

ARTiculation Partners' Day: The Whitworth, Manchester

Wednesday 26 July 2017



We were delighted to hold the ARTiculation Partners' Day this year in Manchester at the Whitworth to celebrate Manchester being one of our three areas of Regional Development for 2018.

26 people attended the day from 15 organisations: BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Arts, The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, CE Argyll Sutherland Highlanders Museum, Chatsworth, The Courtauld Institute of Art, Dulwich Picture Gallery, The Herbert Art Gallery, Ikon Gallery, Spike Island, The Sidney Cooper Gallery, University of Manchester, University of Nottingham, University of Stirling, The Whitworth and Wolverhampton Art Gallery.

In a day designed to thank our partners and share the successes and developments of ARTiculation 2017 and 2018, we combined tours of Manchester's excellent galleries and museums with focus groups discussions on:

- How organisations engage young people in ARTiculation
- What are the benefits to organisations and the wider region
- What organisations could do to retain and develop engagement with young people

Josiah McNeil, an ARTiculation Alumnus of 2016, gave a talk on his experience of ARTiculation and the opportunities that have arisen as part of the Alumni Network. The ARTiculation team shared development plans for 2018.

ARTiculation Development in 2018

- Widening participation schools are being targeted and offered in-school introductory sessions and ARTiculation Discovery Days in museums and galleries.
- Manchester, Kent and the East Midlands will be the focus for our Regional Development in 2018.
- A pilot ARTiculation Ambassador programme is being run with the University of Manchester and the University of Kent to train undergraduates to support students entering the ARTiculation Prize.
- Increased support for teachers is available, this includes Assembly Packs and Teaching Resources.
- The terminology for the stages of the prize has been adapted. Students will now take part in Internal School Heats, Regional Heats (in areas of high demand), Regional Finals and The Grand Final.
- Applications are open for ARTiculation 2018 and can be made online. Deadline is set for 13 October.
- We aim to increase audiences at Regional Finals in 2018. Host organisations are encouraged to invite their volunteer programmes, Friends and Benefactors and educational groups to the Regional Finals.

Focus Group Discussions:

How could you engage young people in the programme?

- Introduce the long-term benefits of taking part in ARTiculation in the first instance
- Reach out to the existing networks organisations have, including youth programmes
- Introduce advocates- past participants- to enthuse new students and share the passion for the event

What are the benefits to your organisation or region?

- It is a positive introduction to the gallery space which breaks down barriers
- ARTiculation closes the gap between art at school and art institutions
- Encouraging cross-departmental working within the organisation
- Provides new learning experiences and skills for the organisation's staff
- Encourages growth of networks and connections in the region
- Creates a legacy in the young people who take part in ARTiculation who could be our future curators and directors
- Increased awareness and understanding of potential audiences and how young people use the gallery

Retaining young people

- Museums and Galleries could start an 'Adopt an Artwork' programme
- Partners agreed to provide ongoing support and find further opportunities for young people

Highlights from Josiah McNeil, ARTiculation Alumnus of 2016:

- The experience of taking part in ARTiculation was more than public speaking, it was a chance to explore the previously undiscovered world of museums and galleries.
- Josiah took up two work experience placements, one at Ikon and the other at the Barber Institute, arranged by ARTiculation, and found the comparison between the two particularly enlightening.
- After taking part in ARTiculation, Josiah joined the 16 – 21 programme at the Ikon Gallery.
- Josiah found the alumni network to be a positive experience which has presented him with opportunities to speak again to an audience of 300 at The National Gallery and has introduced him to peers which he will go on to study with at university.
- Josiah has built the confidence to be able to talk about art. He believes it left him in a strong position to apply to university and he now has a place at the Ruskin, and he is the first generation to go to university in his family.