

<b>Committee:</b> Education Board	<b>Dated:</b> 3 March 2016
<b>Subject:</b> Update on the Work of the Learning & Engagement Forum	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of the Museum of London	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report Author:</b> Sharon Ament, Director of the Museum of London and Chair of the Learning & Engagement Forum	

### Summary

The context for the work of the Learning & Engagement Forum is gaining national momentum. At the recent Barbican Centre Board Annual Dinner (18.02.16) the educational as well as intrinsic and economic value of culture was highlighted by the Chairman of Arts Council England, who applauded governmental support being given by the Chancellor and Prime Minister. Sir Peter Bazalgette pointed out the vital role that culture plays in well-being, a notion further amplified by the Prime Minister in February with his speech on Life Chances when he said;

When we know about the power of the informal mentors, the mixing of communities, the broadened horizons, the art and culture that adolescents are exposed to, it's time to build a more level playing field with opportunity for everyone, regardless of their background

...Life Chances Strategy will address this cultural disenfranchisement directly, and with a new cultural citizens programme, ensure there is real engagement by arts organisations with those who might believe that culture is not for them – meaning that many more children can have the doors opened to their wonderful cultural inheritance.

Furthermore, the positive results for Cultural expenditure in the Budget Statement are evidence of Treasury convictions of the value of the creative sector to the UK.

The work that we are doing through the Learning & Engagement Forum directly relates to the priorities of Government as expressed above, it's ground-breaking work, it is fundamentally important and it puts the City of London (CoL) right at the heart of impactful cultural learning policy. We should now focus energies on improving awareness of this work to extend the message of the great work that we are doing to engage every London child.

The Education Board is asked to consider the work of the Learning & Engagement Forum. At the meeting a short film will be shown to illuminate the extensive work undertaken by CoL-sponsored activities.

This paper updates the Board on the work of the Forum which to remind members comprises 14 organisations which loosely come under the “family” of City of London Corporation-funded bodies.

Listed below is the range of collective programmes and activities in which the group has become engaged, the appendix gives the latest data on the School Visits Fund.

### **Main Report**

1. The forum continues to be a highly creative and productive group that is taking forward a number of important learning initiatives. The group has recently welcomed members from St Paul's Cathedral and the City Centre ([www.citymarketingsuite.com/](http://www.citymarketingsuite.com/)). Here is an update on the forum's current projects.

### **City School Visits Fund – enabling out of classroom cultural education for the poorest across London**

2. The fund is managed by the Museum of London on behalf of the City and was launched in November 2015. It provides financial help for schools in disadvantaged areas of London to visit the City's cultural venues. See [www.cityschoolvisitsfund.org.uk](http://www.cityschoolvisitsfund.org.uk) All eligible schools in London were mailed about the fund, and it was promoted to over 500 London head teachers at the Mayor's Education Conference at City Hall at the end of November, and at the Inspiring Primary History conference at the British Museum on 30 January. To date we have received 52 successful applications and committed 63% of the fund for this financial year, benefitting 2,646 pupils. The average proportion of pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium in the schools applying is 45% (the national average is 26%).
3. Feedback from teachers has been extremely positive, with one teacher commenting: 'These children rarely get an opportunity to experience new kinds of activities within London. It would have been impossible without the funding support.'

### **Establishing a Cultural Education Partnership – forging a new relationship with Heads**

4. The Barbican and the Museum of London are currently planning two high profile events for head teachers to showcase the work of the Forum and to mark the intention to formally establish a City of London Cultural Education Partnership (see [www.artscouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/cyp/cultural-education-challenge-find-out-more/](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/cyp/cultural-education-challenge-find-out-more/)). The first event, at the Barbican in March, will bring primary and secondary heads together to raise awareness of the City's cultural education offer and to explore the potential of a City of London Cultural Education Partnership. We will then work with a steering group of head teachers, and A New Direction (the bridge organisation for London, see [www.anewdirection.org.uk/](http://www.anewdirection.org.uk/)) to develop a strategy which we will make public at a larger head teachers' event at the museum in September at which we will also launch the new Great Fire website.

### **Great Fire website – a National Resource**

5. Work on the website, which will draw heavily on the collections of the London Metropolitan Archives and Museum of London, is now underway thanks to funding

from the City and Arts Council England. The project is being managed by the Museum of London.

6. Consultation with target audiences and a scoping exercise was carried out by web development specialists Webcredible and an independent researcher. The site will be a key legacy of the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Fire this September and will cater for a general interest adult audience and key stage 1 school pupils (aged 5-7 years) and their teachers. It will replace the current partnership site for schools ([www.fireoflondon.org.uk](http://www.fireoflondon.org.uk)) which is now eight years old and unable to be viewed on mobile devices. Despite this it receives over 800,000 page views per year. The new site will include an interactive game for children, animated maps, 3D objects and a timeline, as well as exploring the Great Fire and its impact on London through 100 key objects, paintings and documents. We expect the site to receive over 2 million page views in its first year. Other contributors include the National Portrait Gallery and The National Archives.

