

Paddington Arts



Annual Report 2018 - 2019



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Director's Report

You can support our campaign at

www.LocalGiving.org/Dance-Not-Fight

The things that are important to me are young people, arts and nature.

At Paddington Arts, as well as encouraging creativity and self-expression, we use the arts to explore ideas and issues.

We have looked at issues such as Faith, Identity and Belonging. We held a creative writing and photography competition, and got entries from around the UK, Europe and beyond. We produced a booklet, and have printed winning entries in this annual report.

We have explored our local environment, through photowalks, drawing, painting, collage and produced beautiful hand painted batik flags, illustrated with people (including me) and landmark buildings from the Harrow Road (including Paddington Arts, All Stars, Fudges Cycles, Ha'penny Steps, etc.). We paraded the flags at the Paddington Festival and My Westminster Day in Paddington Rec.

We are currently running a programme and campaign 'Let's Dance Not Fight' which encourages young people to take a stand against youth violence and express themselves through dance.

You can see the wonderful work we do in this booklet, please support us so we can continue to help young people in our community on their journey though life.

Steve Shaw

Performing Arts



Due to our funding situation we have fallen in numbers but grown in strength and presence. Still having fresh faces come through our doors we are able to hold up a positive, safe and vibrant setting. Quality rather than quantity has always been my motto and over the past few years this has been made clearer and clearer Paddington Arts will continue to support young people from near and far regardless of their ability and strengths.

Eldora Edward



Another fantastic year working with many new young faces, even if the competition out there is fierce we're still here striving and making the most of things. The Summer School programme is a project loved by all and needed by most, so we'll keep doing what we do best: Putting the young people and their needs first.



**One, two, three, four, Summer Schools open let's get through the door,
Five, Six, Seven, Eight so much fun, no time to be late,
Nine, Ten, Eleven, Twelve, In naughty behaviour we shall not delve....**



Love. War and Recycling

'Love, War and Recycling' was a collaboration with Zoo Nation, a professional hip-hop dance company.

We discussed storylines, with input from our young people, and came up with a title of 'Love War and Recycling' about two families, one ultra keen on recycling, and the other extremely messy.

The idea of families came from the fact that our members vary in age from 9 to 19, so we could portray parents, teenagers and younger siblings. Unsurprisingly, the teenage boy from one family falls for the teenage girl from the other family, friends and families disapprove, and a fight breaks out with tragic consequences. This scenario allowed us to portray diverse characters, and display complex emotions, telling a story through dance.

"I feel grateful I had the chance to work with Zoo Nation as this company has inspired me since I started dancing myself over eighteen years ago and I always wanted to dance alongside them, this was a learning curve for me.

The performance nights were amazing and the young people did so well after the ups and downs I feel they really enjoyed this experience and they have learnt some key skills about the importance of discipline and instructions.

Overall it was an amazing experience to be part of and I am proud of my team at Paddington Arts."

Chloe MacFarlane
Paddington Arts Dance Tutor



"I learned that everyone has extraordinary potential even if they don't realise it yet, that the power of dance can unite people greatly, that positivity always wins and also to set an example to those younger than me"

Sam, 16



Let's Dance Not Fight

'Let's Dance Not Fight' is a campaign against youth violence, and a programme of dance activities.

We aim to :

-  Promote youth dance across West London
-  Provide a showcase for diversity and excellence in youth dance
-  Make a stand against intolerance, hatred and violence
-  Give a platform to those (particularly young people) who have been affected by violence or intolerance and/or are campaigning against it

Why do you come to Paddington Arts?

“I come to Paddington Arts as it is a fun and safe environment for me to socialise and dance in. I love to dance and Paddington Arts allows me to think about something else and takes away the stress I have. I have been coming to Paddington Arts since I was 7 years old because I love it here.”

Savannah, 16



What have you learned by coming to Paddington Arts?

"I have learned to be **more confident and less shy** around people. I am more confident in dance and freestyling. I can do **different dances that are out of my comfort zone** and learnt that I can work as a team."

Kayla, 18



What would you say to a young person who carries a knife?

Throw away the knife it brings problems to you and your family. **Your whole life can be ruined by one mistake.** Violence is never the answer. You don't want to be the one that causes a mother's grief.

Doneil, 16

Youth Media



I teach photography and video. I like taking the children on photowalks around the neighbourhood. It is surprising how many interesting people and places there are, and also nature and wildlife if you look carefully.

Usually I give them a 'brief' e.g. find and photograph:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 📷 Circle | 📷 Person with unique fashion style |
| 📷 Triangle | 📷 Close up of fruit or vegetable |
| 📷 Orange | 📷 Wildlife |
| 📷 Portrait of shopkeeper | 📷 Close up of flower |

When I teach video, I put the children in groups of four: Camera; Sound; Interviewer; Interviewee; and teach them the basic equipment required: camera; microphone; tripod and headphones. Then I pretty much let them get on with it. Of course, they love the instant playback, and if they are serious, we plan another session and look into documentary filmmaking in more depth.

