

the point EASTLEIGH

CREATIVE LEARNING



EASTLEIGH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Welcome to The Point Creative Learning

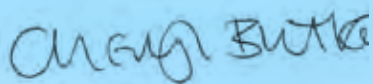
“The Point is a unique venue: rooted in its local community with a reputation for attracting internationally acclaimed artists. This brochure describes how we bring these two strands of our work together. Our Creative Learning team work in schools, colleges, community centres, universities and specialist services offering drama, dance, music, visual arts and media opportunities for local people from a variety of backgrounds.”

We are extremely proud of the work The Point’s Creative Learning team undertake; We hope you are able to support this area of our work and enjoy learning about just some of the activities we have undertaken in recent months. We look forward to working with you in the future.”

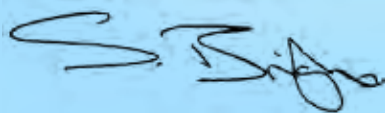


Councillor Keith House
Leader - Eastleigh Borough Council

“Last year The Point Creative Learning team had over 50,000 attendances at their workshops and projects: from craft groups for local elders to an intensive training programme for pre-professional dancers. Our work is about unlocking creativity, building confidence, improving physical and mental well being and celebrating everyone’s engagement with creativity.”



Cheryl Butler
Head of Culture



Sarah Brigham
Director of The Point



Crispian Cook
Creative Learning Manager



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"Everything about these classes gives a better outlook on life and helps us to integrate with other people"

Project participant



Some of our achievements over the last year:

- **50,000 attendances at workshops, classes and projects across the borough**
- **900 dance classes for ages 0 to 90**
- **500 Professionally led classes and workshops in schools**
- **Our work quoted by local schools as improving GCSE exam results**
- **Largest boys dance platform in the region with over 150 performers**



- **Participants drawn from all areas of the borough**
- **Quoted by OFSTED as helping to assist development of local school**
- **Nearly 5,000 participants in our annual dance festival**
- **Managed largest public event in the borough - Music Festival and Mela**
- **Largest professionally run Youth Theatre in the area**



EDUCATION

Unlocking creativity in pupils, students and the people who teach them

Our education strand works with schools, colleges and universities to enhance the learning experience of students by working with professional artists. Our aim is to equip students and teachers with the knowledge and skills to create a sustainable cultural community in which individuals are empowered to make decisions about their learning.

The projects we develop in the fields of theatre, drama, dance, music and media are designed to inspire creativity and assist learners with gaining confidence, self esteem and new skills.



"Everybody absolutely LOVED it. We are indebted to The Point yet again. Children are still buzzing so are the staff. It was a huge success"
Teacher



"We would not have been able to complete this GCSE without the help of The Point"
Teacher



"Our pupils are quite reticent in public generally, but their curiosity overcame their usual shyness."
Teacher

Example Education project

GCSE composition project



"The group are one of the most highly motivated classes I have had the pleasure of teaching. They are enthusiastic, intelligent and quick to learn"

Matt Jones, Artist

GCSE students at Quilley School had the opportunity to take part in a programme of workshops, led by professional composer Matt Jones. The pupils learnt the key principles of music making and compositional techniques, leading them to create their very own modern compositions which they edited, engineered, produced and recorded to CD.

The teacher of the class benefited from 1:1 mentoring and a detailed teachers pack to ensure the legacy of the work beyond this project.



"The GCSE music results were brilliant this year with 100% A-C, the highest ever"
Teacher

Over the last 12 months we have run over 500 drama, music, media and dance workshops in local schools, universities and colleges.

COMMUNITY

Engaging the community in high quality, inclusive arts experiences to improve physical and mental wellbeing

Our work in the community enables us to engage with local people in a variety of settings, regardless of age, background or ability. We aim to ensure that barriers to visiting cultural venues are tackled; people who would never just walk through the door of The Point by choice but who might now consider it because of the fantastic experience they've had.

Projects range from our ever popular arts groups for elders which take place across the borough to a multi-arts group for young people with disabilities. All of these projects put the best possible professional artists into the heart of the local community unlocking creativity, building confidence and skills and engaging people from all areas in an inclusive arts experience. The health benefits of arts interventions are well documented and many of our projects are designed to assist with specific health needs.

"Everything about these classes gives a better outlook on life and helps us to integrate with other people of the same age group"

Participant

"The event is absolutely brilliant and I have enjoyed taking part with various schools"

Participant

"It is lovely to look forward to us all getting together and listening and moving to lovely music, all friends together"

Participant



Example Community Projects

Hedge End disability multi arts project



This multi-arts project gives disabled young people the chance to work with professional specialist artists and alongside children without disabilities. The project was set up to respond directly to the lack of activities for young people aged 8 to 12 with physical and learning disabilities in the Hedge End area and has been a huge success. It doesn't concentrate on final outcomes, instead on the processes used to address how best to enable each child to gain the most out of the sessions. The project has been highly praised by parents and carers commenting that it has helped the participants gain confidence and integrate with other young people.

