



# Shout Out for the Arts

A LOCAL CULTURAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP  
YOUTH VOICE CASE STUDY



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

# About Shout Out for the Arts

**Shout Out for the Arts** is a Local Education Partnership (LCEP) for Warwickshire and the first youth-led LCEP in England.

LCEPs are groups of people and organisations who join forces to support children and young people to fulfil their creative potential and access high-quality cultural experiences. Shout Out for the Arts consists of a Youth Board of young people aged 9-25 and a steering group of partner organisations.

We believe young people should be heard and listened to about **WHAT** they want to access in arts, culture and heritage and **HOW** they want to access it.

## Shout Out for the Arts Mission Statement



### Shout Out for the Arts Steering Group

Arts Connect

Child Friendly Warwickshire

Compton Verney

Heritage & Culture Warwickshire

Motionhouse

Royal Shakespeare Company

Rugby Art Gallery & Museum

Warwickshire Libraries

Warwickshire County Council

Warwickshire Music Hub

**Shout Out for the Arts** was formed in 2020 following a consultation process led by young people and adults that asked young people:

- What do you want to say/share about Arts in your area?
- What does Arts and Culture mean where you live in Warwickshire?
- What else would you like to see happen?

From this consultation has resulted a video sharing young people's views, a mission statement and a successful bid for Partnership Investment funds from the region's Bridge Organisation, Arts Connect. This funding has supported

- Training for new Young Arts Ambassadors in schools and youth groups to co-design and co-deliver live events in their locality
- Developing Teacher Ambassadors to support Young Arts Ambassadors in schools
- Positive representation of careers in arts and culture and pathways for young people
- Work to create space for young people to sit on cultural boards in the region

Find out more at:

<https://shoutoutforthearts.co.uk/>

See the consultation video at:

<https://youtu.be/IY2lgSS7J5Q>

Enjoy Unravel the Arts Podcasts here:

<https://shoutoutforthearts.co.uk/podcast/>

# Young Arts Ambassadors

The Young Arts Ambassadors programme has recruited young people as activists for the arts the schools and youth clubs across Warwickshire. It consists of

- A training workshop in each school
- Funding for Ambassadors to deliver their own project, on submission of a proposal form

Workshops have supported young people to identify priority and create an action plan, drawing on the different skills within their group. They then work with teachers or youth workers to deliver their ideas, with some contributions from Shout Out partner organisations.

Heathcote Primary School,  
Warwick

Arts For All Festival

Kineton High School,  
Warwick

Mural for new school buildings

Wolvey Primary School,  
Nuneaton

Lunchtime Arts Club including  
creating a messy space for creative  
use

Avon Valley High School,  
Rugby

Writing and performing plays at  
feeder primary schools

Claremont LGBTQ+ Youth  
Group, Rugby

6 young-person led art workshops  
and a gallery visit exploring gender  
identity

Moreton Morrell College,  
Warwick

Art exhibition, Gatherum Centre for  
young adults with additional needs

## Extending youth voice



7 workshops in 6 settings

131 participating young  
people



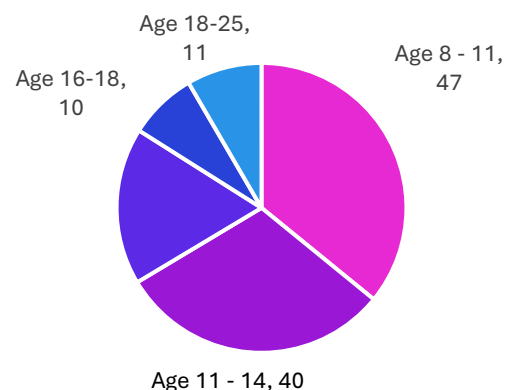
67% of participants are  
female, 32% male, 1%  
trans/non-binary

31% of participants are of  
Black, Asian or minority  
ethnic origin



- Young Arts Ambassadors has allowed a wider range of young people, across age groups, to become active in shaping arts activity in their vicinity.
- Taking place in schools and youth centres in targeted locations, the programme has responded to concerns expressed by young people that access to the arts is unequal and patchy.
- Participants have been identified as likely to benefit from the experience for a range of reasons, not only as a result of already being arts active.

## Young Arts Amassador Participants



# Young Trustee Training

19 young people aged 16-24 have taken part in training with Upstart Projects to prepare them to become young trustees within cultural organisations. The opportunity was promoted via Shout Out Roadshows in Stratford, Leamington, Hinckley and Nuneaton.

Once trained, Young Trustees have applied for trustee positions with participating organisations. Nine young people have taken up trustee positions with partners including Compton Verney, Art in the Park and Nuneaton Theatre. Expenses are paid and young trustees receive ongoing support from Upstart Projects.

## Developing the Youth Board

An original Youth Board of 15 young people was recruited but sustaining this membership has proved a challenge through Covid lockdowns. A highly motivated core group has been established but attracting new members when others leave has become difficult. This has raised questions about how to ensure the Board is representative of young people across the County.



The Board has needed a clear focus and purpose, beyond the initial funding bid. This has been provided by members becoming producers of a new series of podcasts, 'Unravel the Arts'.

## Lessons to date

Shout Out for the Arts' Partnership Investment supported activity is still being delivered and is subject to an independent evaluation by Earthen Lamp. In advance of this being complete, early findings suggest the following strengths and challenges

### STRENGTHS

- Youth voice embedded in both governance and activity - young people shaping what directly affects them and seeking to benefit others
- The range of ways young people can engage including 'close to home' / entry point opportunities that do not require high levels of prior motivation
- Articulate Young Arts Ambassadors creating persuasive arguments for the arts in their school/youth group
- A creative Youth Board developing a campaigning role

### CHALLENGES

- The capacity of partners to respond flexibly and quickly to young people's ideas where working to pre-set budgets and priorities
- Travel (time, access, cost) when organising young people to meet up from across a large county
- Being reliant on (busy) teachers and youth workers to progress delivery of Young Ambassador projects



## What next?

Alongside youth voice activity, Shout Out for the Arts has delivered two career days around the county, offering young people opportunities to take part in workshops with steering group partners and independent artists as well as hear from keynote speakers about their own creative careers.

In future, the partnership intends to continue to evolve the Youth Board model, and will explore options such as:

- Steering group partners each recruiting 2 young people to represent them on the Board
- Hyper local boards to address the specific needs of communities and ensure representation from across the County

This case study has been commissioned by Arts Connect along with a Youth Voice Evaluation Toolkit for LCEPs in the West Midlands. Both resources have been created by Andrea Spain, working with a steering group of LCEPs, to support those developing youth voice in their partnership to understand and share what works.

With thanks to Shout Out for the Arts and Earthen Lamp for contributing to this Case Study. With thanks also to the Youth Voice Evaluation steering group:

- Shout Out for the Arts
- Cannock Chase CEP
- Stoke-in-Trent and North Staffordshire CEP