### **City Stories – Connecting young people to the City of London**

7. City Stories is a day of creative activities based at the Museum of London and Barbican, with input from the Guildhall Art Gallery and Open Spaces, for the three City of London funded academies (Southwark, Islington and Hackney). The aim is to introduce all the schools' year 7 pupils (ie 11-year-olds who are new to the school) to the heritage and current work of the City of London. A very successful pilot was run last January 2015 for 240 pupils from the City of London Academy Southwark. We ran a second successful day for the same school on 2 February 2016 and are in discussion with the City of London Academy Islington about running a day for their year 7s on 21 June.

### **Young City Poets – Impacting Literacy**

8. Over the past year the Barbican, London Metropolitan Archives, Tower Bridge and the Museum of London have been working in partnership with the National Literacy Trust (NLT). This pilot project, which was funded by the NLT, ended in December 2015 and involved primary and secondary pupils from 10 schools writing poetry inspired by visits to the various venues, under the guidance of established poets including Aisling Fahey, the **Young Poet Laureate** for London 2014/15. Feedback from participating teachers included:
  - a. *'Children had a physical experience to relate to and it was an exciting starting point for their writing. I really do want to reiterate how valuable I thought the whole project was. I have already planned in two INSETs where I try to filter down everything that I have learnt.'*
  - b. *'We had two brilliant days at the Museum of London. The students had a really enjoyable and productive time and are in a position to develop their writing ideas to a high standard.'*
  - c. *'Attainment has improved and for some children there has been accelerated progress.'*

9. We are now in discussions with the NLT and other partners to plan a more extensive project in 2016-17 that will create online resources and teacher training courses that other cultural venues across London can use to support literacy through poetry.

### **Celebrate the City family festival – making the most of the Lord Mayor’s Show**

10. On 14 and 15 November, to coincide with the Lord Mayor’s Show, the Celebrating the City family festival took place at the Museum of London. The weekend was a perfect example of how the City’s cultural venues are working together. Over 4,200 people took part in a variety of events including a Minecraft workshop with the museum’s digital learning team, craft activities with the Barbican Library, object handling with staff from Epping Forest, calligraphy with the London Metropolitan Archives, and a drumming workshop with the Barbican’s Creative Learning team.

### **PLAY ON – Barbican Weekender – enhancing a national anniversary**

11. On 5 and 6 March 2016 the Barbican will host a large scale public festival weekend ([www.barbican.org.uk/shakespeareweekender](http://www.barbican.org.uk/shakespeareweekender)) marking the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shakespeare’s death. It will be an immersive, participatory event for all ages, and most events are free. The programme includes a range of performances, drop-in activities, interactive installations and workshops, and we expect over 3,000 people to attend. The Barbican is working in partnership with the Museum of London on two events – an object handling workshop on the Barbican’s Foyers, with real Elizabethan artefacts, and a promenade performance from Burn the Curtain theatre company, especially commissioned by the Museum of London. Participants will go on a theatrical ‘hunt’ across the highwalks between the Barbican and Museum of London, meeting performers along the way. Other partners include the Royal Shakespeare Company, Told by an Idiot, Hogarth Shakespeare and writer and performer Christopher Green. There will also be a Shakespeare son et lumiere event in the Guildhall Yard on the Saturday evening, presented by the Guildhall Library and Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

### **Hard Education – the potential to make a real difference where it matters most**

12. Hard Education is collaboration between the London Metropolitan Archives, Museum of London and the Barbican. The programme aims to help secondary schools across London tackle difficult contemporary issues such as homophobia, racism, sexism and substance abuse through performances and workshops, teacher training and online resources, in partnership with specialist organisations such as Stonewall, Race Equality First and Compass. Research carried out by Coda Consultants with over 60 secondary schools across London last autumn demonstrated a high level of need and interest in the programme. Unfortunately funding applications last year to the DfE and A New Direction were unsuccessful and development specialists from the three partner organisations are now working together to develop a fundraising strategy for the project.

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## Appendix - City of London School Visits Fund Update (8 February 2016)

