



ARTS  
EDUCATION  
EXCHANGE

# Annual Report

## 2022

Our vision:  
Reimagining how we learn  
together

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## A Message from Oliver Briggs, CEO/Founder of Arts Education Exchange

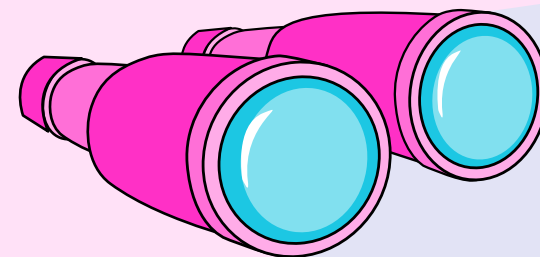
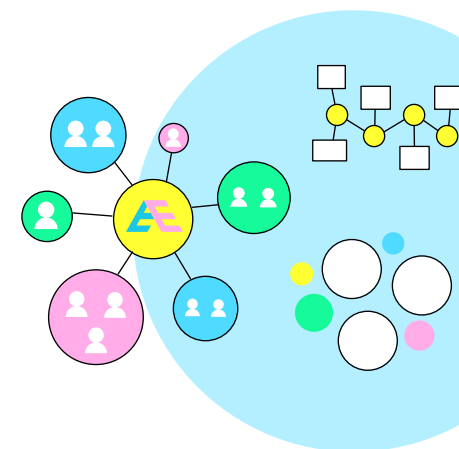
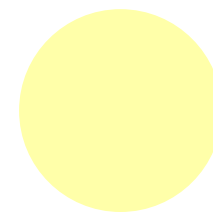
2022 has been a pivotal year for Arts Education Exchange. This year, the organisation turned 5 and at this significant milestone we are looking back, having navigated substantial organisational growth. Our permanent staff team has more than doubled, as has our capacity to work with young people affected by educational inequalities through creative learning. As the year draws to a close, we're proud to launch our new vision, which was co-created by all of our staff.