Steve Shaw



"I loved the photowalk – it's a good way to enjoy new things and have fun."



"I learnt that life is more beautiful than you think."



Farm Trip

My Farm Diary by Ethan, age 10

Monday

We arrived at Paddington Farm and met the workers Tanya and Michael. Then we made our beds and unpacked our bags and after we had a tour of the farm so we met the animals (the alpacas, the horses, the goats and the chickens), and saw the adventure playground.



Tuesday

On Tuesday we took a long walk through different areas of the farm to feed the sheep. When we got there Tanya shook the bucket of food and the sheep all came running. Tanya gave us some food in our hands, we held out our hand and let the sheep lick it off them. After lunch we went to Farmer Dave's farm where we got to ride the tractor, and Farmer Dave taught us how to drive it. We explored Farmer Dave's farm and it had woodpeckers, cows and so much more. We picked and ate some apples from the orchard which was amazing.



Wednesday

We went into the vegetable garden and planted red and green lettuce, picked and ate peas and picked some other fruit. Then we went to the Tor and walked all the way up to the top. It was tiring but it felt so good once I got to the top and we took pictures and had drinks. It was the best.



Thursday

On Thursday we went to the outdoor swimming pool and slide which was the best part of the whole week. Then we came out and went to the shops to buy presents and food for Friday, which was hard because we only had £10 to spend and so much to buy. Then we looked at the two trees Gog and Magog which are two old oak trees thought to be about 2000 years old.

Friday

I can't wait to go home and would love to come back next year



Carnival





Photography & Creative Writing Competition 2018

Faith, Identity and Belonging

We set up an online competition in Creative Writing and Photography and invited young people aged 16-24 to submit photographs and articles, and offered prizes to the best three in each category

In addition, we invited two speakers who have been involved in extremist organisations/activities (one from right wing viewpoint, one from muslim extremist viewpoint) to give presentations about their life choices to an audience of 220 young people in a sixth form college.



"Anger, frustration it has to come out,
One way or another and that's no doubt,
I'm not saying it was right,
but at the time I didn't think,
And now my heart is about to sink,
Make a positive from a negative,
That's what I'll have to do,
Changing schools yes,
but that's what they said I must do,
I'm gonna knuckle down and keep my head clear,
As I don't want to be in here for another year,
You have brains in your head,
You have feet in your shoes,
You can steer yourself any direction that you choose."

Frustration by Mo, Year 7



**Photo credit
Erin Spillane**



Nabeela Mulbocus - The Ethnicity Tick Box

Neither did I fit in a box,
It was always other.
Because who'd think brown
Would be a mix of colours,
If you aren't a tone
Of black and white
Or white and other
But what about?
The many countries,
That they don't cover?
We're a mix of this and a
Mix of that
Then they shout, 'you're a fake,
you know that?'
So we accustom to being one race,
When it doesn't even agree
With our face.
Because half breeds or half caste
Is what we can't relate.
Because our race divides more into a
Plate
Where an island is one day our
Home, but

Our tongues don't match.
Or a native to our souls,
But our songs don't hatch.
Perhaps a tribal
Yet we don't attack at our culture
And embrace...
Who knows our race?
Yes this head cover,
Some say 'we know what you are'.
But how can they know,
When even we don't?
There are stars out there with beauty
And grace,
So we know that we're still valid,
When finding a race.
But it's not a race
To find a place,
And yet we breathe as if
We need to hide
What we are.
Where we best fit,
Is into a pot of mix,
Some jerk,

Some raisons,
Some coconut.
Maybe, we are coconuts...
To our mother tongues,
Foreign to our land.
And yes, some think,
Everything fits into our hands.
Trying to be something
You aren't,
Then you embrace and still you
can't.
Honesty is brutal when we tell you
it's true.
They will never accept you, unless
you do too.
So my ode is be what you are,
Be it one race, two race, or three,
mixed race star?
There are centuries in your veins
And galaxies in your eyes
If they don't understand then give
them a sign.
While mystery lies engraved in their

words.
You know it won't damage
The beauty of the worlds.
Where you intertwine like a prism
art.
Belonging and identity is the
creation of your heart.
Let them stare, whilst they
Mimic your accent of
Fluent knowledge
Whilst the match is still lit.
The times will tell when times
Are rough.
Or when they judge you
Of who you love.
As you sit in
McD's trying to chill
Really getting to the core of what
life's about.
And how your children will be
Cultures times
A hundred more.
Souls like us dive

Into the shore.
And love who we love,
So one day we can say
To our mixed-race children
Today is your day.
For difference is beauty,
To be the same is the same.
We're all golden colours, with our
Slight touches of brown.
When that form comes back to us
Soon.
They'll have understood the words
of this tune.
No box will define what a world it
can be.
Belonging is me.
Belonging is me.
Belonging is us.
Belonging is we.

