

ARTS AWARD Case Study 4

Watts Gallery, Compton, Guildford



The Watts Gallery is an art gallery and estate. 'The Art for All' ethos was started by George and Mary Watts who were the founders of the Watts Gallery. This ethos still lives on today.

WHY DO ARTS AWARD?

The Gallery felt that Arts Award would inspire young people, develop new audiences and would reach out to kids who might not consider a gallery as being of interest to them.

WHICH LEVEL AND WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

They decided to run Bronze Arts Award as this was the right level for the students involved in the project. Also the staff at Watts Gallery had trained in delivering this level.

WHO DID IT?

14 teenagers aged 13 to 18 years old from Park Barn Youth Project completed Bronze Arts Award. The Youth Project had worked with the gallery before. These were teenagers who were from backgrounds under-represented by the majority of the Gallery's visitors.

WHAT DID THEY DO?

The project was funded through Arts Council England as part of the 'World Stories South East' project. This project aimed to explore collaborative working with young people aged 14 to 25 years old. The aim was to help them develop work-based skills.

The education team brainstormed film ideas about the lives of George and Mary Watts. They proposed their ideas to the youth leaders at Park Barn Youth Project who were excited to be part of it.

The education team went for an initial visit to meet the teenagers at their youth club. They introduced themselves and did activities such as tile making and animation, helping to break the ice.

In the school half-term, the teenagers went to the Gallery for four days. They explored the Gallery and Estate and learnt how to use film equipment, from cameras to lighting and sound. These sessions were led by a local independent film making company. In small groups, they created short chapters of the film. This involved research, script writing, selecting appropriate costumes and interview skills.

The project ended with a screening and Award Ceremony in the Gallery for all the young filmmakers and their families. Around fifty people attended and the teenagers helped to prepare speeches to be read on the night.

WHAT DID THEY LEARN?

They successfully made a film while learning about the Watts Gallery and its founders, George and Mary Watts.

Working as a team and to a deadline helped them to build their confidence. They planned and scheduled their timings to complete a project in a very short time.

If you had told me that we would be doing history I wouldn't have come, but now I think history is the best bit!

YOUTH GROUP MEMBER

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Doing Arts Award not only gave the teenagers confidence but also the Gallery. They have since implemented 10 week courses with the Youth Support Services. The new courses have been a huge success with the Arts Award really motivating their young audiences.

QUOTE FROM MUSEUM

Offering Arts Award really motivates young people and gives them a sense of progression. It has revived the heritage of the youth programmes established here in the nineteenth century. We are really excited by the potential to involve more young people and move them on to Silver and Gold Awards.

WATTS GALLERY

Contact the Arts Award helpdesk at
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