**Applications:** 51 successful applications to the fund, benefitting 2,646 pupils

**Funds:** £25,026 committed; £14,717 remaining

**Average Pupil Premium rate:** 45%

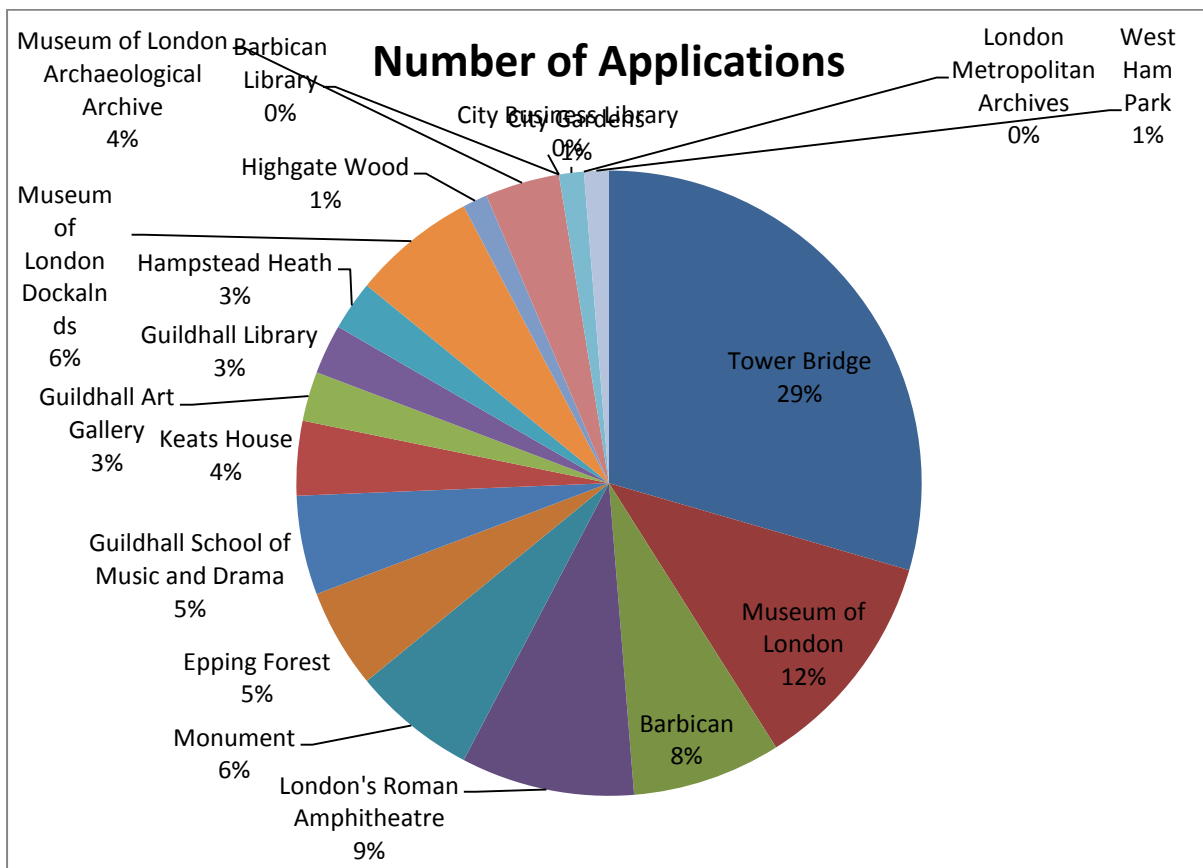
### School types:

Special	State	Academy	Free
6	26	19	1

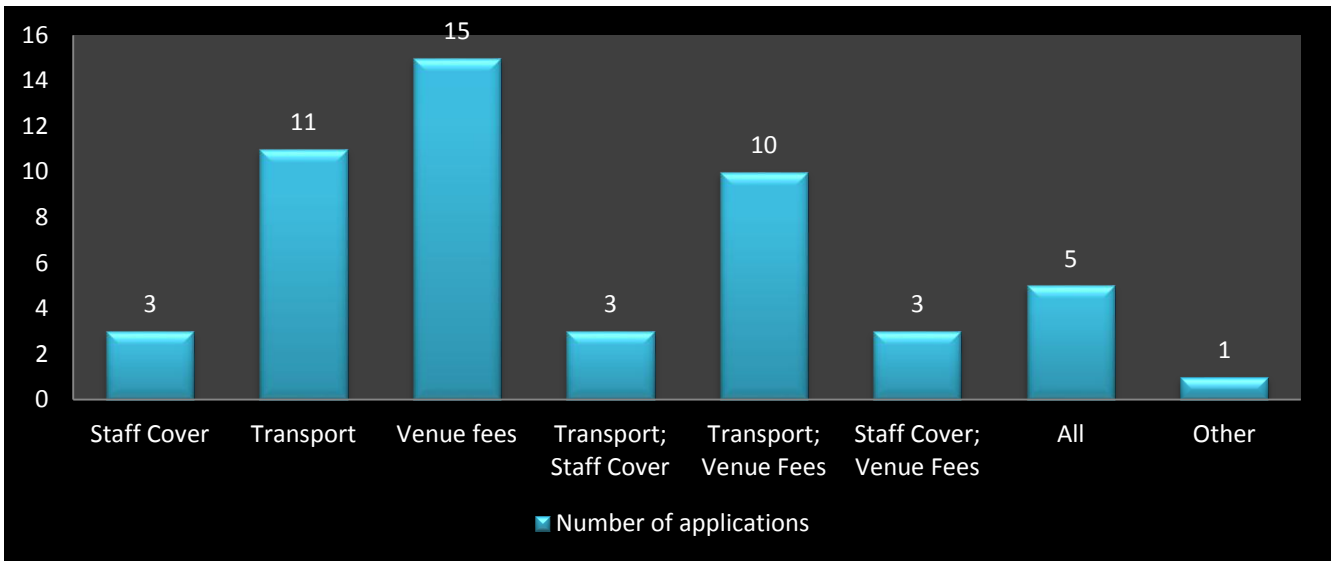
### Primary/Secondary split:

Primary	Secondary	Middle	Special
26	18	1	6

### Popularity of venues:



### What the funding is being used for:



### Map showing location of schools that have applied to the fund:

