

Pro Forma for Participation Works Network for England regional case studies

Region: London	
Submitted by: Jan Kofi-Tsekpo Date of submission: 8 April 2009	
The sector this case study is an example of:	
Voluntary sector activity <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory sector activity <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate sector activity <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Government-funded agency / regional agency / charity	
The themes this case study can be used to support (<i>tick all that apply</i>):	
Arts & creativity	x
Commissioning	x
Early Years	<input type="checkbox"/>
Faith	<input type="checkbox"/>
Funding	x
Governance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hard to reach groups	x
Health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inclusive practice	x
Learning & research	x
Measuring change	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online tools	x
Rights/citizenship	x
Safeguarding	<input type="checkbox"/>
Standards	<input type="checkbox"/>
Workforce development	x
Youth-led project	x
Name of project: MLA London Youth Programme (Museums Libraries Archives)	
Name of lead person on project: Jan Kofi-Tsekpo, Strategic Commissioning Project Manager	
Contact information for further details (<i>email, telephone number, website</i>): Learning and Skills Team - Direct line: 020 7549 1715 MLA London, Fourth Floor, 53-56 Great Sutton Street, London EC1V 0DG http://www.mlalondon.org.uk and http://www.mla.gov.uk	
Aims of the project: To increase participation by young people at museums and archives, and to make cultural organisations more youth-friendly, through youth consultation visits and creative work placements.	
Timeline for the project (expected start and finish date, if known): Project delivered across academic years 2005-06, 2007-08 & 2008-09.	
Please name any other organisations involved if this was a project developed as a partnership:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Learning Trust • CityZEN 	

- Inspire! Education Business Partnership, and local, regional and national museums across London.

Who funded this project?

MLA London through its Strategic Commissioning programme jointly funded by two government departments, Department of Culture, Media & Sport and Department for Schools, Children & Families.

How many young people were involved?

50+ young people directly participated each year, with additional young people engaged through celebration/showcasing activities.

How were children & young people involved in decision-making?

Young people worked with museum/archive staff to decide how to develop an activity or resource for the service, and were consulted about how the £1000 of funding for this resource should be spent.

Younger children were also consulted by the older young people, during youth consultation visits and for the purposes of developing specific child-friendly resources.

What changes has children & young people's involvement led to?

A range of resources have been developed within museums/archives, including youth-friendly audio tours, website pages and publicity, workshops and handling boxes. Museum/archive staff have reported increased skills and knowledge around working with young people, and improved communication and engagement with other staff.

What did children and young people involved in this work achieve from this experience?

The young participants have gained experience of working as a group and with adults in a new environment, developing confidence and a range of skills.

What next for the project?

We are planning to roll out activities / disseminate information across England via the national Strategic Commissioning 14-19 programme.

What next for the participants?

Volunteer participants receive ACIS awards, and some go on to volunteer on a longer-term basis at a museum or archive. Participants involved in the new Creative & Media Diploma are now able to use their placement work for their course.

Quotes from staff, management, children, parents/ carers:

"It was fun and we weren't treated as kids. [The museum officer] listened to our opinions." (Young Consultant)

"We got to do some valuable things and I think we did improve the museum." (Young Consultant)

"We were very impressed by the creativity and originality of your ideas." (Museum education officer)

"I'm writing a business plan for increasing capacity and all of this will inform the business plan." (Museum learning officer)

"I think that they should have more trips where young people can go to museums and take part in consultations so that you can include more young people." (Youth Advisory Group member)

Participation Works wants to share your good practice to a wider audience to enable others to learn from your experience and develop their own participation practice.