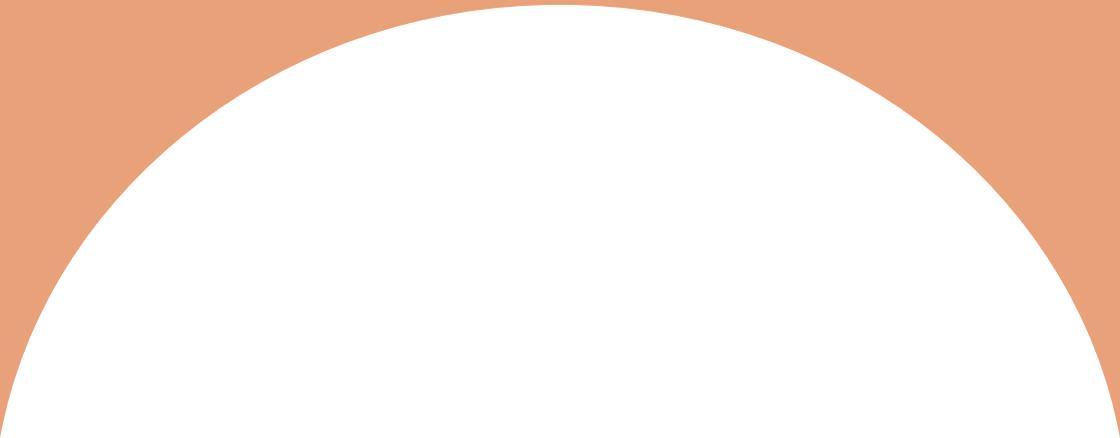


UP
PROJECTS

**WORKING WITH
CHILDREN &
YOUNG PEOPLE**



WORKING WITH CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

As the decision makers of tomorrow, we believe young people are one of the most vital constituents to collaborate and create with today. A significant part of UP Projects' programme is dedicated to engaging children and young people working within educational settings and beyond the school walls. We embed opportunities for young people to shape our public art commissions and strategies as well as curate bespoke workshops, activities and schools' resources that encourage creative learning.

Our approach centres on engaging young people through collaboration with artists enabling new and creative methods of participation and co-creation to take shape. By bringing young people into the conversation, we are not only empowering them to positively shape their neighbourhoods but are also helping them gain new skills and a deeper understanding of the world around them.

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↓ The Floating Cinema: Waterfolk with Tracy & Hobbs, 2013. Image: Hydar Dewachi

THE FLOATING CINEMA WITH VARIOUS ARTISTS

UK Waterways

2011 - 2017

The Floating Cinema was an award-winning 12-seater screening vessel and floating event space, curated and commissioned by UP Projects in 2011 and activated through various artist-led programming until 2017. As well as playing host to numerous film screenings and events, *The Floating Cinema* was a space for learning for children and young people.

Over the course of its lifetime, *The Floating Cinema's* programme challenged young people to make a film from scratch with filmmakers from Chocolate Film, allowed them to explore outer space through *The Floating Cinema Space School* with artists Lucy McRae and Janneke Verhoeven, and enabled young people to gain a better understanding of sustainable energy with the Guerilla Science collective. Over 15,000 young people were engaged through events, workshops and events over a six-year period.



