

CASE STUDY: Celebrating creativity in schools through shared learning

The Creative Schools Symposium brings schools and cultural organisations together

Partners

East London teachers, senior leaders, arts practitioners, and cultural education experts



About the event

The Creative Schools Symposium has developed into a key event for cultural education practitioners and schools in east London. The annual event celebrates creativity in east London schools, with a day of connecting, listening, and learning from experts and practitioners representing the diversity of east London's cultural education offer.

A unique and inspiring opportunity for teachers and arts professionals to learn together and build consensus and critical mass around shared ambitions, this annual event has been one of the most highly valued elements of the Creative Schools programme.

"A great initiative, really helpful to have this platform for sharing/guidance and brokerage/making connections" – Cultural Leader

"It was good to be part of such an amazing event and also speak to other people about their experiences with the arts." – Teacher

The Symposium provides a platform to bring together and celebrate all the strands of programme activity, including Collaborative Learning opportunities, Youth Voice expertise, and support for building new connections between schools and cultural organisations.

The event also provides the main opportunity for schools and cultural organisations not yet involved as members of Creative Schools to benefit from the expertise and learning being developed, making it one of the most accessible and scalable ways of creating change together.

Over 100 east London organisations participated in the two annual events (2016 and 2017), including schools, universities, arts organisations, local authorities, music education hubs, funders, health experts, and strategic partners.

The programme of each event has featured structured networking, insights from arts, funding and education experts, and a range of workshops that showcase innovative practice, provide practical solutions, and inspire new ways of working collectively, including:

- Practical skills for the classroom
- Using the Artsmark to develop teaching and learning
- Co-producing projects and funding applications
- Championing youth leadership
- Emerging opportunities in east London including: Queen Elizabeth Park Cultural Education District, local Cultural Education Partnerships, and the East London Cultural Education Alliance

Feedback from the Symposium has been hugely positive

The 2017 Creative Schools Symposium was hosted at Stratford Circus Arts Centre and University of East London, bringing together 140 participants representing 71 east London organisations – a third of which were not already members of the Creative Schools programme.

96% of teachers and 93% of cultural practitioners found the event as useful or really useful

87% of participants made a new connection at the event

The number of teachers in attendance doubled between 2016 and 2017