**Arts Award Local Network Clusters**

A New Direction aims to make London the best city in the world for young people's cultural and creative development. Arts Award is a key component in making this happen. Through Arts Award, children and young people find out about what inspires them, share their talents, and achieve an award that makes a real difference in the world of work and the arts.

In 2016/17 A.N.D has supported 12 Arts Award Local Area Networks enabling Arts Award Advisers, Centres and Supporters to come together, learn from each other and develop new opportunities for young people.

**In 2017/18 A New Direction would like to support the creation of up to ten new Local Network Clusters that allow Arts Award Advisers, Centres and Supporters to come together and:**

• Share learning and best practice

• Make connections and build new partnerships

• Raise the profile of Arts Award in a specific area

• Develop approaches to a high quality cultural education offer for children & young people

A New Direction will offer support up to £3000 in up to 10 borough clusters for partnerships that can commit to running at least two local area network meetings and work towards outcomes in 2017-18 that bring together a range of partners and individuals involved with Arts Award to work towards shared outcomes.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

**Open to Arts Award Advisers, Centres, Supporters and strategic cultural education organisations (such as Local Authorities, Music Education Hubs etc.) able to deliver a minimum of two local sessions and chosen outcomes. Lead partners must have prior knowledge and experience of delivering Arts Award to apply.***(www.anewdirection.org.uk/what-we-do/events/arts-award-local-area-network-meetings)***.**

**Questions?**

**What is Arts Award?**

* a great way for children and young people to be inspired by and enjoy the arts
* offered at five levels, four accredited and one introductory award
* a framework for learning new skills and sharing them
* an opportunity to develop creativity and leadership skills
* a link between young people and creative arts professionals

**Why Borough Clusters?**

A New Direction has identified some great examples of resources, knowledge and best practice being shared across neighbouring boroughs, in project work, Cultural Education Partnerships, and in the cultural education challenge.

By sharing resources, work is more likely to be sustainable, and gain more traction, especially if it is embedded in strategic planning. We have listed partnership clusters as:

* Tower Hamlets, Hackney
* Waltham forest, Redbridge and Newham
* Enfield, Haringey
* Barking and Havering
* Islington, and Camden
* Harrow Brent Barnet,
* Hillingdon, Hounslow
* Ealing, Richmond /Wandsworth
* Merton, Sutton
* South London- (Can include two or more of the following) Lewisham, Greenwich, Bromley, Bexley, Southwark, Lambeth

**What is the maximum budget we can apply for?**

Organisations can apply for the following amounts (We anticipate that this will be used for venue hire, refreshment costs, administration time, basic materials etc)

* 1 borough-( if you have previously received funding for Local Area Networks £500, if not- £1000)
* 2 boroughs can apply for £1500
* 3 – boroughs £2000
* 4 or more boroughs £3000

**What kinds of organisations can apply?**

Arts Award Advisers, Centres, Supporters and strategic cultural education organisations (such as Local Authorities, Music Education Hubs etc.) can apply. We will expect individuals or organisations to demonstrate a thorough understanding of Arts Award as well as being locally connected to others delivering Arts Award.

**How many sessions do I need to run?**

We expect local area networks to meet at least twice to develop outcomes. However, you may wish to continue meeting longer term.

**What do we need to achieve?**

A New Direction has outlined some broad outcomes below that may help you align your focus between boroughs. We have based this information on analysis of Arts Award data, as well as our role in working to support emerging and established Cultural Education Partnerships. **Please note: in addition to two meetings, we ask that you choose up to two of the below areas to focus on.**

* Designing an arts award resource
* Piloting an arts award resource
* If you are part of, or working towards a Cultural Education Partnership how the network cluster will contribute to embedding Arts Award in the delivery of it’s strategic aims
* Reaching a new group of partners in subsidised or in house training
* Building Arts Award Attainment and delivery via Music Hubs
* Building Arts Award Attainment and delivery in Secondary Schools
* Reaching informal education settings, youth services and developing arts award in the informal sector
* Focussing on levels of Arts Award that are cold spots (including Silver and Gold)

**Why must we choose a lead partner? Who are borough partners?**

Before you apply you will need to make sure you have confirmed which partners and in which boroughs you will work with. Partners can be schools, arts organisations, local authority leads, or individuals with a good grounding and knowledge of Arts award.

The lead partner will oversee equally sharing funds across borough partners, and will be the main point of contact for submitting shared reports.

**How will people be invited to the session?**

AND will publicise your event to all centres, supporters and advisers in London. The dates for all Arts Award Local Area Network meetings will be advertised on our website. We would also expect applicants to spend some time promoting the event to their own networks of advisers, centres, supporters and strategic contacts.

**Who looks after bookings?**

Your Network will be responsible for managing sign-ups to their network; and will need to provide a contact email address or Eventbrite link for AND to publicise across London.

**What size or scale should the Local Area Network Cluster events be?**

There is no minimum or maximum scale for Local Area Network meetings. They could be small focused meetings, full day events, or a series of twilight events. Applicants should decide what will work best for their area – bearing in mind reach, and needs of various partners (e.g. schools, freelancers, young people etc.)

**Is there an agenda or structure that we need to follow?**

There is no formal agenda or structure that you need to follow – however you may want to consider exploring issues or researching best practice from:

* Good practice centres
* Resource piloting
* Working with new groups
* Mapping provision in a specific borough or place
* Working with Arts Award Supporters

**What information can we share at the event?**

AND has lots of resources that can be shared with Local Area Networks to support their events. Each successful network will have access to information such as:

* Detailed data and analysis of Arts Award
* Borough cultural education profiles
* Dates for upcoming support surgeries

**Where are the existing Local Area Networks?**

There were 12 existing networks in 2016/2017. These networks were based in the following areas; some were already focussing on more than one area or a pan London focus:

* Barnet
* SEND- Pan London hosted in Swiss Cottage
* South West/Kingston
* Greenwich
* Lewisham
* Tower Hamlets
* Waltham Forest
* Newham
* Barking and Dagenham
* Hammersmith and Fulham
* Islington and Camden
* Bexley and Bromley

**Will we need to evaluate or monitor our Local Area Network Cluster?**

We ask all local area networks to contribute the following to the evaluation of our Arts Award programme:

* Feedback and monitoring information for all participants via a standardised feedback form that we will provide you with.
* Any minutes or reports of the network meeting to better understand and support the priorities of networks in the future.
* An optional feedback and support session, at AND, for organisations running networks.
* An end of year pro-forma letting us know about your network, attendance and what its outcomes have been.

**Who can I talk to if I have more questions?**

Interested partners should contact Louise Barnell Programmes Manager at A New Direction for more information.

**E:** Louise.barnell@anewdirection.org.uk

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**Please send your expression of interest to** Louise.Barnell@anewdirection.org.uk **by 09:00am on 26th June 2017.**