



Connecting Culture and Young People





About Us

The positive effects of arts and culture in young people's lives are well known: they promote creativity, boost self-esteem, generate critical thinking and cultural awareness, foster team building skills and improve well-being and academic performance.

Camden Spark works to ensure that children and young people living and studying in Camden, one of London's most diverse and vibrant boroughs, can access the fantastic cultural and creative assets available to them and reap the benefits of a broad cultural education during their time in a Camden school or college.

As a flagship Cultural Education Partnership, Camden Spark exists to create connections between young people and teachers with leading arts organisations and practitioners. Camden Spark also works alongside its partners, offering project management and fundraising support to increase the breadth of opportunity in cultural education.

Camden Spark's pioneering brokerage model highlights schools' improvement priorities to cultural organisations. These cultural organisations are then able to work with the schools in a meaningful way, working together to ensure that the schools' needs are met and offering valuable experiences to pupils.

We love seeing what can happen when curious minds and art are brought together, so we champion the value of a cultural education and never miss a chance to signpost opportunities for cultural provision.

Our Objectives

- For all children and young people in Camden to have access to a wide range of high-quality cultural opportunities at all ages
- To enable children and young people in Camden to have the tools to develop personal, social and technical skills through creative participation
- To find ways of helping children and young people access opportunities to progress into a career in the creative and cultural industries
- To enable teachers to feel more confident collaborating and engaging with the cultural sector
- To work with teachers and school leadership teams – including governors – to help them to better understand how creative opportunities can support school priorities across the curriculum
- To support the cultural sector to connect and collaborate with schools in the most effective way



"Many of the children come from what would be considered 'deprived' backgrounds and [the project with] Camden Arts Centre has helped to widen the children's perspectives, deepen their knowledge of the world, help them engage socially and immerse them in the world of ideas, art and possibilities." Teacher, Rhyl Primary School



Case Study

In October 2017, Camden Spark received a generous donation from Camden Giving which enabled a year long programme of activities linking curriculum objectives with progression into a career in the arts and cultural sector.

Donation: £10,000

Number of artists & creative professionals taking part: 50

Number of schools and colleges involved: 8

No. of teachers who directly benefitted: 22

No. of children & young people involved: 295
Further no. of children & young people indirectly benefitting via teachers & peers: 473

- 2012 - 15: Camden Cultural Commissioning Model launched by the Roundhouse and Camden Council
- 2015: Camden Cultural Commissioning Model becomes an independent organisation
- June 2016: Camden Spark brand launched
- June 2016: brokerage model launched & 18 schools submit priorities
- June 2016: Camden Spark becomes an Arts Award Local Area Network with Islington Council
- By September 2016: 11 creative and cultural organisations respond to schools' priorities
- November 2016: first Camden Spark networking event takes place at the British Library
- March 2017: Camden Spark is established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation
- 2016/17 academic year: the brokerage model results in at least 36 projects and partnerships that academic year
- July 2017: 2017/18 Brokerage Model is launched at a Camden Spark networking event at the Roundhouse
- November 2017: schools' priorities are circulated to creative and cultural partners
- November 2017: receive King's Cross Partnership funding; primary and secondary projects are delivered with funding from Camden Giving
- January to March 2018: partnership project with Torriano Primary School, King's Cross Partnership, The Poetry Society and Global Generation
- March / April 2018: Camden Spark supports Camden Music Festival and Camden Primary Careers Conference
- 2017/18 academic year: Camden Spark actively works on projects in 21 Camden schools and colleges
- 2018: Camden Spark becomes a member of the Knowledge Quarter, a consortium of organisations that focuses support on information and knowledge exchange
- September 2018: Camden Spark receives funding from A New Direction's Challenge London fund to secure its future until 2021

Case Study

Every year, Torriano Primary School focuses on a Sustainable Development Goal and, as a member of Camden Spark, in 2018 was able to utilise the unique brokerage model to create a project to support this, along with the new Camden Oracy Hub and the school's annual STEAM exhibition.

Using its extensive network Camden Spark brokered partnerships between the school, Argent LLP, The Poetry Society and Global Generation.

The result was a creative project for two of Torriano's Year 5 classes who, accompanied by poet Francesca Beard, visited and took part in a range of activities at the Skip Garden in King's Cross to see the work of Global Generation.

The children were then given a tour of the re-developed King's Cross area, led by Jane Temple of Argent LLP, learning about the story of King's Cross as an example of how 'organisations and communities collaborate to bring about change'. The contrasts and connections they saw during their site visit sparked some wonderful, creative poetry. A performance of the poetry, building on the student's oracy skills, was performed as part of the school's STEAM exhibition in March 2018. Podcasts of the poetry and photos of the site visits were also displayed and shared with peers, parents and visitors. The students performed their poems a second time in a junior school assembly.

In total, 60 children aged 9-10 years benefited from the project.

Support Us

Camden Spark is a registered charity and relies on funding from Arts Council England via A New Direction, Camden Council and a number of other funders. We also welcome support from trusts, individuals, businesses and other statutory sources. If you would like to support Camden Spark and enable even more children and young people to benefit from amazing cultural opportunities, please do get in touch.

Members

Camden Spark has almost 100 members, enabling some of the most vibrant cultural education partnerships in London which enrich young people's lives. Our ambition is for every one of Camden's schools to be an active member. If you're interested in joining our ever expanding network, please email info@camdenspark.com and we'll be in touch.

www.camdenspark.com

Twitter: [@camdenspark](https://twitter.com/camdenspark)

info@camdenspark.com

Camden Spark
c/o Regent High School
Chalton Street
London
NW1 1RX

Registered Charity Number: 1172145

Photos: Cesare De Giglio (cover & page 5)
Hannah Newman (pages 2 & 4)



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