"He is meeting a group of friends different to those at school which are at his level. And no one feels sorry for him, they are all the same" Parent

Dance for older people

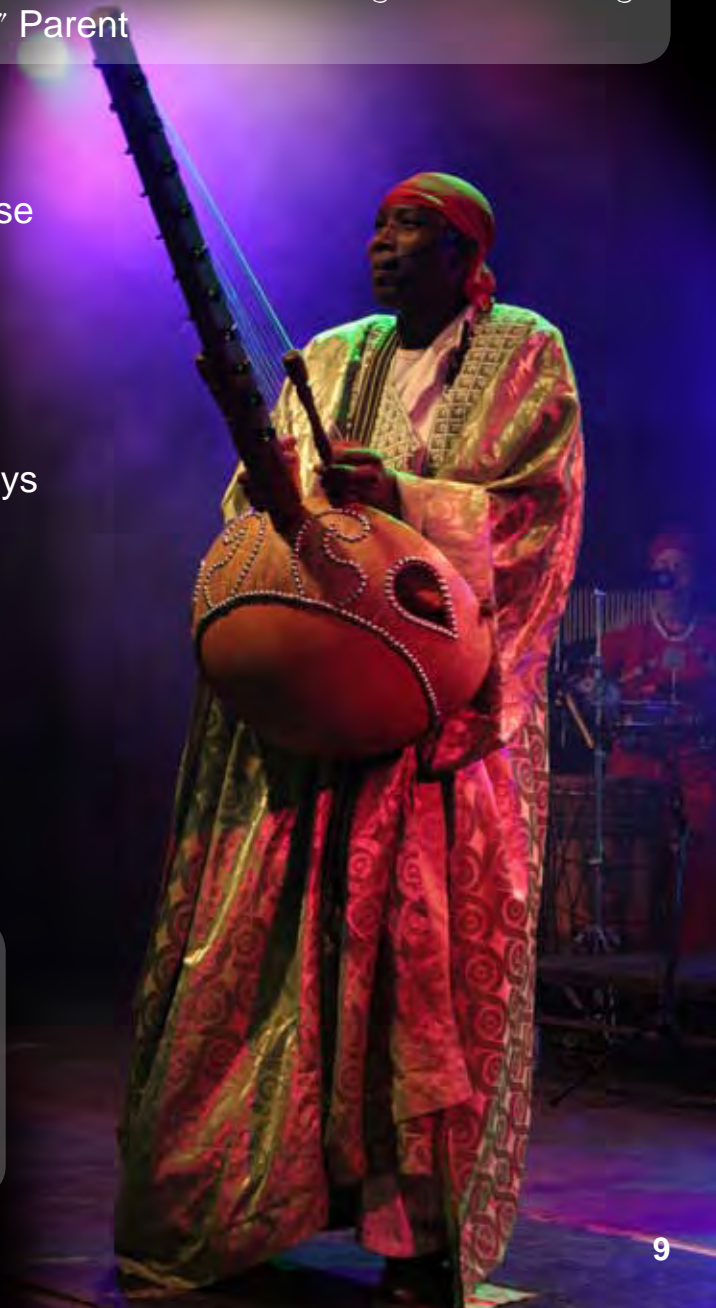
We run a number of projects in care homes and use dance as a tool for improving health for people with limited mobility and dementia. The projects are very well received and have a number of health outcomes including improved fitness, memory and cognitive skills. The projects also assist centre staff to learn new techniques and ways of working to add an element of sustainability.

"This makes me feel like a person again"

Participant

"It made me less tense and was good for my arthritic joints, I am looking forward to it starting again"

Participant



PARTICIPATION

Using our facilities and skills to explore participant's creativity and nurture artistic ambition at every stage of development

We have a commitment to creative excellence as well as offering open access classes in everything from Baby Boogie for parents and their babies to visual arts for the over 50s, we also offer progressive creative training and development for those seeking a career in the arts. We have over 30 dance classes a week, 5 youth theatre groups and a host of holiday projects, community productions, weekly workshops, masterclasses, residencies and summer schools.

Our work enables local people to realise a passion for the arts and go on to build professional contacts and gain employment, building a creative and affluent borough. The benefits to participants are well documented; confidence and teamwork skills are built and many find that this may be a potential career pathway.

All groups are taught by professional artists and in addition we ensure the artists on our stage also engage with these weekly groups. Most recently the acclaimed professional company The Balletboyz, who premiered their work at The Point to rave reviews, invited the Adult Ballet Class to take part in their warm up. Older participants mixed well with these young professionals and each group shared techniques and choreographic ideas.



