



Arts Award delivery case study

Centre: Peshkar Productions

Adviser(s): Claire Platt

Level: Bronze

Context

Peshkar Productions is a multi arts charity based in Oldham. Through their work Peshkar deliver Arts Award at Bronze, Silver and Gold level to young people who face barriers to arts engagement, or who may be labelled 'hard to reach.' They have been delivering Bronze Arts Award for over three years and have taken 97 young people through to moderation.

Approach

Peshkar Productions supported 20 girls aged 13-16 from two schools in Oldham to gain Bronze Arts Awards. The project ran once in each school and girls were chosen to first work with a partner organisation called 'KOGS' for six sessions to explore the issues of safe relationships and sexual exploitation. Peshkar Productions then worked with the girls for another seven after-school sessions (plus trips) to explore their identity through drama workshops, to create stop motion animation about themselves and to work towards achieving a Bronze Arts Award.



Photo Caroline Eccles - Huckleberry Films

To achieve **Part A (Explore the arts as a participant)** the girls worked with 'Wild Things Drama' to explore their identity through drama games and activities and worked with 'Huckleberry Films' to create [stop motion animation](#). The girls also visited 'The Boo' where they took part in 'The Big Draw' and made masks. Each girl had opportunities to attend between two and four arts events (including theatre trips) with Peshkar to meet **Part B (Explore the arts as an audience member)**.

For **Part C (Arts inspiration)** the two groups focused on positive female role models who were artists. They discussed what made a woman an inspiration and a positive role model and developed ideas of who these may be and researched them. They achieved **Part D (Arts skill share)** by pairing up and

planning what skills they were going to share and with whom. The girls then passed these skills on in the following sessions. There was a wonderful mix of art skills being passed on such as steel pan drumming, iPad editing, visual art, nail and makeup design and dance.

The girls completed specially designed Bronze Arts Award booklets at the end of each session and took part in learning evaluations. Peshkar took a varied approach to evidence collecting (worksheets, photographs, videos, etc) due to the mixed abilities and drive of the girls they worked with and the limited time they had in classes. Each girl's Arts Award was tailored to suit her individual needs and abilities.

Impact

Peshkar Productions reflected that the girls learnt a vast amount in a short space of time. They all felt confident that they could create their own animations in the future and some of them have started to do so in their spare time. They developed creativity and team work skills through the drama games and confidence through passing on skills and acknowledging their achievements. Through meeting and talking with a variety of artists and seeing a variety of artwork the girls developed knowledge of the creative industries and what jobs and opportunities are available.

Peshkar highlighted that the most obvious learning from the girls was that 'learning' can be fun and achievement can feel wonderful. The girls all commented that they didn't think they could achieve what they had done and that they felt very proud of their achievements and efforts.

Peshkar noted that the mixed age classes were very positive and gave younger girls the courage to get to know the older girls and pass on skills to them. They felt that enabling the girls to meet artists, see professional work and then show their own completed work to the artists helped to create a genuine platform for artistic respect regardless of age or status. They also felt that partnerships with different arts organisations and artists, such as Huckleberry Films and Wildthings Drama, was a huge strength of the project and the success of the project was down to the hard work, dedication and caring nature of these artists and organisations.

Comments

'I love delivering Arts Award to young people in a variety of settings. Watching young artists take control of their own projects and slowly develop the confidence to take creative risks and step out of their comfort zone is wonderful to experience.'

Claire Platt, Arts Award adviser

'I didn't think I could ever achieve anything like this and now I know that I can. I'm really proud of myself.'

Zoe, Bronze Arts Award achiever

January 2015