

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Education Board - For approval and recommendation	<b>3 February 2022</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Culture Mile Learning - Case for Investment 2022-23	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Sharon Ament, Director, Museum of London	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Frazer Swift, Head of Learning & Engagement, Museum of London and Beth Crosland, Senior Programme Manager (Culture Mile Learning)	

### Summary

This paper asks Members to note the activity that the current funding for Culture Mile Learning (CML) has supported since April 2021 and approve investment from the City Corporation to deliver activity from April 2022 to March 2023 (summarised in **Appendix 1**). Members are asked to approve funding of £247,000. This request is for the same amount as for 2020/21 and was agreed in principle by the Education Board in November 2019 subject to a satisfactory impact report.

### Recommendations

Members of the Education Board are asked to:

- Endorse investment of £247,000 from the Education Board's budget and approve its release to Culture Mile Learning in the 2022/23 financial year to deliver the activity proposed in **Appendix 1**.

### Main Report

#### External Income Generation

1. Funding provided by the Education Board has enabled a contribution of c.3,218 hours of staff time from CML partner organisations from April 2020 to the end of November 2021 which has a value of c.£104k. The National Literacy Trust raised matched funding of £24k from Audible for our Young City Poets project and Barbican Creative Learning and Foundation for Future London (FFL) made a contribution of £8k to our new Fusion Futures project. The success of the pilot year of Fusion Futures led FFL to identify it as a key project for its collaboration with Culture Mile and allocate £50k to further its development and increase its reach in 2022. In addition, in partnership with Culture Mile, c£180K was raised from City developer, Dominvs to significantly expand the vision and scale of the winning Fusion Prize team.

#### COVID-19

2. The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to impact the CML partnership and the schools and organisations we work with. This is perhaps best illustrated by the fact that due to school and venue closures, as well as staff being furloughed, 54,026 (7,275 in person and 46,751 live digital) children and young people benefited from taking part in CML partners' learning programmes in 2020/21 compared to 267,214 in 2019/20 (an 80% decrease). Figures for April to end November 2021 were looking promising in terms of a recovery with 58,145 children and young people (39,826 in person and

18,319 live digital) benefiting in only a nine month period but the arrival of the Omicron variant may cause a further setback. However, the strong foundations of our work in 2019/20, the adaptable delivery models we developed in the early months of the pandemic, and also our strong and growing number of relationships – most notably with teachers in the City Family of Schools and youth services in Islington – have meant that in the main our programme this year has continued to deliver substantial benefit to children, young people and teachers in line with the key aims and goals of the Cultural and Creative Learning Strategy.

### **Overall programme development**

3. Our work has matured into two strong and well-defined strands – Creative Curriculum and Skills Development & Employability. Core to all our activity is how engagement in cultural and creative activity supports the development of fusion skills. Other central threads are:
  - our focus on the City Family of Schools, schools across London with more than 35% of their students in receipt of Pupil Premium and young people facing significant barriers to cultural engagement and educational attainment
  - a commitment to anti-racism, the decolonising of the curriculum, and inclusivity more broadly
  - supporting youth voice and influence

CML continues to make an important contribution to Culture Mile ensuring that young people, in particular students in the City Family of Schools and residents of Islington, are recognised as a core part of the community and that their skills development and social mobility is prioritised.

Barts Heritage joined the CML partnership this year bringing our membership to 31.

### **4. Achievements**

CML's recent key achievements are outlined below with further details contained in **Appendices 2-7**):

- Eight schools from the City Family of Schools have engaged in tailor-made teacher CPD and curriculum development projects on topics including oral history and local area studies, Victorian literature and the supernatural and social justice, and racial literacy and decolonising pedagogy. All projects have the core aim of further embedding cultural and creative learning across the curriculum and building fusion skills to enable creative thinking.
- #mood – 1,000+ students from Early Years to Key Stage 4 across 10 of the City Family of Schools collaborated to produce a mass digital artwork giving creative expression to their experience of the pandemic.
- Online mentoring, work experience and bespoke skills development projects – 48 young Londoners, including many facing significant disadvantages, benefited from our skills development and employability projects. 16 took part in work experience, 23 in mentoring and nine in a project linked to the City's Culture and Commerce Taskforce.
- 955 pupils took part in two multi CML partner site visits about Roman London. A joined-up live streamed session between the London Mithraeum, London's Roman Amphitheatre and Billingsgate Roman House & Baths gave 770 pupils an insight into three key Roman sites and an in-person dual site visit between the Museum of London and London's Roman Amphitheatre enabled 185

pupils to actually visit the Amphitheatre, to learn about the wider context of Roman London, and to handle original artefacts.

