



GUILDFORD
BOROUGH

YEAR 2 REVIEW

ARTS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

2018-2023



*Our plan to educate, nurture, inspire, support and create
happy and healthy communities through the arts*

Arts Development Strategy Year 2 Review | 2019 - 2020

Welcome to the year 2 review of our Arts Development Strategy 2018-2023. The aim of this review is to report on our progress towards the goals in the year 2 action plan and to set out our plans for Arts Development for year 3 (January – December 2020).

Our Strategy

A public consultation in 2017, which gathered the views of residents, artists, community groups and people working in the arts, has helped to shape Guildford Borough Council's Arts Development Strategy 2018-2023.

The strategy sets out our values, ambitions and priorities for Arts Development. It demonstrates the wider value of the arts in contributing to health and wellbeing, the economy and society and making a genuine and meaningful impact on the lives of our residents and communities.

Our vision is to create a place where everyone can enjoy great arts.



Read in full, our Arts Development strategy 2018-2023
www.guildford.gov.uk/arts

Review of Year 2

Our progress and examples of our successes as set out in our action plan.

Guildford Borough's Big Draw

- We delivered ten public workshops for this year's national drawing campaign event.
- 344 participants of all ages and abilities took part.
- We delivered workshops at five out of town centre venues; Newlands Corner, Park Barn Centre, Guildford Cathedral, Surrey Arts Wardrobe, Watts Gallery and as part of the Lakeside Fun Day in Ash.
- 58% of participants who provided feedback do not participate in other art / cultural activities.



FISH (Fun In the School Holidays) playscheme

- We provided four weeks of daily arts activities on our FISH playscheme for 10 to 16 year olds.
- We supported an appointed Arts Playworker to offer informal arts activities each day.
- We coordinated workshops led by professional artists.
- Activities included creating a giant collaborative bubble and blow painting piece, geometric art, Pyrography mandalas, soap carving and a performing arts trip to the University of Surrey.

Whatever the Weather: Poetry Pals

- An Arts Partnership Surrey project focusing on improving mental health and wellbeing.
- Spoken word artist and performer, Justin Coe, led this poetry project which brought together year 2 pupils from Walsh Infant School with older people from Japonica Court sheltered accommodation and the Shawfield Centre.
- Participants ranging from 6 to 94 years, communicated through poems, which culminated in a celebration event and a book of the poems.
- The project fostered a sense of connection, helped two different generations share their experiences, try something new and most importantly laugh and have fun.

Syrian Families Gardening, Arts and Heritage Project

- A partnership project with Heritage Services, Family Support and Community Wellbeing.
- The project brought together two artists and five Syrian families from Guildford.
- It gave participants the opportunity to find out about local heritage, take part in arts activities and learn about different plants and vegetables that are grown in the UK.
- This project celebrated our similarities and our differences through referencing both British and Syrian gardening.
- Participants rejuvenated part of the garden at Guildford House Gallery and the courtyard garden at Park Barn Centre.
- The Guildford House Gallery garden won gold in Guildford in Bloom.
- The project culminated in a visit to Wisley Gardens and the Houses of Parliament.
- The Syrian families continue to visit Watts Gallery and are taking part in a series of workshops at the gallery.

Advancing Artists

- An Arts Partnership Surrey project developing relevant training and networking events for early to mid-career artists and practitioners.
- By supporting artists to deliver community projects, we are able to increase the range and quality of community based arts.
- We have been working with the Arts Partnership Surrey project group to develop a yearlong programme of continued professional and creative development for Surrey based artists.
- A training and networking event for a wider audience took place in February 2020. The event looked at the skills artists need around resilience and self care, when working with or within the community through health and wellbeing projects.

**“ Arts and culture enrich our lives.
They fire our imaginations, challenge,
inspire, educate and entertain us ”**

Arts Council England - Great Art and Culture for Everyone 2010-2020

Challenges

There were challenges over the course of the year;

Public Art

The target to deliver two public art projects has not been completed but is in progress.

- The Shalford Swift Tower will be installed in mid April 2020.
- The York Road public art project will progress with a community engagement approach in 2020.

Dementia friendly arts offer

- Our is to support people living with dementia to cope with their changing relationships, leading to improved relationships and mental health.
- Our Intergenerational Music Making, Song Writing and Poetry Project will support this work in year 3.

Looking forward - year 3 action plan

Our year 3 action plan is on our website: www.guildford.gov.uk/arts

Key target for year 3 action plan:

- Review and assess the contribution the Arts Development Strategy priorities, outcomes and activity, deliver against the Council's strategic priorities and outcomes.

***“ It builds friendships, listening skills, community
and is very satisfying as stress relief!***

”
Guildford borough resident



We would like to thank all our local partners for their help this year and we look forward to working with you next year.

Alternative Formats: If you would like this document in a different format such as large print, please contact Leisure Services.



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www.guildford.gov.uk