↓ Rotherthe Public Living Room, public works, 2019. Image: Monika Szolte

YOUR WORDS IN MY MOUTH | MY VOICE ON YOUR TONGUE BY GHISLAINE LEUNG

Tower Hamlets, East London

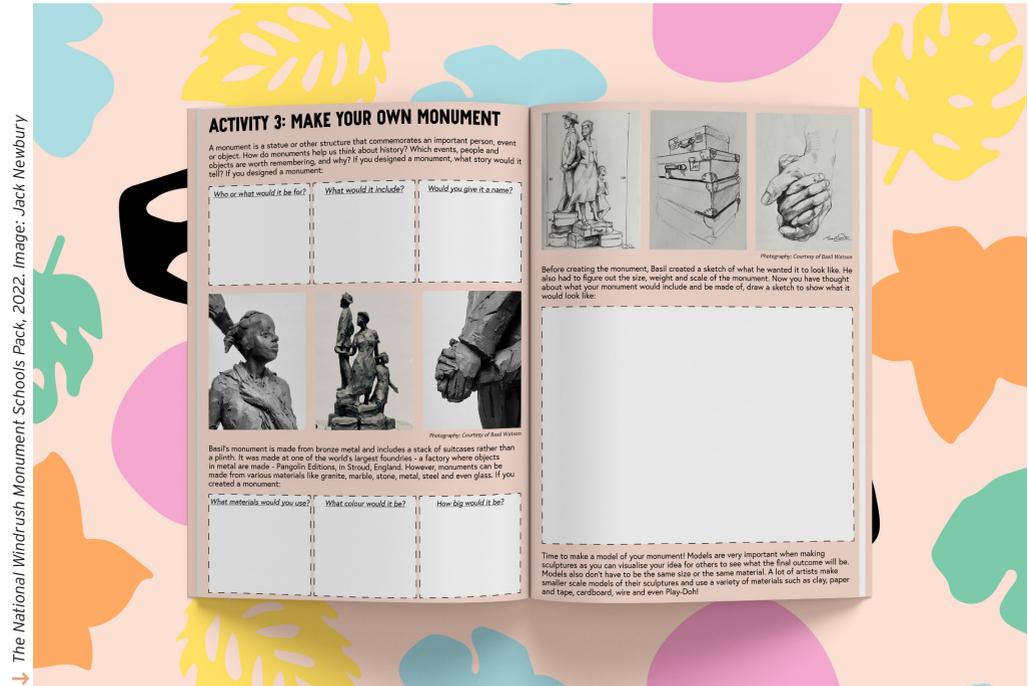
2017 - 2018

UP Projects worked with Turner prize shortlisted artist, Ghislaine Leung on a six-month co-design project in collaboration with Year 12 students from St. Paul's Way Trust School in Tower Hamlets, working in partnership with A New Direction.

Through a process of co-creation workshops, the project encouraged the young people to collectively develop ideas, plan, make, show and share artefacts by drawing on their own experiences. They experimented with documentation by directing a photoshoot, and explored distribution methods and how to market the artefacts that they developed under their invented brand name "Me: Merch". The group designed an impressive collection of merchandise, including phone cases, socks, hijabs and hoodies that incorporated texts generated from the earlier workshops. The products were presented in a display case within the school along with a lookbook, celebrating the work they had done and demonstrating how far they had come.



↓ Your Words in My Mouth, Me Merch Photoshoot, 2018. Image: Wendy Huynh



↓ The National Windrush Monument Schools Pack, 2022. Image: Jack Newbury

THE NATIONAL WINDRUSH MONUMENT SCHOOLS PACK

Downloadable Resource

2022 - Ongoing

UP Projects worked with the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities and the Windrush Commemoration Committee to commission *The National Windrush Monument* at London Waterloo Station by Basil Watson. UP Projects also led the creation of an accompanying Schools Pack aimed at children aged 7-11. The resource presents stories of the Caribbeans and British-Caribbeans who are part of the Windrush Generation.

Activities promoting writing and creative skills invite children to connect with those who made the journey to the UK and encourages them to make connections with stories of migration and relocation relevant to their own lives. The learning outcomes can be linked to Key Stage 2 History and Citizenship objectives of the National Curriculum to further consolidate learning. Accompanying the learning resource is a short film featuring Baroness Floella Benjamin DBE and artist Basil Watson that provides background information on why *The National Windrush Monument* was commissioned and how the artist created it. The resource and workshops engaged over 850 young people and remain available for download.

BEST PRACTICE CONSIDERATIONS

1 Allow time

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Building relationships and trust with schools, youth settings, youth providers and the young people themselves takes time but is vital to ensuring the long-term success and impact of a project. Create enough time to build these partnerships and connections in a meaningful way and allow for multiple points of engagement.

2 Enable agency

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Young people want to be part of something they can actively shape and influence. Set up the project in a way that embeds creative opportunities for them to have agency over decision making and be transparent from the start about where this agency lies.

3 Embed learning

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Embed opportunities for creative learning for young people throughout the project. This may include learning about a particular theme such as the climate emergency or diversity and inclusion, supporting them to develop new creative skills, or it may relate to new training and employment opportunities as a result of taking part in the project.

4 Incentivise

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It can be hard to get young people to engage, particularly outside of a formal learning setting. Building in incentives and clearly articulating the tangible benefits to them for getting involved can help boost engagement. If young people are invited to participate in a co-design process they should be recompensed for their time and involvement. And always make sure there is plenty of food and drink on hand!

5 Safeguard

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Ensuring the young people you are working with are safe is paramount. Create robust Safeguarding and Access policies and follow safeguarding protocol including carrying out DBS checks on all adults working with young and/or vulnerable people and seeking parent or guardian permissions when necessary.

WORK WITH UP PROJECTS

UP Projects is the UK's leading public art organisation specialising in socially engaged public art commissioning. We bring world class artists out of the gallery and into public spaces to create new work with communities across the UK and beyond. We develop arts and cultural strategies, commission artists and activate public places through creative projects, programmes and events.

Should you wish to find out more about how UP Projects can help you commission ambitious and impactful public art projects that empower communities and bring about social change please get in touch.

OUR EXPERTISE

Collaborating with Communities

We have over 20 years experience of working with communities and understand how to build trusting and empowering relationships.

Placeshaping Through Public Art

We can help harness the power of artists and art to tell stories and reveal narratives about a place.

Reflecting Diversity in the Public Realm

Our public realm should reflect the diversity of the communities it serves. We can help create projects that make public spaces more inclusive.

Working with Children & Young People

We can curate bespoke projects and programmes that empower and involve young people.

Addressing the Climate Emergency

Considering the environment and working against climate change is central to all of the work that we do. We champion the role artists and art can play in advocating for action.

Contact Us

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