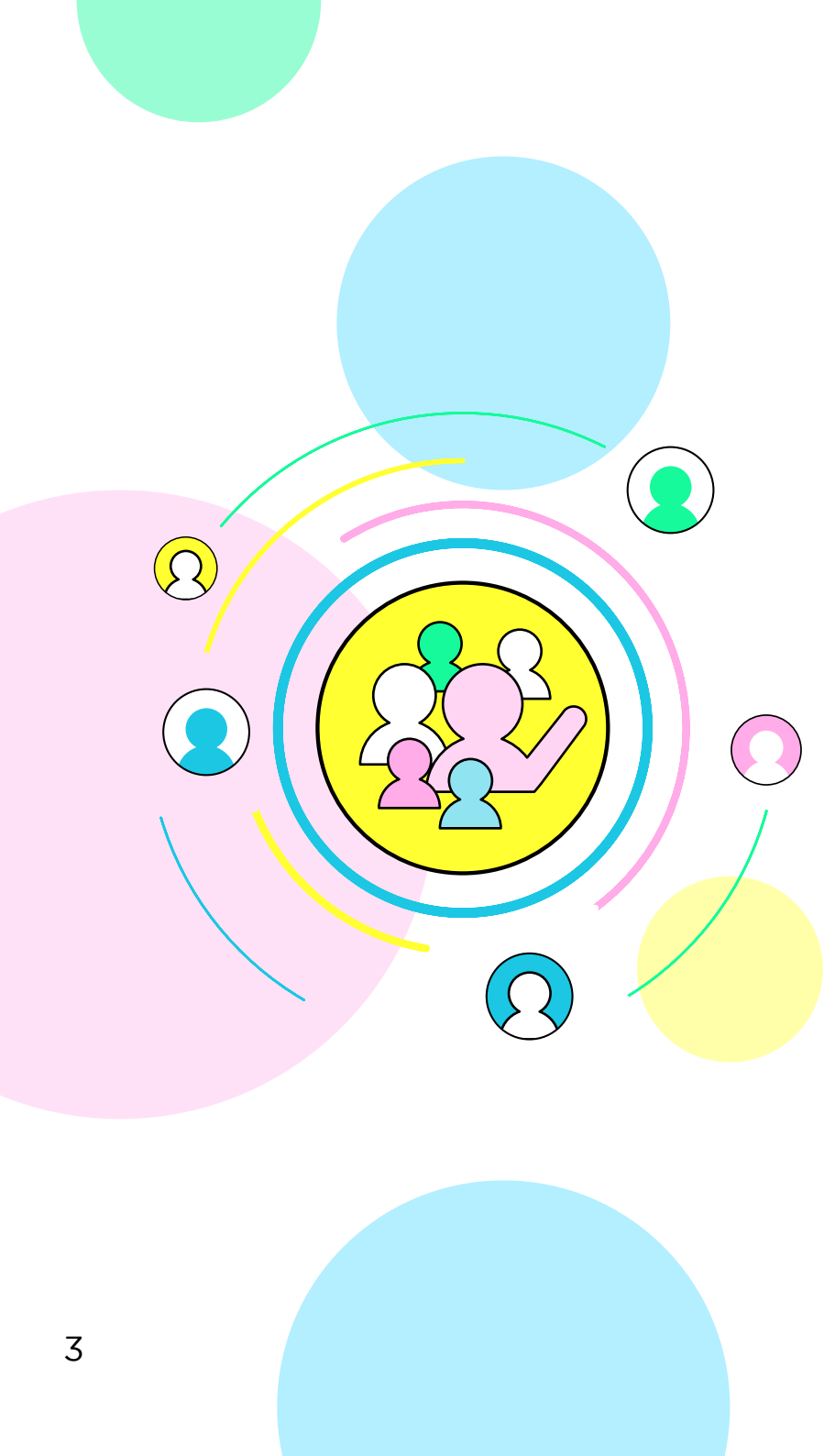
My aim this year has been to build on our foundations to establish secure and sustainable systems, strategies and income to protect us in uncertain times and realise our mission despite the ongoing challenges the country faces.

Thanks to the hard work across the whole organisation we are optimistic about the future and determined to work alongside young people to reimagine how we learn, together, to build more equitable and joyful communities across Thanet and East Kent.

"It has been a pleasure to support Arts Education Exchange and watch the organisation grow and expand. Their work is inspirational and as an organisation is becoming renowned throughout Thanet."

Lesley Game - Chair of Kent County Council





## A Message from Dr. Tracie Trimmer-Platman, Chair of Trustees

I have been inspired and motivated by young people and those who work with them for many years. My time as Chair has not only reinforced this but amplified my belief in both. Arts Education Exchange is a creative, safe, respected and evolving organisation with an innovative CEO leading a team of energetic and talented staff. Young people are genuinely at the centre of decision making and engage willingly with the educational process.

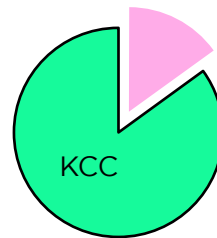
Thank you to the funders, donors and supporters who have already recognised the uniqueness of what we do. I look forward to working with more of you, as well as my team of extraordinary trustees and the staff team, to take the organisation to the next stage.

# An Exciting Year of Growth for Arts Education Exchange

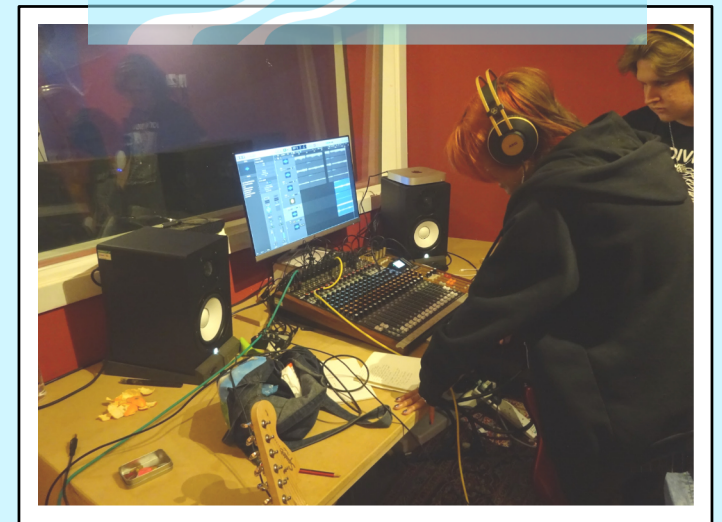
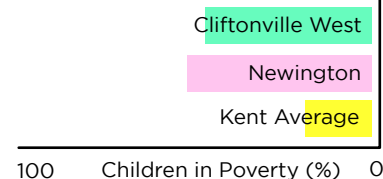
## Where we are

Arts Education Exchange has established a popular creative learning programme in Thanet, which supports young people who face barriers to engaging in formal education. We have gained a reputation for high levels of engagement and quality of learning experiences.

Over the last three years, over 250 young people have been referred to us, the majority of whom have come through Kent County Council, indicating strong partnerships with local youth services.



The high demand we've received for our programmes is indicative of the continued disadvantage that young people face in Thanet, where 46.2% of children live in poverty in Cliftonville West, 51% in Newington, against a Kent average of 18.3%.\*



## Where we are Heading

We now want to build on our early successes, remain responsive to the strengths and challenges of the young people in our communities, and become resilient into the future. Through a process of consultation with staff members and trustees, we have developed 6 strategic aims for the next three years in the following 3 categories.

### Organisation

We want to be ***inclusive*** so we are representative of who we work with and amplify our commitment to equality, ***entrepreneurial*** so that our financial future is secure and ***youth-led*** so our decision making process is authentic and includes our beneficiaries, where appropriate.

We want to be an established ***Alternative Education Centre***, unlocking local authority funding and providing high quality provision for young people, who need an alternative to mainstream.

### Young People

We want to make sure young people are ***better connected, supported and informed*** so that they have every opportunity to thrive in Thanet, including access to ***more and better creative and employment opportunities***, bridging the gap between the burgeoning creative sector and continued high levels of youth unemployment.

### Sector

We also want to continue to develop our *model* so it is ***recognised nationally as an example of best practice in creative learning***. We believe that by connecting with innovative organisations and schools across the country, we will strengthen our future and enable us to contribute to a national discourse around arts and education while ***advocating for alternative models of education grounded in creativity***.

The impact of a generation-long progression towards standardised testing and the prevailing status quo of subject-based learning through an industrial model of education has taken its toll on young people's mental health, while the inequality gap grows. ***We want to imagine and create an alternative.***

## Finance Summary

Huge thanks to our funders and donors, new and ongoing, who have not only recognised the demonstrable impact that our organisation is having but have seen and invested in the potential of our 3 year strategy, too.



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



**CREATIVE  
ESTUARY**



**Garfield Weston**  
FOUNDATION



**Kent and Medway**  
Clinical Commissioning Group



**YOUTH  
MUSIC**

Income raised:

**£411,350**

## Our work with Young People

We worked with over 100 young people in 2022, across 8 programmes, including groups and 1:1's. Here's what we provided:

### A nurturing space for neurodiverse young creatives:

Over 30% of young people we worked with are neurodivergent and/or have Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs.

### Visual Arts and Music for children and young people of all ages:

In terms of age, we've worked with a real range - between 6 and 24 years old. The average age of our participants is 15.

### A space for young people to express their identity:

15% of young people we worked with are LGBTQ+.

### Creative opportunities for girls and marginalised genders:

50% of our participants are female, and 5% are non-binary.

### Creative learning for young people not in mainstream education:

Over 50% of participants are not in mainstream education, on a reduced timetable, or not accessing any education outside of our programmes.

### Learning and education for Looked After Children:

35% of young people who accessed our provision in 2022 are care experienced and/or currently living in care or being fostered. The majority of our referrals come through Kent County Council, including social workers and Virtual School Kent.





## Our Programmes

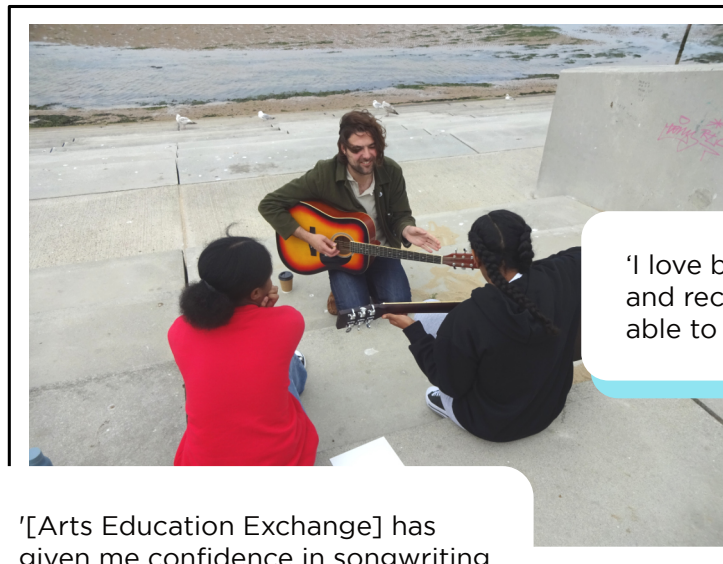
### Music

This year, 77 young people took part in creative learning through our music programmes, including regular 1:1 sessions in our music studio, our mental health, sound and recording programme SOUNDeSCAPES, and in a range of other group sessions. Young people in our studio explored a range of skills, from singing and vocal work, to music production.

### A Message from Joe Kondras, our Music Lead:

I am committed to the idea that access to and experience of all the arts and other meaningful creative opportunities can play a hugely significant role in achieving positive change for individuals and communities. Having the opportunity to witness this in action every day at Arts Education Exchange is an enormous privilege. The volume and diversity of the young people that I have worked with in under a year shows just how essential the work that we do here is.

## What Young People and Carers Say About our Music Programmes:



'I love being in the studio and recording, and being able to collaborate'

'[Arts Education Exchange] has given me confidence in songwriting that I never thought I would have'



'I felt like there was a lot in place to support my mental health when needed'

'[Young person's name]'s confidence has really grown since working with Joe in the music studio!'



## What Young People and Carers Say About our Visual Arts Programmes:



“My confidence has grown  
[since engaging in learning  
at Arts Education Exchange]”

‘Working with Cherelle is  
uplifting and it just brings  
some joy into my day.’



‘[Arts Education Exchange] has just been such a brilliant  
experience. Cherelle is awesome, I know my daughter feels very  
comfortable with her and enjoys her time with her. The fact she  
had an opportunity to do some creative work experience has  
just been so positive and such a boost for her.’

## Visual Arts

In 2022, 59 young people got involved in creative learning through our visual arts programmes, including regular 1:1 sessions in our art studio, our Creative Lab programme taking place at the Turner Contemporary, a summer school graphic illustration workshop, and in a range of other group sessions. Young people learning in our art studio developed a range of skills, from fashion and textiles, to painting.

### A Message from Cherelle Sappleton, our Visual Arts Lead:

I’ve seen some really beautiful transformations take place during the art sessions at Arts Education Exchange. It’s been wonderful to observe young people’s confidence growing and I’ve been so inspired by their dedication and unique perspectives. Being new to the organisation myself, it’s taken a little while for me to feel confident in the role so it feels like we’ve been on a journey together and, in the case of the 1:1 participants especially, we’ve begun to build relationships that will become the foundation for really ambitious art projects.



