

/LEAN

Lewisham Education
Arts Network

Annual Report April 2023 – March 2024



Lewisham Education Arts Network (LEAN) is a support organisation for those involved in arts education for children and young people in Lewisham.

We provide guidance, consultancy, advocacy, brokerage, information and networking opportunities, and work in partnership.

leanarts.org.uk

Company Registration Number: 05462708

Registered Address: The Albany, Douglas Way London SE8 4AG

Lewisham Education Arts Network (LEAN)

Chair: Veronica Jobbins MBE

Secretary: Veronica Sarmiento

Treasurer: Robin Hughes (resigned 5 May 2023)

Trustees: Sheree-Marie Abraham (appointed 8 May 2024); Jessica Austin-Burdett (appointed 8 May 2024); Maria Conyar; Anna Croall (appointed 8 May 2024); Beatrice Denton; Helena Emmanuel (appointed 8 May 2024); Holly Henry; Julia Mirkin; Lucy Maycock (resigned 8 Feb 2024); Dearbhaile Nairn; Jason Page (appointed 20 Sep 2023); James Thomas; Emma Webster

Staff: Jane Hendrie - Director (retired Apr 2023); Sharon Trotter - Director (appointed Apr 2023); Julia Ravenscroft - Programme Coordinator; Natalie Clarke - Creative Programme Producer (resigned Jun 2023); Holly McComish - Creative Programme Producer (appointed Oct 2023); Stephanie Chung - Finance & Admin Officer; Nadège René - Creative Career Project Coordinator (appointed Jan 2024); Kane Moore (appointed Jan 2024; resigned Mar 2024).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

LEAN, established in 2000, has much to be proud of in achieving its primary ambition and purpose as an arts and cultural education support organisation, championing arts learning for children and young people across Lewisham through promoting the growth of creative partnership working.

Leading the local cultural education partnership, LEAN initiates, alone, and frequently in partnership, an extensive range of projects, services and activities empowering and inspiring our members to collaborate through the development of active networks, brokered support and facilitating collaborative working.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

PROGRAMME OF WORK 2023 - 2024

We are very pleased to report that LEAN's funding from Lewisham Council's Main Grants Programme originally secured for the 3 years, 2022 - 2025 has been extended to March 2026. This is a significant endorsement of the impact of LEAN within the borough.

1. Fundraising support

LEAN has also been funded by Lewisham Council for 4 years 2022 - 2026 to host a Lewisham Fundraising and Development Manager (Arts) post as part of an initiative to support the voluntary, arts and sports sectors. In 2023 Chloe Booth and Lindsay Harrod shared the post as a part-time consultant from May until the end of December. Both have had extensive experience in arts fundraising working with trusts and foundations and membership, major donors and corporates, event fundraising as well as providing advice, support and training for the arts sector. The Arts Fundraising Development Manager role was covered by the LEAN team for a short period at the beginning of 2024 with new arrangements in place from April 2024.

During 2023 the Arts Fundraising Development programme supported by LEAN was in direct contact with 36 individuals and organisations, delivering;

- 29 Advice surgeries/bid reviews
- A Fundraising focussed Breakfast Club in July attended by 19 people
- An ACE Fundraising workshop organised jointly with the Albany in October providing networking, support and information sharing for 26 artists working with children and young people
- A Fundraising Strategy workshop at the Albany in November attended by 18 people
- A Fundraising Conference at Fellowship Inn Bellingham attended by 84 people organised jointly with the Fundraising and Development Managers hosted by Lewisham Local and Age UK Southwark and Lewisham
- The LEAN team also supported a Data Event held at Lewisham Chambers in November - Improve Funding Applications and Find out More about Lewisham - led by the Fundraising and Development Managers hosted by Lewisham Local and Age UK Southwark and Lewisham; attended by 19 people

2. Workforce support, development and sector communication

LEAN has continued to support the arts and cultural workforce and those involved with providing creative experiences for children and young people by:

- Providing one to one/small group advice sessions providing bespoke support based on individual need
- Organising face to face and online network training events
- Communication through our website, monthly bulletins, additional targeted newsletters to arts freelancers, teachers and youth workers

LEAN's website received 12268 visits, exceeding our annual target by over 50%.

Arts Freelancer Breakfast Network: LEAN mailed out 16 times to 165 Lewisham freelance creatives and held 4 in person meetings in addition to the fundraising workshops outlined above. These included a meeting in April 2023 with Amy Lloyd and Patricia Underwood at Catford Library focused on presenting opportunities and resources that Lewisham Libraries has to offer freelancers. The meeting in March 2024 at the Migration Museum co-hosted with Jason Page, Operations Manager & Community Engagement Programmer, updated attendees on the Museum's future plans and freelancer opportunities. A total of 44 freelancers attended this year (excluding Fundraising event above).

Cultural Connectors: LEAN sent 15 newsletters to 167 Cultural Connectors, a network of school-based teachers initially set up to promote Borough of Culture opportunities. This was relaunched as an ongoing programme to provide news and opportunities for schools in the borough connecting them with arts projects and arts organisations in Lewisham.

