

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Education Board - For information	<b>21 June 2023</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Culture Mile Learning – Report on activity April 2022 to June 2023	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Sharon Ament, Director, Museum of London	<b>For Information</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 is a report for Members on the activity that funding for Culture Mile Learning (CML) from April 2022 to end May 2023 has supported. CML's programme in its current format runs until the end of July 2023 and therefore some projects are still in progress. Where this is the case, detail is provided on impact to date and upcoming activity.

## Main Report

### Overall programme development

This year (2022/23) marks the final year of the current Cultural and Creative Learning Strategy and also of the CML team and programme. For five years, we have played an important role in delivering key aspects of this strategy. Our mandate has been to support schools, particularly the City Family of Schools, to embed cultural and creative learning across their curricula and to pilot innovative models that enable young people to develop skills that underpin social mobility. This brief has resulted in deep impact for pupils and teachers alike, and generated some exciting new ways of working.

Our work has been guided by five overarching principles and ways of working:

- Teaching with cultural artefacts and alongside creative practitioners and creative industry employers to enable students to develop the fusion of communication, collaboration, critical thinking and problem-solving skills that support their employability
- Developing oracy skills – underpinned by training and consultancy from oracy specialists whose research shows the centrality of good oracy to social mobility
- The concept of 'Beautiful Work', the idea that young people deserve to work with high quality resources and to showcase their work to audiences
- A further strengthening of the connections between teachers across schools and departments to share, co-create and reflect together on curriculum enhancement through creativity
- A focus on providing opportunities and experiences for the least advantaged young people to cultivate their creativity, nurture their skills, and develop their cultural capital.

A cross-programme external evaluation of our work in autumn 2022 revealed the following key outcomes:

#### Students:

Attainment: literacy and oracy, fusion skills, lifelong learning mindset  
Possibility, potential and agency  
Confidence and self-belief  
Broadened horizons  
Fun and enjoyment  
Excitement, inspiration and curiosity  
Careers awareness  
Development of employability skills  
Belonging and identity  
Representation: pupils see themselves in culture, history and careers  
Wellbeing and mental health

#### Teachers:

Increased permission, confidence and tenacity to embed creativity in the school curriculum  
Knowledge, skills and new teaching strategies

As requested by the Board in February 2022, we have provided quarterly updates during the year on the School Visits Fund, phased out our work with over 18s, ensured that our work aligns with the Cultural and Creative Learning Strategies and worked in close collaboration with the Education Strategy Unit (ESU), in particular on the London Careers Festival.

### 1. Achievements

CML's key achievements during the period April 2022 – May 2023 are outlined below with further details contained in **Appendices 1-5**):

- The recovery and further development of the School Visits Fund. The number of applications levels is now close to pre-pandemic levels and we are at capacity in terms of the number of grants which can be given out. 79 grants were paid out between April 2022 and end March 2023 benefitting c2,370 children.
- The development, piloting and roll out of a new oracy based cross partner programme, Culturally Speaking, for Year 8 students. Run in partnership with oracy experts The Speakers Trust and delivered by four CML partners - Keats House, Guildhall Art Gallery, The Museum of the Order of St John, and London Metropolitan Archives - the programme includes a cultural visit and a full day oracy workshop. 17 schools are booked onto the project for this academic year with eight having already completed the programme.
- Ten schools from the City Family of Schools have engaged in tailor-made teacher CPD and curriculum development projects including visits and resources on topics including the Fire of London, Victorian Era, World War II, Sarah Forbes Bonetta, Windrush, Romans, crime and punishment and creative process skills. The majority of these initiatives have had oracy at their core. We have also commissioned a Maths in Museums expert to support four CML partners to develop Maths focused visits and resources.
- Frame of Mind, the 2023 City Schools Art Project - by the end of June 2023, c300 students from 11 of the City Family of Schools ranging from Years 1-10 will have taken part in day-long workshops to co-create their own group artwork out of cardboard and paper, inspired by artworks from either the

Museum of London or the Guildhall Art Gallery's (GAG's) collections, developing their creativity, critical thinking, problem solving and team working skills.

- 900 pupils from 30 classes in 25 schools across 12 London boroughs are improving their literacy and developing their creativity and communication skills by taking part in Young City Poets, in collaboration with the National Literacy Trust. Five schools this year are taking part in a new module, Writing from Nature, designed with the RSPB to widen access to, deepen knowledge of, and increase appreciation of their local natural world.
- Eight students from the Pre-Apprenticeship Unit at City of London Academy Highbury Grove have benefitted from a bespoke weekly work placement programme. Delivered in partnership with Museum of London Docklands, the programme has significantly impacted students' confidence, as well as their communication and customer service skills.
- 29 students from City of London Academy Highbury Grove and City of London Academy Islington benefitted from a week-long fusion skills-orientated work experience placement in summer 2022 at the Museum of London, Barbican and Tower Bridge.
- We have continued to develop and deliver Fusion Futures, our flagship Key Stage 5 skills and employability project in partnership with Barbican Creative Learning and Foundation for Future London. The 5-week programme, co-delivered by artists and industry partners, helps pupils to apply fusion skills to real-world challenges through creative workshops. By end August 2023 c120 young people will have benefited.

## **Conclusion**

From September 2023, the delivery of this work will be funded through two new grants schemes administered by the ESU. As a result, the four posts that make up the CML team have been made redundant. Despite the winding down of the team and programme, our work this year has once again delivered substantial impact for pupils and teachers. Many of the project bids submitted to the new grants schemes also build on the work that the CML team has supported and developed over the previous five years.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Impact summary report: Culture Mile School Visits Fund

Appendix 2 – Impact summary report: Teacher CPD and Curriculum Enhancement Programme

Appendix 3 – Impact summary report: Cross-partner Visits Programmes

Appendix 4 – Impact summary report: Employability Pathways

Appendix 5 – Impact summary report: Fusion Futures

## **Frazer Swift**

Head of Learning & Engagement, Museum of London

Email: [fswift@museumoflondon.org.uk](mailto:fswift@museumoflondon.org.uk)

## **Beth Crosland**

Senior Programme Manager (Culture Mile Learning)

Email: [bcrosland@museumoflondon.org.uk](mailto:bcrosland@museumoflondon.org.uk)