## Creative Lab

In late 2022, we launched a new programme for children and young people who are vulnerable to school and social exclusion, including looked after children, young people with persistent absence from school, or who face other barriers to mainstream education. This project is being delivered in collaboration with the Turner Contemporary gallery in Margate, and is held in their gallery space.

## Tonetic Records

Our youth-run record label, Tonetic Records, has had an amazing year. From the release of an EP, an album, and two singles, to a major gig at Ramsgate Music Hall, we've been busy providing space and support to young emerging artists across Thanet. Highlights include working with local band bedbugz on their first album, and supporting solo artist ONA to record a music video.

This summer, we also brought together young emerging talent across Thanet to collaborate on an EP in our SOUNDDeSCAPES programme. The EP explored the young people's experiences of mental health and wellbeing through sound and recording.

## Creative ESOL

In 2022, over 40 young people got involved in learning English skills through creative activities, on our Creative English for Speakers of Other Languages programme. Our programme is specifically focussed on Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, and is being delivered in partnership with PIE Factory Youth Centre in Ramsgate.

'When I paint I can escape to another world'

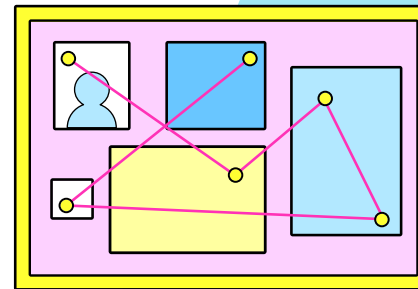
'Coming into Arts Education Exchange makes me really happy'

## Strategic Plan Achievements



### **Organisation**

- 1 Arts Education Exchange is inclusive, entrepreneurial and youth-led
- 2 Arts Education Exchange is an established Alternative Education Provider



### **Young People**

- 3 Young People are better connected, supported and informed
- 4 Young People have more and better creative and employment opportunities

### **Sector**

- 5 The Arts Education Exchange approach is recognised nationally as an example of best practice in creative learning
- 6 Arts Education Exchange effectively advocates for alternative models of creative education



## Our Team

Our permanent team now consists of 10 staff, including 4 young people aged between 18-25. See the whole team at our website ([artsedex.org](http://artsedex.org)), under Meet Our Team.

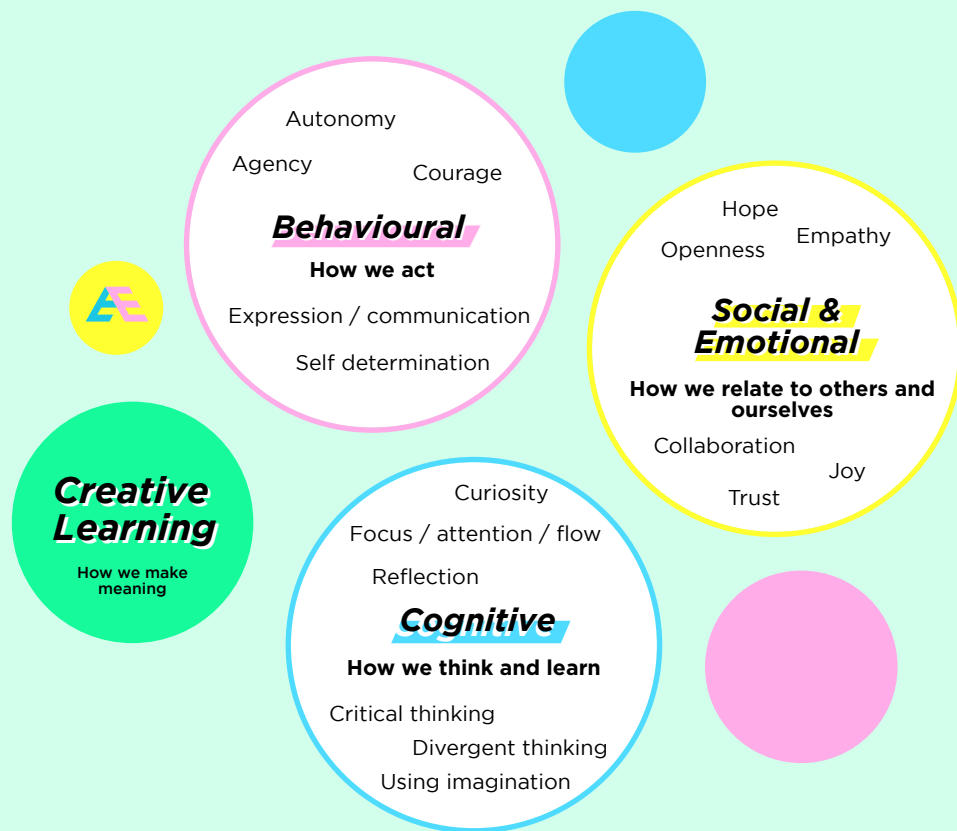
In addition to our permanent staff, we have worked with some excellent freelance creatives this year.

