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**An introduction to Festival Bridge**

Festival Bridge is one of ten national Bridge organisations working to radically improve the cultural education offer for children and young people. We are a Norfolk & Norwich Festival initiative and we work across Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.

We believe that a cultural education is vital to all children and young people. Experiencing arts and culture such as theatre, dance, museums and simply the act of being creative can benefit young people’s wellbeing, whilst developing their employability skills and increasing their cultural capital. Yet, we know that across East Anglia opportunities to take part are not equally distributed. We are working to make access possible to all. We are doing this in three ways:

1. Supporting the providers of cultural education
2. Research & Development
3. Building and supporting partnerships

In this brochure we provide a brief overview of our offer to those working in cultural education; a starting point for working together. So far we’ve worked with over 200 arts organisations, Music Education Hubs, museums, and heritage organisations in the region, as well as over 500 schools, academies, colleges, and Higher Education institutions. We know that we work best in true partnerships so please feel very welcome to contact any of us at the Bridge team.

**Education Providers: How we can support your school to improve their Cultural Education Offer**

At Festival Bridge we are inspired by Arts Council England’s Cultural Education Challenge - a call for the arts, culture and education sectors to work together in offering a consistent, and high quality, arts and cultural education for all children and young people. We are the area experts in Artsmark and Arts Award, which we deliver alongside our Culture and Arts Leaders for Schools and Academies (CALSA) initiative. These 3 programmes support schools to improve their cultural education offer and achieve the Cultural Education Challenge.

**Artsmark**

Designed by schools for schools, Artsmark is the only creative quality standard for schools and education settings, accredited by Arts Council England. Artsmark is light on paperwork, flexible to each setting and helps schools to develop, strengthen and celebrate their commitment to the arts. We provide all training and support for Artsmark and are always happy to answer questions or talk through what your schools journey might look like.

One in every five schools in East Anglia is currently using Artsmark as part of their school improvement practice. Start your Artsmark journey today: [www.artsmark.org.uk/registration](http://www.artsmark.org.uk/registration)

“Festival Bridge have been absolutely fantastic; always on the phone and offering opportunities… Knowing we’ve got that support there to back us up, to guide us, to help us reflect has been really key to our success.” Jane Ryder, Sidegate Primary School, Platinum Artsmark Awarded

**Arts Award (use Arts Award logo here or near here)**

Arts Award inspires young people to grow their arts and leadership talents: it's creative, valuable and accessible. Arts Award can be achieved at five levels - four qualifications and an introductory award. Anyone aged 5 to 25 years old, both in and outside formal education can have the chance to set their own challenges and develop their choice of art form; from fashion to filmmaking, pottery to poetry.

In 2018-19, over 6,600 Arts Awards were awarded in our area!

Contact us at bridge@nnfestival.org.uk to find out how you can offer the award to children and young people you work with.

**CALSA** - Festival Bridge has developed the *Culture and Arts Leaders for Schools and Academies (CALSA)* initiative in which specialist teachers become cultural education leaders, providing peer to peer support for schools and academies looking to develop their cultural education offer.

Find out more about the CALSA’s and how you can work with them on our website: nnfestival.org.uk/CALSA

**Research & Development: How we’re exploring and testing cultural practice in our region**

Festival Bridge partners with organisations, researchers and projects across the country to explore and develop key themes which have the potential to be transformational. Our research often leads us to find new areas in which we can invest our time and resources. Here are a few examples of our work:

1. **Early Years**

We commissioned Magic Acorns to work with Dr Jess Pitt to conduct a mapping study outlining the current early years and arts and cultural landscape and provision, providing a spotlight for early years practice. We are now working with cultural organisations, artists and educators to build capacity and expertise in the region to ensure that the very best practice reaches more children and their families. Find out more at nnfestival.org.uk/research

1. **Digital Toolkit**

Digital technology is changing the way children create and learn. Our Digital Toolkit is designed to support arts and cultural organisations to make the most of their digital content and resources for schools. Read and download our digital toolkit at nnfestival.org.uk/research

1. **Common Ground**

Our research into children and young people’s connection to their natural and cultural heritage has led to the development of Common Ground. Common Ground will work with young people and their families to inspire new forms of heritage interpretation. This 3 year National Lottery Heritage Funded project is led by Norfolk & Norwich Festival and partners. To get involved please email commonground@nnfestival.org.uk

1. **Creative Careers**: Our Cambridgeshire based projects Creating The Future and Creative & Cultural Futures have developed, tested and evaluated a set of tools and resources to help children and young people explore employment pathways into the Creative Industries.

