



**Centre:** Orleans House Gallery

## Arts Award Good Practice Centre 2015-16

### Context

Orleans House Gallery (the Arts Service for the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames) has a rich and vibrant history, from the baroque Octagon room, which was designed by renowned architect James Gibbs, to a main gallery which hosts five temporary exhibitions each year - ranging from the historical to contemporary. Orleans House attracts over 56,000 visitors annually.

Their Arts Award model allows for young people to achieve their award (Discover to Gold) through a range of different projects with schools, targeted groups, through their alternative education provision, after school clubs and summer schools. They work with diverse groups of young people from different social backgrounds like those in foster care, have been excluded from school, young people with additional needs and many that have no previous experience of the arts.

### Approach

Orleans House deliver Arts Award in a number of ways:

#### **Arts Award Summer School: Architecture Week!**

In Summer 2014 Orleans House ran an Arts Award Summer School: Architecture Week, where 14 young people achieved a Bronze award in a week. For **Part A (exploring the arts as a participant)**, young people made fantasy skyscrapers using a wide range of sculptural materials. They visited James Gibbs' Octagon Room for **Part B (exploring the arts as an audience member)**. This included drawing different parts of the building in different styles, measuring different sections, drawing their own version of it, learning about its history. For **Part C (arts inspiration)** they researched their favourite architects and created a model inspired by a building designed by that architect. In groups of six, each young person had the opportunity to develop their own mini workshop for their **arts skills share (Part D)**, which they then presented to their group. Skills included portraiture, printing and life drawing.



## Lord of the Cranes

In August 2015 they ran an Explore in a week with Richmond Theatre where young people (all of whom were in foster care) created a play in a week with actors from Richmond Theatre and produced the set and props with Orleans House Gallery artists. As part of the set and prop making workshop the group produced a four metre squared piece of paper with their own designs and then created a giant origami crane to be used in their performance.

## Partnership for excellence: West London Museum Arts Award project

In 2013-14 Orleans House Gallery trained and supported eight West London museums to integrate Arts Award in museum settings for projects with a collections focus. The museums were the British Postal Museum and Archive, Fulham Palace, Gunnersbury Park Museum, London Museum of Water and Steam, Museum of Richmond, Kingston Museum, Strawberry Hill House and Wandsworth Museum. The museums worked with 107 young people aged 8 – 21 who achieved their Explore, Bronze or Silver Arts Awards. [See a report and video on the project.](#)



## Impact

Orleans House have found that the young people they work with respond well to the Arts Award framework. The young people in their Art Forum group are all CLA (Children Looked After) and many find it difficult to see a project through from start to finish. The Arts Award model has allowed them to see the progression in their own work by completing the different units and/or parts. The young people also felt a real sense of achievement when they received their awards. It has helped improve their communication and creative confidence.

*'The highlight of my adviser experience is seeing the gallery's Art Forum lead a family workshop at the gallery. They created the activity (mask making), tested it on gallery staff, created a risk assessment, made examples and did their own marketing. They set up the workshop on the day and explained the activity to young children and their families. This was a highlight for me as I*

*saw the group act like leaders, proving how responsible and confident they can be.'*

**Kate Kennedy, Youth Programme Coordinator and Arts Award adviser**

The young people they work with from a local Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) found parts of the Arts Award challenging as they had low creative and personal confidence. By working with an artist and seeing their work in an exhibition they were able to overcome these challenges and see how talented and skilled they were. Similarly, in the skill share they were given opportunities to use communication skills they were not used to using. As a result, Arts Award has enabled these young people to develop their confidence and skills, as well as give them a qualification.

*'The group of boys now have this award to use on CVs and applications in the future and can be very proud of their achievements. Some of them are eager to do their Silver next.'*

**Ursula Kelly, artist practitioner and Arts Award adviser with Newhouse Centre (PRU)**

## Comments

*'By becoming an Arts Award adviser I have seen how young people from any background and with different abilities could achieve an award that they could be proud of. Young people who I have worked with have increased both their creative and personal confidence and have been thrilled to receive their certificates and see their work displayed at the gallery.'*

**Kate Kennedy, Youth Programme Coordinator**

*'It is important to the gallery to support young people to broaden their prospects and equip them with skills for the future, Arts Award is a great qualification as it enables young people to express themselves and follow their interests.'*

**Rachel Tranter, Head of Arts for Orleans House Gallery**



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