Thank you to our fundraiser, **Phoebe Cullingworth**, Education Consultant **Will Ross**, Creative ESOL Tutors **Sharron Harrison** and **Jayne Wright**, Textiles Tutor **Carla Knight**, **Josh Halcro** for developing our English learning framework, **Grace Attlee** and **Sarah Karen** for visual arts delivery and **Karen Vost** and **Ingrid Sanfey** for helping us to establish a regular Art Psychotherapy offer at Arts Education Exchange.



## Part Time Alternative Provision Placements

As part of our development as a learning organisation, we have opened referrals for young people who are not attending school due to complex support needs and require an alternative education. This year we have engaged with two long-term, 1:1 part time placements and will increase this number to 5 by the end of next year. This has opened up new streams of income and increased the time we can offer young people while remaining focussed on working with young people in the margins who are most negatively impacted by social and educational inequalities.



## Evaluation and Learning Framework

With the support and consultancy of Anna Cutler, former Director of Learning and Research at Tate, the staff team at Arts Education Exchange have developed a framework for learning and evaluation called The Characteristics of Creative Learning.

This represents a significant shift in how the organisation develops its approach, in collaboration with all members of staff. The result is still in testing but is already providing us with the language and structure to describe what we do that is making a positive impact and how we can improve the experiences of young people at Arts Education Exchange.

"It's been incredibly rewarding to work with Arts Education Exchange. A team of thoughtful and self-reflective experts who go the extra mile to live up to their commitments with young people. This is just the beginning of genuinely pioneering work."

Anna Cutler - Creative Learning Trainer and Consultant for Arts Education Exchange



## Partnerships - Learning Exchange Network

This year has also seen the development of new partnerships and collaborative projects with Open School East, Quarterdeck Youth Hub, Enterprise Learning Alliance, Royal Harbour Academy, Turner Contemporary, the University of Kent, Margate Pride, Dreamland, PIE Factory Ramsgate and Powell Cotton Museum. As our network grows, so too does our learning as we develop meaningful long-term connections that support our vision to reimagine what learning looks like through a mutual exchange based on shared values.



## Outreach

Over the past year, we have developed a comprehensive Outreach Strategy, which draws on internal and external data and research to identify groups of young people, who we do not currently work with.

The strategy lays out an action plan for increasing accessibility and inclusivity for marginalised and minoritised groups in Thanet, who we know are most likely to be affected by educational and social inequalities. We are now working with the University of Kent's, Q-Step programme to capture, design and implement quantitative research to inform the strategy.

