

The Project

Barbican Primary Box aims to ignite and support creativity in schools through a process of making work from scratch, giving students the opportunity to express their unique voices through the process of creating original artistic work.

Each year, Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning commission an artist to design and curate the Barbican Box, providing an artistic starting point from which teachers and students devise their own work.

This artistic starting point takes the form of a physical Box, which is opened up to reveal the ingredients for creating work. The content inside the Box is often themed, which provides a focal point for the artist when designing the Box, and a springboard for the artist practitioners, students and teachers creating their own work.

The Box is accompanied by a package of resources to support teachers and students through the creative process, there are two CPD sessions for teachers, 3 in-school visits from an artist practitioner, an opportunity for all students and teachers to experience professional artistic work, and an opportunity to share their work and to see the work of other participating schools.

In 2020/2021, Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning and PEACH West Norfolk (led by Creative Arts East) will be working in partnership to deliver the Box project for Primary schools in King's Lynn and West Norfolk. The Box, which is curated by poet Michael Rosen, will encourage students and teachers to explore the poetry of Michael Rosen, and to create their own poetry and visual art inspired by what they discover. Participation in the Box project should support students and teachers to feel more confident to express their voice and to share their own stories through creativity.

Artist Practitioner Role

Working within visual arts and / or moving image, the artist practitioner plays a central and vital role within the Barbican Box process.

Representing the project, they are a key connector between the Barbican and PEACH West Norfolk and the school group. As a key part of the project, it is really important that they are familiar with the vision and objectives of the project, so that they feel able to confidently facilitate that process.

As one of the Artist practitioners you would:

- Attend one day of artist practitioner training, led by an experienced artist, who understands the role of the Box artist practitioner,
- Attend and support one day of teacher training for teachers from participating Primary schools,
- Work with the other practitioners and the teachers/school groups. This will involve leading practical in-school workshops, and providing support, advice and guidance to your teachers/groups.

The key relationship that artists form is with the teachers – we want artists to collaborate with the teachers that they work with, developing a project for their class together. The project should inspire creative thought and practice amongst teachers and pupils and be relevant to the Box and its aims. The project should leave a legacy for the pupils, teacher and school, developing and embedding creativity in the curriculum. When developing the project we would expect artists and teachers to look out for ways it can support the curriculum. The project should not however aim to deliver the curriculum or be adapted to parts of the curriculum that are not a natural fit.

We would like artists to support the teacher to develop creative techniques for the classroom. As they collaborate with the teacher, artists may also sometimes challenge them – asking questions, making provocations, helping them to stretch and develop their ideas throughout the process. It's not about having all the answers.

You would be part of a small community of artist practitioners working on Barbican Box. Our intention is to create a project in which a carefully selected group of artist practitioners are embedded from start to finish, allowing them space to reflect on the development of their practice as they work in a range of different settings, collaborating with several groups of pupils and teachers with diverse needs. We envisage a collaborative approach to working with our artist practitioners encouraging mutual reflection and sharing of learning throughout the project, both between artist practitioners and Barbican staff, and within the community of artist practitioners.

In order to provide consistency, our intention is to provide each school with the same practitioner who stays with a group throughout the whole process. This also enables artists to build a strong relationship and rapport with the teacher, which is key to the success of the project.

What you would need to commit to

- ⇒ Attending an **artist practitioner training day in King's Lynn early in Spring term 2021**. The training day will allow you to work directly with an experienced artist leader with an established relationship with Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning, to explore the box and begin to develop ways in which you might use and respond to the contents in a classroom setting
- ⇒ **Attending a teacher CPD day** and supporting elements of it as required, also in King's Lynn in Spring term 2021
- ⇒ Engaging in ongoing communication with the schools, via their preferred method (email or telephone). You are expected to contact your schools via their preferred method before each visit, in order to touch base and ascertain their needs/requirements
- ⇒ Making **three visits** per school in Spring term 2021. These can take place at any point during that period, and are likely to be scheduled at the beginning, middle and end of the process for each of your schools
- ⇒ Updating Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning after each of your visits, letting us know how it has gone, and flagging any key concerns that we should be aware of
- ⇒ **Attending the final showcase day in King's Lynn in April 2021**
- ⇒ Participating in an evaluation of the Barbican Box project at the end of the programme. (Please note: you will not be required to evaluate your students' work or performance.)
- ⇒ Please note that the timeframe above may be subject to flex, as circumstances dictate. We may also need to think creatively about how to deliver some elements of the project remotely, using digital means, if social distancing rules prevent face to face interactions.

Practical information

- **Fees**

- Artist training day: £150
- Teacher CPD day: £200
- Half day workshop session in a school: £150 per session (up to 6 half day workshops) – to include travel
- Showcase day: £200
- Based on the above, the total fee per artist practitioner is up to £1450. Please note that artist practitioners must arrange their own travel (some of which will be to schools in rural areas) - the cost of this to be covered by the artist.

Schools visits

- **Length of your visit**

In order to take full advantage of visits, wherever possible we ask schools to timetable / allow three hours for each of the artist sessions/visits. If this is not possible due to timetabling constraints, at the very minimum, each visit will be no less than 90 minutes.

- **Scheduling your visit**

Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning manage the relationship with all of the schools, and are in regular contact/liaison with the participating teachers. We will put artists in touch with their school directly at the start of the process to set up the dates and times of their visits into schools. We ask artists to please copy us in to all correspondence so we are kept in the loop on all visit dates, and any changes or developments that may occur during the process.

- **Child Protection and DBS**

We expect all artist practitioners to follow our child protection guidelines which will be issued to them in advance, and, wherever possible, we will carry out a DBS check for them at the start of the project.

- **Cancellation**

We ask artists to give us as much notice as possible if they need to cancel or reschedule a visit to a school, as they will often have changed their timetable to accommodate the visit. Similarly, we ask schools to give us a minimum of two weeks' notice if they need to reschedule a visit date.

- **Travel**

Artist practitioners will be required to travel independently to participating schools, some of which may be in a rural location. We would therefore anticipate that they will have their own means of transport. If you have any questions about this, please contact us to let us know.

Next steps

If you would like to be considered for the role of Artist Practitioner on the Barbican Box Primary project in West Norfolk, please complete the online expression of interest form [here](#).

If you would prefer to send a video of your responses to the questions, please send the link to the email address below, along with a C.V. document / video detailing examples of your work to date and experience with working with the arts and children/young people.

Send to: creative.learning@barbican.org.uk, with the subject heading 'West Norfolk Artist Practitioner – Expression of Interest'.

If you have questions about the nature of the artist practitioner role, please contact Lindsay O’Nions, Creative Learning Curator (Film and Cross Arts), Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning - Lindsay.O'Nions@barbican.org.uk

Please note that priority will be given to artists who:

- Are based in West Norfolk
- Have proven experience in working with children and young people
- Have evidence of a digital footprint and/or experience of including digital media in their practice

Expressions of interest will be shortlisted by staff from Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning, Creative Arts East, and Norwich and Norfolk Festival Bridge. Shortlisted artists will be asked to join a Zoom call, which will be an opportunity for the project team to find out more about their practice and experience, and for artists to meet the team and understand more about the project, before making a decision.

Closing date for expressions of interest: 30th September 2020