- 930 pupils from 26 schools across 11 London boroughs improved their literacy and developed their creativity and communication skills by taking part in Young City Poets, in collaboration with the National Literacy Trust.
- The ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has meant there has continued to be less demand for the School Visits Fund, however it's been heartening to see how the fund has enabled visits to Open Spaces venues who made the most of their outdoor settings by offering regular sessions to nearby schools, including schools with pupils with additional needs and those who had spent lockdown in small flats with no outside space.
- The CML partnership also responded rapidly, warmly and practically to the arrival of Afghan refugee families in the City. Seven of our partners, plus the core CML team, joined the City's Early Years team to staff an emergency playroom in one of the hotels, supporting 52 sessions over a three month period, and subsequently seven partners put together a programme of activity to welcome the families to our cultural institutions. To date 18 sessions of cultural activity have been provided for 367 adults and children.
- Two workshops for CML partners and the broader culture and heritage sector were co-designed with and held in partnership with Poetry Versus Colonialism to explore how we can use poetry in our work to reveal, understand and process histories and legacies of colonialism. Partners also attended Group for Education in Museums training sessions on Black History and Anti-racism, and Developing SEND-Inclusive Learning with Confidence. A cross partnership anti-racism in practice working group has also been set up.
- Our new and flagship project in partnership with Barbican Creative Learning, Fusion Futures was piloted with 90 students between the ages of 13 to 18 across six schools. Through partnering a creative practitioner with an industry representative, the project's four arts-based workshops empower young people with skills in communication, collaboration and creativity to enable them to approach future employment challenges with more confidence.
- The Fusion Prize came to fruition with the winning team's project, The Pattern – a cultural production incubator – providing training to 20 young Londoners. Of the four creative projects produced by the group, Gaia's Garden far exceeded expectations for scale and impact. In partnership with Culture Mile, we raised c£180k of additional corporate funding which enabled the provision of 10 Kickstart paid placements and for thousands of young people to be welcomed to the green space that was created near City Thameslink station and subsequently recognised as Time Out's Best Green Space of 2021.

## **CML Programme for 2022-2023**

5. A delivery plan and budget are provided in **Appendix 1**.

2022 – 23 is about further strengthening, deepening and connecting the now well established elements of our programme so that they can realise even more impact. For our creative curriculum work, this will be about involving more teachers in more departments as well as further honing our methodology. For our employability work, we'll focus on finding yet more opportunities in our growing partnership and targeting our resources and expertise to make the most of them for young people, including where possible providing follow on opportunities. Key projects that will deliver on these aims, the aims and goals of the Cultural and Creative Learning Strategy and of Culture Mile include:

- **Culture Mile School Visits Fund** – our priority this year will be to continue to stimulate schools to return to cultural venues and, in particular, to reach schools in the most disadvantaged areas of London and which have not previously made use of the fund. We'll continue to monitor whether grants need to remain at the higher level of £600 to cover increased participation and travel costs due to the requirements of COVID-safe procedures.
- **CPD for teachers and curriculum enhancement** – we'll continue to work in close partnership with teachers in the City Family of Schools to identify areas across the curriculum which could be enhanced by cultural and creative learning and to devise training, workshops and projects to respond to these opportunities further developing our methodologies to support teaching for creativity.
- **Cross partner visits programme** for schools across London with a higher than average proportion of their students in receipt of Pupil Premium. Taking learning from our highly successful Young City Poets project, we'll look again at our wider offer for schools and how we can activate the resources of our partnership to provide learning experiences that speak to young people's stories, experiences and identities, cultivate creativity, nurture skills and support curriculum learning.
- **Online mentoring, work experience and bespoke skills development projects** will benefit 50 disadvantaged young people and continue to make the case for how our cultural and other partners can support young people's skills development and social mobility.
- **Fusion Futures** will benefit almost double the number of young people compared to its pilot year, deepen its legacy in the schools it collaborates with by involving careers leads and supporting internal CPD to cascade knowledge, and increase its reach through open access teacher CPD and workshops at the London Careers Festival and East Bank summer school.

## **Conclusion**

The CML team and partnership has continued to adapt and respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and to the needs of vulnerable young people, most notably this year newly arrived Afghan refugee children and their families.

Throughout 2022-23 we look forward to continuing to develop and deliver our projects and to contributing to the vision for the City's Cultural and Creative Learning Strategy and for Culture Mile post March 2023.

## **Appendices**

1. Appendix 1 – Culture Mile Learning delivery plan and budget 2022–2023
2. Appendix 2 – Impact summary report: Culture Mile School Visits Fund
3. Appendix 3 – Impact summary report: Teacher CPD and Curriculum Enhancement Programme
4. Appendix 4 – Impact summary report: Employability Pathways
5. Appendix 5 – Impact summary report: Young City Poets
6. Appendix 6 – Impact summary report: Fusion Futures
7. Appendix 7 – Impact summary report: The Fusion Prize

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