

Committee(s)	Dated:
Education Board	18/03/21
Subject: Culture Mile Learning Update	
Report of: Sharon Ament, Director, Museum of London	
Report author: Frazer Swift, Head of Learning & Engagement, Museum of London Beth Crosland, Senior Programme Manager (Culture Mile Learning)	

Summary

This report provides an update on the activities of Culture Mile Learning (CML) since the previous report at the 19 November 2020 meeting. The report includes:

1. Key programme updates
2. Wider strategic developments
3. A reporting timeline
4. Evaluation report by Bop Consulting of the Fusion Prize process in **Appendix 2**.

Main Report

Key programme updates

1. Fusion Prize

Work is well underway with the Fusion Prize winners, Play Nice. Their project, The Pattern, is an alternative curriculum in cultural production for aspiring creatives from underrepresented groups including climate justice advocates, Black gender nonconforming voices, Muslim womxn and Black, Indigenous and People of Colour. It supports them to develop key creative employability skills and then to develop ambitious community projects with some of Culture Mile's (CM) partners. The four-week online curriculum was launched on the 22nd February with 22 participants aged 18-25.

The Pattern has been generating huge interest from young Londoners and media outlets alike. Almost 12,000 people visited the project website and Instagram page during the two-week recruitment phase. Of those, 214 eligible young people completed their application. The project also received coverage in i-D Magazine, Hype Beast, and Stutthaus, as well as numerous blogs and Run The Check Instagram page, which alone has a reach of 25,000 followers. Further information is available at <https://playnice.london/>. The Evaluation report by Bop Consulting of the Fusion Prize process is provided in **Appendix 2**. A separate evaluation of The Pattern as the winning project has also been commissioned.

2. Culture Mile Play Packs

Due the impact of COVID-19, cultural venues and schools have largely been closed since early January 2021. Subsequently, the CML Steering Group took the decision to support the Culture Mile Play Packs scheme with a further £5k contribution in quarter 4 from the School Visits Fund budget. This financial support, along with funding from other sections of the CM budget, has enabled 2,000 activity packs to be distributed through 23 organisations, including four

schools, and a range of community centres and foodbanks. The packs provide creative activities for families developed by artist Kiran Chahal and Islington Play Association who have been working closely with CM on everyday creativity initiatives, as well as art materials.

The next step for Play Packs, of which there have been 12,000 distributed since their inception last April, will be a billboard campaign, taking a selection of imaginative Play Prompts to the streets around CM for passers-by to engage with on their way to work, school or home.

3. Online Mentoring

The Online Mentoring programme continues to grow with 20 young people currently speaking with creative professionals, including a fashion designer, an actor, a video editor, and a well-known painter. Most mentees have been referred through Islington's Looked After Children's Services or the City of London secondary academies. Though the project was developed as a temporary alternative to the CML work experience programme, an unforeseen outcome has been the offer of work experience following on from the mentoring sessions. Prior to the third lockdown, several site visits were made, including to a screenwriting studio and a goldsmith's workshop. When lockdown eases, the young people will be visiting a high-fashion design studio and a music video shoot. Working with a slightly older cohort during a period of transition, whether just leaving full-time education or living independently for the first time, is working well, providing optimism, encouragement, and tangible advice at a pivotal time

4. Fusion Futures

A training programme for young people which provides a series of workshops to help them identify and apply fusion skills to tackle a real-world challenge. The workshops are led by a creative practitioner in partnership with an industry employer and culminate in a half-day challenge workshop tackling an entrepreneurial mission set by the industry employer. CML are now in the development stage with the first cohort of creative practitioners and industry employers, which includes a spoken word poet, a visual artist, an architecture firm, and a global video commissioning platform. COVID-19 restrictions permitting, the first six schools will participate in the workshop programme in the summer term. The initiative builds on a submission to the Fusion Prize and is a collaboration between CML, Barbican Creative Learning, and Foundation for Future London with all partners contributing financially. The longer-term plan is to develop a version of the course for apprenticeship training providers and employers.

5. Teacher CPD

The teacher CPD programme has continued remotely with:

- a. A four-part course for primary schools in the City Family of Schools on developing historical enquiry skills to teach the Romans, including exploring how historical concepts around civilisation and empire can be used to discuss contemporary issues.
- b. A session for secondary art teachers led by Barbican Creative Learning to support the Fusion Futures programme and their ability to incorporate careers provision into their teaching.

- c. Ongoing development work to identify how we can share learning across schools in the City Family of Schools.

6. #mood

#mood is a partnership project with the City Family of Schools to support a joint art project which will culminate in a collaborative digital artwork displayed on the Culture Mile website. CML has commissioned the media artist, Stuart Bachelor, through the studio Art in Flux, to work with the schools. Taking inspiration from artists such as Andy Warhol and Barbara Kruger, students will create digital memes with a hashtag ('#') describing how they are feeling at this pivotal moment in history. The project has been designed flexibly to enable schools to participate as best suits their needs and provides opportunities for practising a wide range of skills, as well as supporting discussions around wellbeing and online safety. At least 10 of the 14 schools have signed up to participate. CML anticipate an online launch of the artwork at the beginning of the summer term and will invite all Education Board members to attend.

Wider strategic developments

7. CML, through Professor Anne Bamford, has been asked to apply by Arts Council England (ACE) to be a Creativity Collaborative (CC). Setting up an England wide network of CCs was a key recommendation of the Durham Commission report on Creativity and Education (www.dur.ac.uk/creativitycommission/report). CCs will be existing networks of schools that will test a range of innovative practices in teaching creativity across the curriculum to establish what conditions help creativity to thrive in schools. The initiative clearly overlaps strongly with CML's remit and CML are currently exploring with the City Family of Schools, as well as Foundation for Future London, might shape its expression of interest, which would need to be submitted by 6 May 2021.

Reporting timeline

8. *Table 1* below outlines a proposed reporting timeline.

Education Board Date (2020/21)	Primary reporting topic
November 2021	Annual report on 2021/22 programme to date and request for funding for 2022/23.
March 2022	Final update on 2021/22 programme.

Appendices

- **Appendix 2** – Evaluation report by Bop Consulting of the Fusion Prize process

Contact(s)

Beth Crosland

Senior Programme Manager, Culture Mile Learning

E: bcrosland@museumoflondon.org.uk