Because some aren't just white,
black or green.
We are we. We are we.

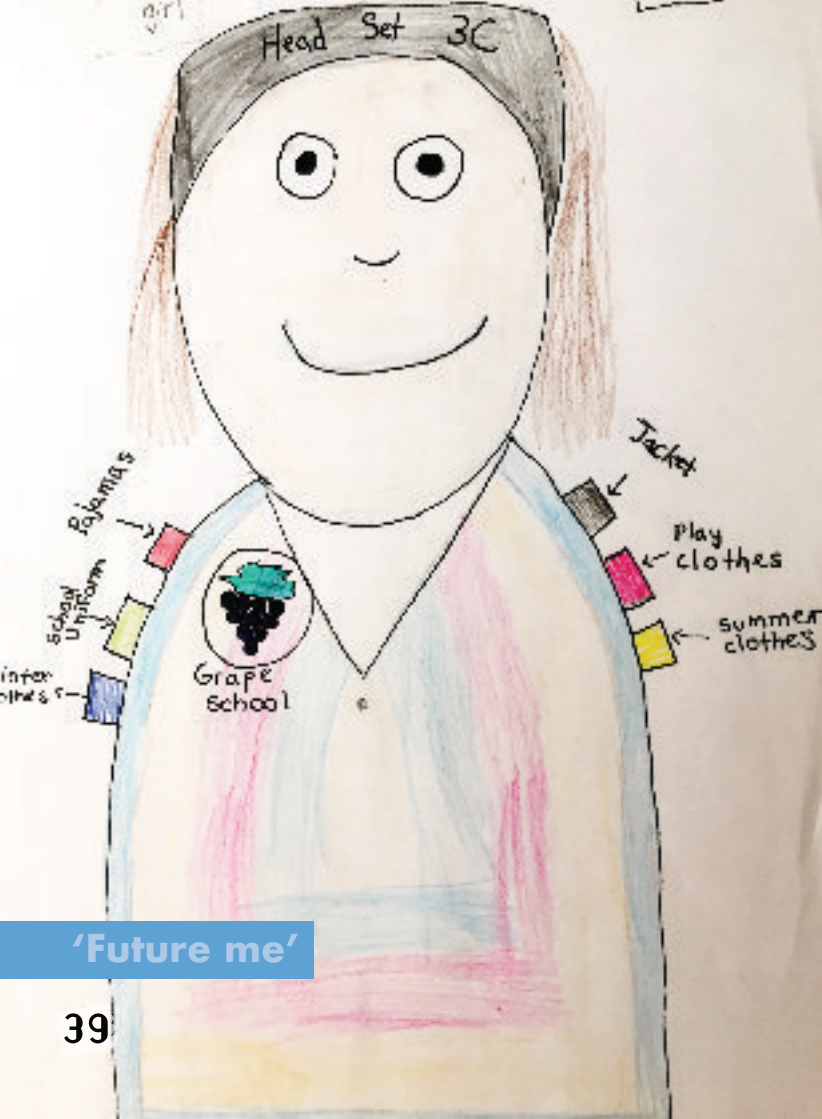


My Paddington

'My Paddington' explored the architecture and people of our local community through painting, drawing, photography and making 10 small and 2 large flags, hand painted using dyes and the 'double waxing' batik technique, with workshops led by the wonderful Ali Pretty and her team from Kinetika.

We worked with 118 young people from 3 local primary schools, and also did some inter-generational work with 16 elders from Open Age

