

## Information Sheet

## Arts Award Welcome

Arts Award Welcome is a badge scheme which enables organisations to define a unique offer to young people to support them in gaining their Arts Awards.

We are very much committed to the development of young people as artists and leaders for the future development of the arts.

**The Forge** supports the Arts Award and can help young people to achieve aspects of their award by undertaking the many roles within an arts journey, these include performers, producers, researchers, promoters, backstage / front of house, technicians, event managers, audience members, volunteers, arts leaders and so forth.

As an Arts Award Welcome centre The Forge can support young people to achieve their Arts Award through our activities, events or access to professionals.

We offer young people expertise, information, opportunities and resources related to following aspects of the Arts Award:

### Taking part

**The Forge can provide** valuable information, advice and guidance including – how and where a young person can ‘take part’ via our network of cultural organisations and partners...finding an artist/choosing the appropriate art form(s) and working with arts and cultural partners in the North East region. (Other galleries/theatres/film and media companies/ arts centres)

Access one of our programmes to participate:

- Connections Schools Membership scheme (Durham and Sunderland schools only)
- Youth Dance England school dance companies across Durham
- Sunderland Youth Dance England projects
- One-off creative programmes (various throughout the year)

### Enjoying and appreciating

- We can help arrange behind the scenes/meet the artist/artist talks with our creative and cultural partners.
- Our Newsletter regularly features our partners work and ‘focused’ features with artists to share and learn about their work. Young people can feature their own work in our newsletter and review work within it
- Exhibitions/performances will be promoted via our website News and e-bulletins.
- Promotional packs are available for our activities. These can be used for young people to incorporate within their portfolios.

### The Forge

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## **Leadership/apprenticeships & Volunteering or work placement**

The Forge offers leadership opportunities for young people through:

### **Work placements:**

- Placement can be offered if requested, these will be linked to the development of the young person (including event management, shadowing artists linked to our existing programme offer)
- We can host volunteers within the organisation in a range of roles/range of projects (by request.) These can link into other developments such as 14-19 Creative and Media Diplomas. These would specifically benefit 16+.
- The company would limit these dependent on capacity and nature of work available at any given time.

### **Marketing and Communications:**

- Young people can contribute to our website and newsletter and lead special editions by request.
- Other support to fulfil leadership challenges can be accessed via our website which includes resources such as contract templates/fact sheets/funding.
- The Forge can offer meeting room space (with Mac hot desks) for young people's leadership and apprenticeship activities where supervised by their adviser or other appropriate adult.

### **Programme:**

- Young people can act as leaders through directing their programmes facilitated by their Lead Artist.
- Working in partnership with cultural venues, schools and youth settings to enable curatorial, exhibition and performance opportunities.

## **Meeting arts professionals**

In all our projects young people gain access to an artist and/or project manager e.g. young people to interview/talking/shadow arts professionals (including staff within the Forge team/arts partners through our local authority venue links).

## **Showcasing young people's work**

We share all of our creative programmes; please review the relevant part of the website for opportunities and our partners' websites [www.youthdancenortheast.co.uk](http://www.youthdancenortheast.co.uk)

The Forge has a strong network of arts contacts and can utilise these to help young people access our arts and education partners to help negotiate space to showcase young people's work.

As part of our remit as Training License Holder for Durham and Sunderland we raise the profile of young people achieving their Arts Award and are able to assist in co-ordination of shared moderations.

Meeting room space is also available for smaller scale sharing or showcasing events.

Our website, sister sites (in development) and publicity materials (newsletters) are available to showcase young people's work.

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