



Public Engagement Programme Overview//

Our programme is deeply rooted in our neighbouring communities of Bermondsey, Rotherhithe and Surrey Docks. We invite professional artists to work with community groups, organisations, schools, families and individuals.

The programme is always free and responsive to local needs and interests. Our approach is focused on working with small groups over prolonged periods of time, both as collaborators and audiences, producing more meaningful engagement.

Our life-long learning trajectory activities start with engaging pre-schoolers in healthy gardening sessions in our allotment, run through primary-school age in our lively Family workshops, to skills-based short courses for young people who can work towards an Arts Award Certificate, and finally stimulating creative sessions for Over 55s in our Seniors Art School.

To make our learning programme barrier free, all workshops are provided on a free, drop-in basis so that young people do not have to book or plan in advance with friends. School visits are planned to fit within the curriculum, mostly occurring on Friday afternoons with any of our drop-in workshops timed to coincide with the school holidays.

Barnardo's research reports 66% of children in North Southwark are in low-income families. Our location in a popular public park, adjacent to the children's playground enables direct engagement with local families on a daily basis. We strive to build confidence, empower children, parents and grandparents to see our spaces as their own.

We run artists residencies in local schools, working closely with students over extended periods of time. We regularly partner with local community groups such as BOSCO Centre, Bede, Age UK, local primary and secondary schools, and universities such as the Royal College of Art and Camberwell College. These partnerships aim at devising the best possible projects for specific groups, exchanging knowledge and expertise with others.

The global climate emergency has directed us to take a more urgent ecological and ethical stance in our programming and we aspire to have a more responsive programme that stimulates cultural and creative experimentation, exchange and have a deeper focus on ecology, amalgamating our long-term commitment of the local community to the gallery.

Our public programme bridges the park and the gallery as open public spaces, activating transformative experiences across culture and learning, engaging our neighbours in dynamic responses to local ecology and changing world through creative projects.

Our park location is well positioned to reach local residents and to target groups of low cultural engagement. Outdoor creative and environmental learning is popular in our area as the park's direct neighbourhood comprises predominantly of dense social housing, where most residents do not have their own outdoor space.

Strategic development of our Public Engagement Programme is structured around clear principles to achieve equal quality provision, evaluating project outcomes and striving to develop both individual and group daily creativity.

Our core principles assert at all times that the content and delivery of all activities must be:

1. Of excellent quality standard and innovative
2. Authentically encourage daily creativity at home and in our lives outside the gallery sessions
3. Exciting, inspiring and engaging
4. Welcoming so that they offer positive and inclusive experiences to everyone
5. Actively engage with children, young people, and those over the age of 55yrs
6. Delivering personal progression and equip the participants with transferable skills
7. Developing group identity through an experience of belonging and ownership