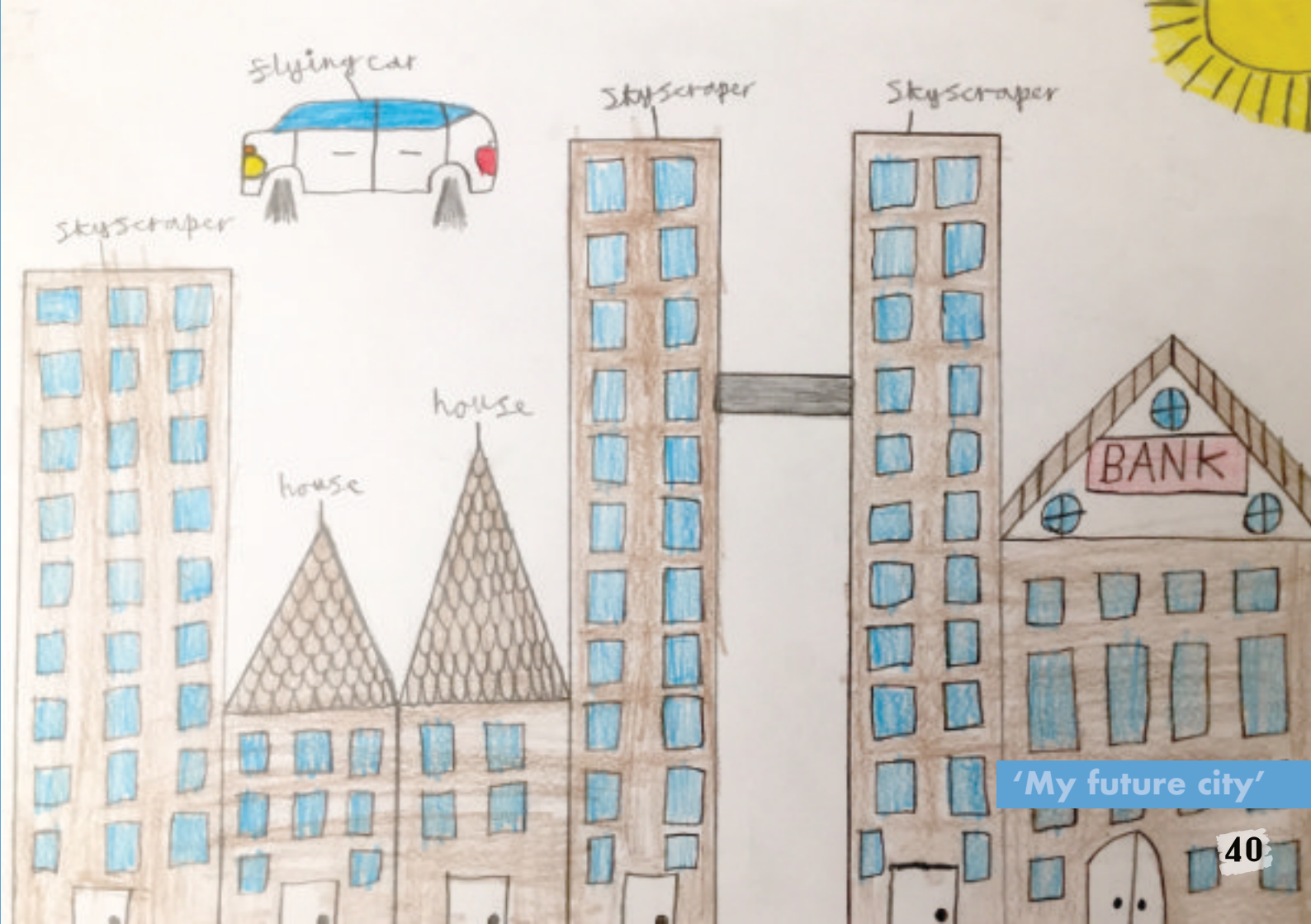
The flags were paraded at our own Paddington Festival and at Paddington Rec on My Westminster Day.



'Future me'

"I like the art and the drawing but my favourite bit was when we were taking pictures of interesting stuff that I never noticed in the area before."

Hamidur, 9



'My future city'



 Parading the flags at #MyWestminsterDay



Year 5 from Queens Park Primary School
helped hand paint 'portraits' onto silk

Paddington Arts in Numbers



Projects and Events



Staff and Tutors

Director

Steve Shaw

Drama Tutors

Eldora Edward
Colin Vidal

Steel Pan Tutors

Marvin Barrie
Eversley 'Breeze' Mills

Daniel

Kyle
Sophie
Naami
Wayne

Management Committee

Alan Hayling
(Chair)
Angela Piddock
(Vice Chair)
Leandra Box
(Company Secretary)

Head of Performing Arts

Eldora Edward

Mentors

Carol McNeish
Eldora Edward
Colin Vidal
Daniel Shaw
Marcus Leon

Summer Project Staff

Eldora Edward
Melissa Desbonnes
Tyrone Charles

Volunteer Gardener

Hermione

Administrator

Alys Brough

Finance Officer

Dipa Kotak

Keighley Robinson

Spoken Word Tutor

Chris Preddie

Dance Tutors

Chloe McFayden
Eldora Edward
Shaun Smith
Rhimes

Photography Tutor

Steve Shaw

Volunteers

Colin
Lenny
Nicholas
Shaun
Sharon
Melissa
Tyrone
Tori

Caretaker and Cleaners

Colin Vidal
Junior Browne
Michael Charles
Clint Thomas

Maintenance

Ricky St. Omer

Funders

John Lyon's Charity
Arts Council England
Westminster City Council
WECH
Awards for All
Rose Foundation
Jack Petchey Foundation
BBC Children in Need
Westminster Amalgamated Charity
Paddington Charities
Near Neighbours Fund
Young Westminster Foundation
Westway Trust
Young Westminster Foundation
Westway Trust





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