

Cultural Education Partnerships: frequently asked questions

What is a Cultural Education Partnership?

Cultural Education Partnerships are cross-sector, strategic partnerships that work together to unite and improve cultural education for children and young people in their local area. Cultural Education Partnerships are forming across England in response to the national, Arts Council driven Cultural Education Challenge.

The Cultural Education Challenge calls for art and cultural organisations, educational institutions and local authorities to come together to drive a joined-up art and cultural offer locally, to share resources and bring about a more coherent and visible delivery of high-quality cultural education for all children and young people.

Every Cultural Education Partnership is different – they are locally driven, rooted in the specific challenges and opportunities for their place. However, what they all have in common is that they are cross-sector strategic groups working together to focus on the key issues for cultural education in their place and aiming to make a long-term and sustainable impact.

By 2020, the Arts Council aims to establish at least 50 Cultural Education Partnerships nationally, to improve the alignment of cultural education for young people, in places where this is most needed. They will be modelled on the three successful pilots of local Cultural Education Partnerships in Great Yarmouth, Bristol and Barking & Dagenham.

Where can I find out more about Cultural Education Partnerships in London?

In London, Cultural Education Partnerships often work at a borough level, although they can also focus on a smaller or larger geographical area. For example, some partnerships may operate in a specific ward within a borough or work across a number of boroughs.

You can find out more about where Cultural Education Partnerships are emerging or established in London on our website ([link below](#)).

Who is involved in Cultural Education Partnerships? And how can my organisation get involved?

Cultural Education Partnerships generally seek to have representation from relevant stakeholders in their place which may include: local authority, cultural organisations, education settings (schools, Early Years settings, Further Education, Higher Education), Music Education Hubs and the youth sector.

Some partnerships will also involve representatives from local employers, commercial creative industries and organisations with specialisms including health and planning where there might be an overlap in aims.

The exact structure of and stakeholders represented in each Cultural Education Partnership varies: both structure and representation are locally relevant and based on the cultural education landscape in each place.

You can find some examples of the different structures and approaches used by Cultural Education Partnerships on our website (link below).

How does A New Direction support Cultural Education Partnerships?

A New Direction supports Cultural Education Partnerships across London and offers support in a number of different ways. Support can include: 1:1 meetings with our team; attendance at CEP meetings (to introduce the CEP concept or share data and context about a place); specific advice about how Artsmark and Arts Award can support a partnership's ambitions; and membership of our partnerships peer-learning programme, the Connected Lab.

The Connected Network

If you are not currently involved in a Cultural Education Partnership but are interested in developing one, joining our Connected Network is a good starting point.

The Connected Network is a forum for sharing practice, knowledge and learning about 'place-based' collaboration around cultural education.

Key areas of focus:

- Enabling peer-learning between people involved in or interested in local strategic partnerships focused on cultural education for young people
- Sharing models of best practice in local partnership working, including governance structures, aims, membership, activity and evaluation
- Supporting the development of local strategic partnerships focused on cultural education for young Londoners

Meetings take place twice a year and are programmed by A New Direction with input and feedback from members.

Find out more:

- The Cultural Education Challenge - www.artscouncil.org.uk/children-and-young-people/cultural-education-challenge-0
- Cultural Education Partnerships - www.anewdirection.org.uk/what-we-do/connected-london/cultural-education-partnerships
- Connected Lab - www.anewdirection.org.uk/what-we-do/local-areas/the-connected-lab
- Connected Network - www.anewdirection.org.uk/what-we-do/connected-london/connected-network
- Powerful Partnerships Library - www.anewdirection.org.uk/powerful-partnerships-resource-library