A termly in-person meeting at a borough arts venues was also provided:

- **8 October 2023** at Goldsmiths' CCA Gallery which included a special exhibition tour with Adrianna Whittingham, Engagement Producer at CCA. This was followed by a presentation of the current CCA programme of workshops for schools and offers for teachers. LEAN's Director Sharon Trotter led a discussion on Lewisham's new Cultural Strategy.
- **6 March 2024** at Cockpit Deptford, attendees were given an introduction to Cockpit's new Learning Centre and enjoyed a print making taster workshop. Attendees also found out about Cockpit's upcoming opportunities for schools and young people with Chris Webb, Engagement Producer.

A total of 16 Cultural Connectors attended meetings this year.

Youth Arts Bulletin: Three newsletters were sent out to the network during this period. Membership totals 112 recipients with 34 free and low-cost opportunities and activities for children and young people shared.

LEAN has continued to support and keep up to date on current issues in the arts education sector through membership of Participatory Arts London and Lewisham Visual Arts Network which was developed by Deptford X, APT Gallery and Studios, Goldsmiths CCA and LEAN. Julia Ravenscroft, (LEAN Programme Engagement Officer), has regularly attended the Bellingham Interagency meeting which takes place in Bellingham six times a year.

3. Events and projects

Joined Up Working: A Cultural Strategy for Lewisham - February 2024

LEAN's major annual event and AGM took place at Deptford Green School with the theme of Lewisham's new Cultural Strategy in February 2024. LEAN will be leading on the formation of a Cultural Education Partnership for the Borough in order to implement Lewisham's Cultural Strategy published in July 2023 by Lewisham Council.

Keynotes:

- Sakthi Suriyaprakasam (Head of Culture and Community Development, Lewisham Council) and Nancy Stridgen (Cultural Partnership Manager, Culture and Community Development, Lewisham Council), Lewisham's New Cultural Strategy.
- Sharon Trotter (LEAN), How LEAN is working with the New Cultural Strategy as Education Partner

Workshops:

- *The importance of art in anti-racist education: A collaborative reflection* (Stephen Lawrence Research Centre and Peoplescape Theatre)
- *Youth voice: Involving young people at every stage of your project* (Toni-Ann Gurdon with Lewisham Music)
- *Accessing funding for creative education projects* (Kane Moore, Fundraising Development Manager)
- *Cultural education partnerships: Learning from others and ways forward for Lewisham* (Sharon Trotter, LEAN Director and Veronica Jobbins, LEAN Chair)

53 people attended although 93 had registered a booking. This was a disappointing drop but may have been partly due to very poor weather! However, *100% of feedback received* stated that the talks were very relevant or relevant and *100%* rated the workshops as very relevant or relevant. We are aware that we need to encourage more teachers from schools to attend and will be prioritizing that at our next event.

Moving Stories – funded by Paul Hamlyn Foundation Teacher Development Fund

LEAN'S two-year project *Moving Stories; embedding dance and drama in SEND teacher practice*, was selected, as one of only 8 UK-wide projects for funding by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation's Teacher Development Fund. With our arts delivery partners Peoplescape Theatre and Trinity Laban, LEAN worked with six Lewisham SEND settings: Watergate, Brent Knoll, Drumbeat, New Woodlands and the Resource Bases at Tidemill and Athelney Primary School. Artists from theatre and dance are collaborating with teachers to improve communication skills of young people facing high levels of disadvantage. Communication skills are the key to unlocking young peoples' ability to thrive as active, engaged and connected members of their communities. Combining dance and drama will ensure the activities are fully inclusive for children with a wide range of complex needs. Teachers and artists are learning from each other and spreading good practice to colleagues, ensuring young people with special needs have access to a rich and exciting arts curriculum which supports their life skills. An Interim project report and short film are featured on the LEAN website.

Creative Careers Programme / Army of Creatives

In 2023, we were very pleased to receive Arts Council England funding (£29,700) for our Army of Creatives project which ran from March to May 2023. It included placing 80 creative career workshops across 16 different school and education settings in Lewisham and running an innovative group work experience for Deptford Green School students. We recruited a new Programme Manager, Holly McComish, to deliver the project.

As the majority of the project was delivered out of the period covered by this annual report. It will be fully detailed in the next annual report 2024-2025. However, the full Army of Creatives project report is available on the LEAN website.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2024

Income and Endowments from:

Donations and legacies £133,341

Total income: £133,341

Expenditure on:

Charitable activities: £175,440

Total Expenditure: £175,440

Net Expenditure/Income: (£42,099)

Net Movement of Funds: (£42,099)

Thank you to our funders and partners. LEAN would not have been able to deliver this ambitious and impactful programme of work without its partners and supporters.

Funders: London Borough of Lewisham, Arts Council England, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Samuel Gardner Memorial Trust

Partners and supporters include: Lewisham Youth Theatre, The Albany, Lewisham Music, Peoplescape Theatre and Trinity Laban

Reconciliation of Funds:

Total funds brought forward: £99,027

Total funds carried forward: £56,928