals Charity
- The Worshipful Company of Cordwainers
- The Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers
- The Worshipful Company of International Bankers
- Youth Music



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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



The City of London provides the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre

The Barbican Centre Trust is a registered charity no. 294282 and the Guildhall School Trust is a registered charity no. 1082472.

The arts have a unique ability to unite and empower us. Now, against a backdrop of enormous global change, it feels more important than ever that everyone can access and meaningfully engage with them.

Our work cultivates creativity, curiosity and craft, and last year we reached more than 80,000 people of all ages and backgrounds. I am privileged to witness the transformative effect of the arts on individual lives every day. From *Barbican Blocks*, our 'squishy squashy adventure for under-fives', to *Creative Careers*, for young people wanting to break into the creative industries, to *The Messengers*, a band formed of Guildhall School musicians and adults with experience of homelessness, everything we do has social inclusion at its core.

It is vital that our work, which focuses on five key areas – Young Creatives, Communities, Schools and Colleges, Emerging and Practising Artists, and Public Events – is relevant and accessible to all.

This is why we have thirty fantastic Community Ambassadors, aged from 17 to 62, working to connect their local east London communities with our world-class arts and learning. It has proven an excellent way of helping people –

often with little to no experience of the arts – to feel welcome.

New initiatives this year include Associate Schools, where we work closely with three schools over three years to embed creativity across the curriculum; our new Young Songwriters talent development programme; and the Barbican's first Youth Panel, to further increase youth voice.

We also achieved a long-held ambition – to take our work outside of London. Barbican Box's positive impact on students and teachers from schools and colleges across Manchester was truly special to see and we look forward to working with our Manchester partners again in 2018.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported us so far. It's an exciting time for Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning and we hope you enjoy reading our latest Year in Review.

Jenny Mollica
Head of Creative Learning
Barbican / Guildhall School of Music & Drama
barbican.org.uk/creativelearning

In 2016/17

We inspired people to discover and love the arts

13,000

people of all ages and backgrounds participated in our programmes and workshops

68,576

people accessed world-class arts for free by attending our events produced alongside our partners

Our Young Barbican membership scheme now has

42,120

members who enjoy heavily discounted tickets to art, film, music, theatre and dance, as well as exclusive events

'The most impressive feat the Barbican has achieved is the makeup of these members: 91% are new to the Barbican when they join, showing that a lot of young people are interested in the arts.'

Harry Rosehill, *Londonist*

Spotlight

Walthamstow Garden Party

In July, almost 34,000 people headed to our fourth Walthamstow Garden Party to celebrate the creativity of local communities and enjoy performances from leading international artists. The free festival – presented by the Barbican, Waltham Forest Council and Create – included our Earthly Paradise tent, featuring a range of brilliant performances from talented young people. The line-up included our Junior Poets, Young Poets and Young Songwriters. In total, 450 children and young people performed across the festival.

'Walthamstow Garden Party was an unbelievable experience. I was able to perform so freely and gain the confidence I needed. It was the best place to perform my own song for the first time, the atmosphere and vibe was so supportive and encouraging.'

Baljeet Kaur, *Young Songwriter*



We created an ambitious learning and participation programme for people of all ages and backgrounds



The Messengers performed in front of

19,000

people on Saturday at Walthamstow Garden Party

'I feel I am needed, and part of something. It doesn't matter that other things in my life are hard. The band helps me to make music, smile and laugh.'

Participant, *The Messengers*

4,548

under-fives and their parents/ carers enjoyed imaginative child-led play at 95 Barbican Blocks sessions

'I have been three times now with my one year old, and she absolutely loves it! It's made the Barbican a great place for us to go during the week.'

Participant, *Barbican Blocks*



We launched our Associate Schools programme and collaborated with

951

students and provided

1,130

contact hours with teachers from **Greenleaf Primary School in Waltham Forest; Sydney Russell secondary school in Dagenham and the Garden School in Hackney, for learners with autism**

MMus Leadership students gave weekly performances in the elderly care wards at the Royal Free Hospital and University College Hospital that helped to create a calm and welcoming environment for patients and staff

'While the musicians are here playing their songs [patients] become something more than a diagnosis [...] it's a beautiful and refreshing thing to see.'

Danielle Wilde, *Royal Free Trust Dementia Lead*

Spotlight

Barbican Box

1,126 students from 33 schools took part in Barbican Box, creating original theatre, art or music over six months. This year, we launched our first primary school Box, and – thanks to funding from the Lord Mayor's Appeal – took the programme outside of London for the first time, to four schools and colleges across Manchester where we worked in partnership with HOME, UAL Awarding Body and leading theatre company Complicite.

'Working with the Barbican and Complicite has been amazing. For students from a small town in the North West to be able to work with two world-known theatre establishments has really helped to put their learning into a wider context and establish aspirations beyond their local area.'

Michelle Mahoney, *Teacher of Dance and Performance, Carmel College, Manchester*

And developed the artists and creative industry professionals of today and tomorrow



45

teachers attended our first **TeachMeet** event in May, which was open to teachers looking to integrate the arts into their classrooms

'Slick, informative, inspirational'

Participant, *TeachMeet*

134

young people were supported through in-depth talent development programmes including **Future Band, (Im)Possibilities, Young Photographers, Young Poets, Young Programmers, Young Reviewers, Young Songwriters and Young Visual Arts Group**

'I've participated in quite a few youth programmes and this is by far the best. People at other venues can't believe what we've done.'

Nimmo Ismail, *Young Programmers*



Spotlight

Open Labs

Our Open Labs give artists and companies a week in the Barbican's Pit Theatre to explore, experiment and develop new ideas. In March, the choreographer Rhiannon Faith worked with a cast of seven women with experience of domestic abuse to develop *Smack That (a conversation)*. The resulting piece shines a light on the complex subject of domestic abuse in an empowering and participatory performance highlighting human resilience. It will now feature as part of the Barbican's 2018 season *The Art of Change*.

'The Open Lab has been fundamental in our development as a company. It was such a brilliant experience and a wonderful place to have a creative residency. Our work has since been booked at a number of venues and opened up really important opportunities.'

Rhiannon Faith, *Open Lab artist*

19

students are now enrolled in **Guildhall School's BA (Hons) in Performance and Creative Enterprise – a pioneering course for artists looking to develop skills for arts industry employment – developed in association with the Barbican**

500

young people attended **11 Creative Careers seminars** on topics ranging from event production to freelancer finances and marketing

'These sessions have allowed us to learn and interact with each other which has given me the confidence to progress in a road I thought was closed to me!'

Jordan Hutchinson, *Creative Careers*

