

Appendix 5

Impact summary report: Young City Poets

Cultural and Creative Learning Goals, Aims and Outcomes

Goal 3: 'There is evidence of the effective delivery of initiatives which encourage London schools, especially in disadvantaged areas, to engage with the cultural life of the Square Mile, for instance the Culture Mile School Visits Fund'

Goal 4: 'Culture Mile Learning partners offer a learning programme to the Family of Schools for fusion skills'

Goal 6: 'Culture Mile is regarded as a successful learning destination'

Summary of the project including significant changes from the original action plan

Young City Poets (YCP) is delivered in partnership with the National Literacy Trust (NLT). Eight Culture Mile Learning (CML) partners took part this year.

Project delivery usually takes place in line with the academic year (October 2020 – July 2021) but had to be paused from November to March due to the heavy disruption to schooling and the closure of cultural venues and furloughing of staff because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. However, the measures we had taken in 2019/20 to develop alternative delivery models limited this impact. Whilst delivery was paused, we worked with six further cultural partners and professional poets to move to full-scale remote delivery which then took place from March to June 2021. The resulting programme included students writing odes based on an audio tour of the Barbican Centre, character poems inspired by the legend of Mithras narrated by a Bloomberg archaeologist, Haikus based on a selection of Second World War posters presented by a curator from the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA), and epic poems based on hopes and dreams inspired by the London 2012 Cauldron from the Museum of London. The year ended on a high with an online poetry festival attended by 12 schools during which 38 pupils performed their poems. A hard copy anthology of the young people's poems was also produced.

Evaluation data was harder to gather because of the remote delivery of the project.

Proposed cost	£15K from CML
Actual cost (include breakdown)	£16,800 (in line with 2019/20 we increased funding to enable more CML partners to take part) £24K from Audible Main delivery costs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• £9,700 poets' fees• £2,643 events, performance packs and anthologies• £18,060 programme management• £2,000 evaluation
Delivery period	October 2019 to July 2020

What outputs/activities were delivered?

- 930 young people aged 9-14 in 31 classes across 28 schools in 11 London boroughs took part. Of these schools were 11 primary and 17 secondary. The target was 30 schools and 850 pupils. A number of schools dropped out of the programme due to the impact of the pandemic.
- 31 teachers from 28 London schools, both primary and secondary, attended a CPD day to learn how to use a visit to a cultural venue in the City of London as a way to spark young people's creativity. The target was 30 teachers.
- 8 professional poets worked with the young people to edit their work, including Cecilia Knapp (Young Poet Laureate for London 2020-21).
- An online poetry festival provided a performance opportunity for 38 pupils from 12 schools.
- A hard copy anthology was produced showcasing 68 poems from 15 schools.
- Young City Poets was the focus of a panel session at the 2020 NLT conference, Literature by Stealth. The CML Programme Manager took part alongside a professional poet and a cultural venue.

Have the target outcomes been met, and how have they been measured?

Outcome	Measurement/Evidence (e.g. results, pupil survey responses, etc.)	What has been the impact?
30/31 teachers agreed or strongly agreed that the project had had an impact on the development of pupils' oral communication, creativity, adaptability and independent working skills, with impact on creativity rating the highest	Teacher survey	Young people are empowered through the arts to develop their fusion skills.
A majority of teachers reported a positive impact on pupils' writing attitudes and confidence with almost all teachers reporting an impact on pupils' enjoyment of writing poetry	Teacher survey	Cultural and creative approaches supported engagement with learning and curriculum attainment.
100% of teachers agreed that they will integrate the learning from the CPD training into their practice in the classroom	Teacher survey	Supported our aim to make every cultural institution in the City a learning institution and every educational institution a cultural institution.

How has the project improved wider educational outcomes, e.g. wellbeing, confidence, aspiration, etc.?

Personal impact:

The pupils enjoyed working with professional poets, with 83% rating the workshops as 'good', 'excellent' or 'fun'.

'My favourite part was working with the poet to build a stronger poem and being able to express and perform the ideas I have with more confidence.' Pupil

'One student, who particularly impressed me, was a girl in Year 7. She is in foster care and can be quite disaffected around school. But she was really keen to write and perform her poem and really grew in confidence throughout the project.' Teacher

'We kicked off the sessions yesterday and the children loved it. The soundscapes were really well executed and the children are now desperate to visit the Barbican. Great to hear that you can visit us for a workshop Paul [poet], year 5 will be very excited after watching your videos.' Teacher

'Thank you so much for your time, generosity, inspirational ideas and passion this afternoon. The students loved it and were buzzing as they left school. All the teachers were so impressed with their engagement after a long day at school and a long, challenging term. We are so grateful to you for helping them craft their poems. Kayla said "Today I met my hero". The event was everything we hoped for and more.' Teacher about poet, Dean Atta's workshop

'Thank you so much for allowing us to be a part of the festival! Students are on a buzz and feeling so confident and proud of their work!' Teacher

Educational impact:

83% of pupils said that they were better at writing poetry because of the project, and two in three pupils said they would continue to write their own poems.

'It's a fantastic opportunity for students. My students loved it especially this time around as it was something different to do during lockdown lessons and was fun and creative.' Teacher

'I just wanted to say thank you for the excellent session on WW2 Haikus, I really enjoyed it, as did many of the kids, lots mentioned this, as did their parents at parents evening. Even lots of the weaker/ less engaged kids produced some nice work.' Teacher about the LMA workshop

Will the outputs/activities continue?

Yes, the 2021/22 academic year iteration of the project has already begun. The timing and format of the delivery of the project will be monitored as the impact of the Omicron variant on cultural venues and schools becomes clearer.

Ode to concert hall

You are appreciated.
Do not give up.
You are like a piano waiting to be played.
That sweet sound of music inspires.
You are the youth who have dreams.
You tell stories that have not been heard.
You bring life through music.
All the times you open your mouth
Music exhales.
You are what you are!
The violins filling the room.
Keep on going
Thank you.

By Cairo, Prior Weston Primary School – inspired by visuals and a soundscape virtual tour of the Barbican.