### Our Outreach Strategic Objectives are:

- To grow and create a more **diverse audience**
- To invite young people to lead and **share power** when appropriate
- To promote the value of young people in our community through **inclusive** public events that showcase their stories
- To inspire and support young people to become critically conscious **creators**





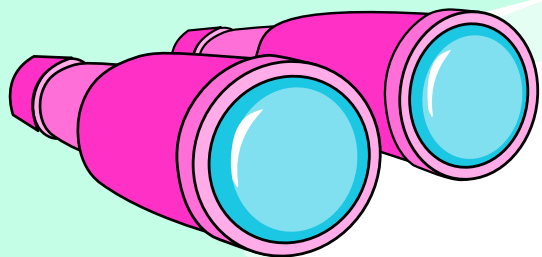
## Our Board of Trustees

We welcomed a new Chair of Trustees this year. Tracie Trimmer-Platman takes over from Fiona Kingsman, who served as Chair since Arts Education Exchange was constituted.

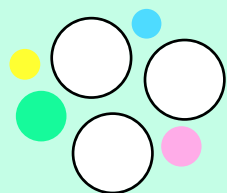
We thank Fiona for her continued support, as she takes up the Vice Chair role. We also sadly said goodbye and thanks to Neil Griffiths, Tina Hoare and Naami Padi, who stepped down having contributed significantly to the organisation.

At the end of this year, we are thrilled to welcome new trustees, John Johnston, Victoria Williams and Lizo Ngqobongwana. Our new trustees come with a wealth of experience, including in creative education, finance, and business. We're pleased to also welcome our first parent/carer trustee to the board as well, as one of our new members is the parent of a young person who has been learning with us for nearly a year now.

## Looking Ahead to 2023

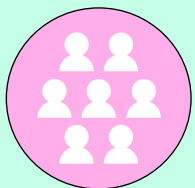


### Quality Assurance

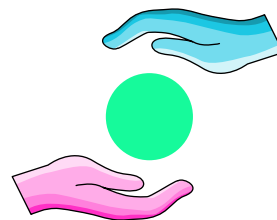


Over the next year we will be putting our learning and evaluation framework to the test, working with our team, trustee John Johnston, and our university partners to develop creative evaluation methods, and track evidence of learning and experience, that will demonstrate the ways in which our work makes a difference.

### Youth Advisory Group



Thanks to funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, we will be developing a model for youth governance. This will be in collaboration with a group of young people with lived experience of educational inequality, who want to develop advocacy and campaigning with Arts Education Exchange, to affect systems change. Trustee Victoria Barrow Williams will work with us to establish the group over the next 3 years.



### Strengthening Partnerships with Schools, Social Care, and Communities across Thanet

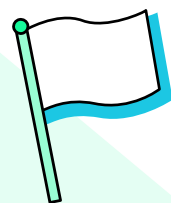
In 2023 we will look to strengthen our existing referral pathways and partnerships, to build on what we have seen working over the past year. In particular, we are looking to deepen our connection to groups and organisations in the community who have shared values and a connection to the young people that we serve, and use our outreach strategy to ensure we are serving those most affected by educational and social inequalities.

### Lacuna



Alongside local arts education organisations, Turner Contemporary and Open School East, we are developing an artist educator network to support the development of creative learning practices in the region. We are looking forward to the next 4 events in 2023, then planning with the network what will follow.

### Challenges



Our primary risk and ongoing challenge is dealing with the increasingly high demand for our programmes and services. This challenge is brought on by limitations of physical space and delivery staff capacity. We are actively seeking larger premises to accommodate our expansion, and are actively fundraising to increase the capacity of delivery staff. We require 300sqm in or around Margate town.



**ARTS  
EDUCATION  
EXCHANGE**

**Reimagining how we learn together**

Registered Charity Number: 1184494



hello@artsedex.org



@artsedex



Check out our new website at  
**artsedex.org** - designed and built by  
young people, and launched this year