"I really truly enjoyed the entire experience and learned a lot. This is a true community dance event! Great atmosphere in class, great work out and will ache tomorrow"

Adult ballet participant

Example participation projects

Eastleigh Centenary project

To celebrate the centenary of Eastleigh airport a new play was commissioned and funded by BAA communities trust, Creative Hampshire and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The play included a cast of 70 local adults and young people who worked with a team of professionals to produce and perform the play at The Point.

The project included dance, singing, and music workshops all designed to improve the skills and confidence of the participants and promote positive learning between the generations with actors aged from 8 to in their 70s.



"I don't believe that I would have been able to get to drama school without this project"

Youth theatre member

Filmmaking

A group of young people worked with the team at The Point to develop and produce a film that dealt with climate change. Instead of just a documentary the team commissioned a new screenplay to deal with the matter in a creative way. The finished film, *Koan*, has been shown in schools all around Hampshire along with an education pack. The participants learnt all elements of filmmaking from scripting and cameras to sound and editing using professional equipment and guidance.



"It was energetic and different from anything I have done before, normally I would be eating junk food and being lazy"

Project participant

"I think this project has really helped me to develop my music skills"

Student

"I never thought I would enjoy dance this much but I do, I love it"

Project participant

"I really enjoyed it and it was energetic and I think I could be a real dancer one day"

Workshop participant

"I loved the music and the moves. The moves are active and inspiring. The music was AMAZING"

Pupil

"It is going to help me with my university applications and make me stand out from other applicants"

Project participant

"I thoroughly enjoyed the performance, I thought it kept my interest and was different and interesting"

Pupil



"I have learnt and gained more through being at The Point than I have in my whole three years at University"

University Placement student

"Meeting the dancers sparked lots of discussion back at school. very valuable"

Teacher

"It was brilliant!
Cool! Awesome!"

Workshop participant

"I would love to do it again because I thought it was an amazing experience"

Participant

"Loved the range of activities and information being provided in an interactive way"

Participant

"It gave me more experience with different teachers and different techniques to help my career"

Pupil

"Discipline and commitment in taking part, team work and working socially as a group, so much better than Playstation"

Parent



A HOME TO...

In 2009 The Point was selected to be a part of a network of national dance programmes for 11-14 year olds funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), Music and Dance Scheme. The project is sponsored by The Place, London – home to the internationally renowned London Contemporary Dance School, and The Point is one of only two satellite centres for advanced training in the South East.



The Royal Ballet School Associate programme has held its associate classes for children aged 8 - 10 years at The Point for over four years. The associate programme is designed to enhance a young dancer's current training as well as introduce them to The Royal Ballet School's system of training.

Associate Companies: Thanks to funding from Arts Council England, The Linbury Trust, University of Winchester, Hampshire County Council and Eastleigh Borough Council, The Point now has 8 associate companies. We are supporting these local theatre and dance companies at the start of their careers with office and rehearsal space, artistic and business mentoring.



The Point is also home to Hants Media Hub a collaboration with Cass Productions to offer state of the art video, web and design production facilities for use by the community and to support local schools in their media learning.

Hampshire Dance: The Point is home to and supports Hampshire Youth Dance Company (HYDC) which is one of two county Youth Dance Companies run by Hampshire Dance. HYDC has a well-established reputation for the high quality of its work and the opportunities it offers talented dancers. Many past members have gone on to pursue full-time dance training and to embark on dance careers.

A CREATIVE BOROUGH

Thornden Hall

Thornden Hall is at the centre of a new, high quality performing arts centre, which was awarded a Commendation in the Civic Trust Awards 2005. Hampshire's first Specialist Arts College.

It is a concert hall designed with high quality acoustics for music performances, with a stage large enough to accommodate a full orchestra and an audience capacity of nearly 400 people. It is also home to The Hampshire County Youth Orchestra, a collection of the best of the county's instrumental players.

New Theatre in Hedge End

The Point is working closely with our colleagues at Wildern School and Eastleigh Borough Council to create a new theatre for audiences and participants in the Hedge End area of the borough. It will feature a state of the art 320 seat auditorium and be capable of screening digital cinema as well as live theatre. Both of these venues have extensive outreach programmes linked to them offering many more participatory opportunities.



Festivals

Every year thousands of people participate in our festivals. Our two week dance festival and the Eastleigh Music Festival and Mela are by far the largest community engagement events in the borough attracting over 15,000 between them. Local people are involved in many different ways as audience members, participants or practitioners.

"It is incredible that Eastleigh can put together such a fantastic event that reaches every part of the community"

Eastleigh resident at Eastleigh Mela





For more information about how you, your school or community group can get involved with The Point please contact the Creative Learning team.

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www.thepointeastleigh.co.uk