Use these resources in your classroomat nnfestival.org.uk/Creative-Careers

**Local Cultural Education Partnerships**

We lead the development of place-based collectives called Local Cultural Education Partnerships (LCEPs). By supporting emerging and existing LCEPs we are able to learn more about the unique challenges and opportunities present in each place, be it a town, district or larger area.

**What is a Local Cultural Education Partnership?**

* A collaboration of organisations and individuals who want to radically enhance opportunities for children and young people to engage in cultural education in their locality.
* A collaboration that works from the ground up, defining and implementing activities that will make long-term change. people to engage in cultural education in their locality.
* A collaboration that is unique, catering to and learning from the community which it serves.

LCEPs are delivering now towards long-term change.Here are just a few examples of what they have achieved so far:

* Lowestoft LCEP has engaged with over 10,000 children, spending £568,668.00 on project delivery.
* PHACE LCEP has actively supported a 437% growth in the number of Arts Awards being achieved by young people in Peterborough in the last 4 years.
* My Cambridge LCEP has piloted a nationally significant cultural passport, increasing and recognising children and young people’s engagement in art, creativity and culture; and its contribution to their learning, skills and career development.
* Enjoy Great Yarmouth has launched the Culture School programme - supporting schools to access projects, partnerships and CPD that meet their improvement plans.

**Local Cultural Education Partnerships:**

1. **Enjoy Great Yarmouth**

Great Yarmouth LCEP aims to see more children and young people in Great Yarmouth taking part in an exciting and inspiring range of cultural education activities.

1. **Lowestoft Rising**

Lowestoft LCEP aims to support every child in Lowestoft to be able to regularly:

* Create; Compose and Perform
* Visit; Experience and Participate
* Know; Understand and Review

1. **My Cambridge**

My Cambridge LCEP aims to ensure every young person in Cambridge is able to confidently construct their own cultural life, drawing on and feeling connected to the whole of the city in which they live

1. **PHACE (Peterborough Heritage, Arts and Cultural Education)**

PHACE LCEP aims to nurture and support a generation of culturally confident, active and knowledgeable children and young people across Peterborough.

1. **YFCC (Young Fenland Cultural Consortium)**

YFCC LCEP aims to enable young people in Fenland to aspire, achieve and take the lead, in and through arts and culture.

1. [**Ipswich**](https://ipswichlcep.wordpress.com/)

Ipswich LCEP aims to deliver opportunities to enrich the life changes, aspirations and wellbeing of children and young people in Ipswich.

1. **PEACH - A Partnership for Education, Arts, Culture & Heritage**

PEACH LCEP aims to increase opportunities and levels of investment in cultural education in West Norfolk

1. [**Periscope**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom--ipswich/periscope-cpd/?q=Periscope%20CPD&lc=1)

Periscope LCEP aims to help every child and young person in West Suffolk to identify, access, take part in and enjoy a meaningful creative and cultural life.

1. **Norwich 2040**

Norwich 2040 LCEP aims to work collaboratively to build an inclusive, fun and imaginative cultural offer for Norwich 2040

LCEPs are always searching to work and engage with new people in their area. We at Festival Bridge are always happy to start these conversations.

Get involved with your Local Cultural Education Partnership now: **nnfestival.org.uk/lcep**

**Contact us**

Email [bridge@nnfestival.org.uk](mailto:bridge@nnfestival.org.uk)

Phone 01603 878285

Web <http://www.nnfestival.org.uk/festival-bridge>

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