

# lessons learning

**Creative Partnerships** is a programme managed by Arts Council England, the national development agency for the arts in England. It gives young people in 36 disadvantaged areas across England the opportunity to develop their creativity and their ambition by building partnerships between schools and creative organisations, businesses and individuals. Creative Partnerships aims to demonstrate the pivotal role creativity and creative people can play in transforming education in every curriculum subject for children of all ages and abilities.

London East and London South were established as two of the first sixteen Creative Partnerships areas in 2002, delivering programmes with schools in Hackney, Islington, Newham and Tower Hamlets and Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark over a four year period.

In April 2006 the two areas merged to form one Creative Partnerships area delivering a joint creative programme in eight boroughs. **Creative Partnerships London East and South** is based at Discover in Stratford.

## **Creative Partnerships London East and South**

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Creative Partnerships

**Lessons in Learning** is a 22-minute film that demonstrates what creativity and partnership can look like in school. The film asks a range of questions about the kinds of learning opportunities on offer for young people in school in the 21st century, and explores how schools and their partners can realise a more creative teaching and learning offer.

Commissioned in 2005, the starting point for the film was to document outcomes from a two-year programme of action research on preferred learning styles and creativity, involving ten Creative Partnerships London East schools.

Eelyn Lee Productions was commissioned to create a piece of work that captured and valued a diversity of approach, methodology and practice developed both inside and outside the classroom.

Eelyn Lee has worked as a creative partner in a number of London East Schools. In 2004 she worked with students at Daniel House Pupil Referral Unit to realise *Beneath the Hood*, a 52-minute documentary about race, identity and exclusion. In 2005 Eelyn delivered a video installation project with year 8 students and the humanities department at Bow School that gave students an understanding of a difficult aspect of the history curriculum, which encouraged her to explore learning styles theory in practice. In her role as a documentary filmmaker, Eelyn accompanied a group of eight teachers on a visit to schools in New York and Oklahoma to explore how schools in the USA integrate learning styles into their practice.

*Lessons in Learning* is a lively and dynamic portrait of a range of activity, which involves process, research and partnership. Using preferred learning styles and creativity as a springboard for change, the film communicates an energy and willingness of all involved to realise the possibilities and potential for working and learning together. A huge strength of the film is that it presents a range of voices and perspectives, including those of young people, creative partners, teachers and headteachers.

The film is divided into a series of chapters. To link these together Eelyn involved Choice FM DJ and television presenter Kat B. She felt strongly that the film needed a presenter with east London connections who had an interesting story to tell about their own education. Kat B was a perfect candidate, having left school in Newham without any qualifications, and is now a successful presenter with a popular appeal to young people. By weaving in his own story, Kat was able to embark on a personal journey through the film, returning to his old school and reflecting on his education and learning style.

The various chapters of the films are also linked by a series of animation sequences. The concept of different entry points is represented through a single character journeying through a series of 'doorways of the mind'. The doorway idea is developed in the interlude sequences that punctuate the film. We see the character accessing learning through photography, drama and sculpture – he literally disappears in to the tools and matter of the artform to suggest the continuation of his learning journey.

It was our intention to create a film that is a useful tool to support work developed in organisations and individual practise focused on creativity. We have learned a great deal in making this piece of work, particularly around how best to communicate its value to a range of stakeholders.

We hope you enjoy our film. We would be grateful if you could complete and return the enclosed postcard to let us know how you have used it.

**Steve Moffitt** Director, Creative Partnerships London East and South

**Eelyn Lee** Managing Director, Eelyn Lee Productions Ltd