

WIDENING PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

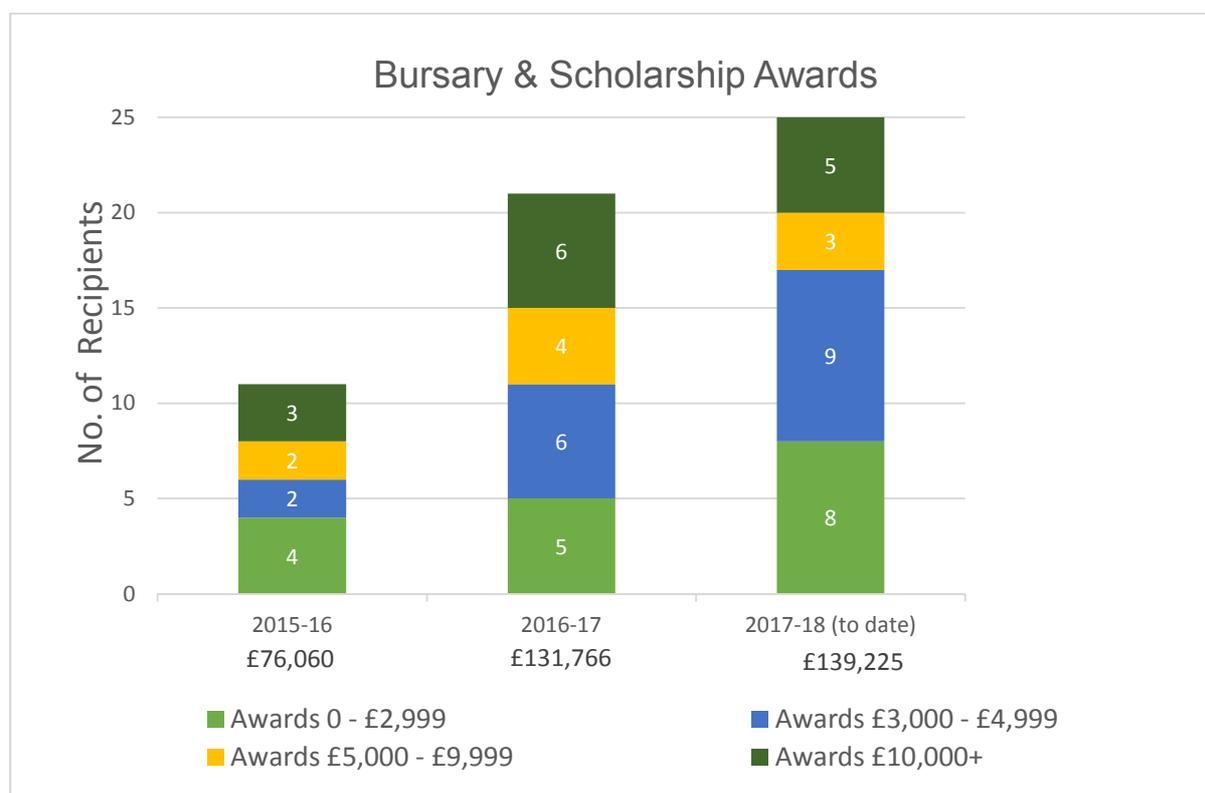
ArtsEd is committed to enabling people of all backgrounds and ages to access high quality performing arts training, through a broad range of outreach activities run by the ArtsEd Extra and Outreach department. This Widening Participation Statement is published on our website [here](#).

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We aim to make our courses as accessible as possible, so we offer a variety of funding options for our students.

DANCE AND DRAMA AWARDS (DaDAs) offer annual scholarships to exceptionally talented performing arts students. Funded by the government through the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), DaDAs offer reduced tuition fees and assistance with living costs for the duration of the course. DaDA funding is linked to Trinity College London Professional Diplomas in Acting and Musical Theatre. Currently students in receipt of a DaDA are means tested according to national scales and may receive support for their course fees and also apply for income assessed maintenance of up to £5,185 a year. This support is in the form of a grant, not a loan. Each year there are a limited number of Awards which are allocated to those students who have been judged at audition to have the most potential to succeed in the profession and are in the most financial need.

ARTSED BURSARIES We also offer bursaries through ArtsEd's own bursary fund. This support is intended for students who have taken out Student Loans but are struggling to fund their tuition. Grants are means-tested and provide a level of assistance towards the remaining fees depending on individual circumstances. Below is a table demonstrating our increasing commitment to the scheme since its launch in the Autumn of 2015:



STUDENT LOANS: Our undergraduate and postgraduate courses are currently designated for student loans which enables students to apply for support for tuition fees and maintenance as well as the Disabled Students' Allowance.

SIXTH FORM. A small number of means-tested scholarships and bursaries are available for students entering Sixth Form and are allocated according to talent and individual circumstances.

EXCELERATE ArtsEd is mindful of the high costs of further training in the arts that can exclude young people from developing their skills to a point that they are at the level to excel in the arts as a profession. To address this issue, we developed EXCElerate: a low cost, part-time intensive version of our Acting and Musical Theatre Foundation courses.

EXCElerate runs three evenings a week over 21 weeks, allowing students to work during the day to help fund themselves. Participants have full access to all ArtsEd facilities including library resources and out of hours rehearsal space to help support their learning. Bursaries for the Excelerate courses are available with four students currently receiving financial support.

PROMOTING DIVERSITY

Efforts are made at audition to recruit students from a diverse range of backgrounds. Ethnic diversity is good overall, 23% of the September 2017 intake were BAME (compared to 19% in the 18-24 year old age group in the UK generally, according to the 2011 census). It is an ongoing target to maintain and improve diversity and plans to achieve this through Outreach work are currently being developed. The table below shows a year-on-year improvement in diversity over the past 6 years:

New intake	% BAME
2017-18	23%
2016-17	21%
2015-16	20%
2014-15	18%
2013-14	17%
2012-13	11%

ArtsEd is committed to creating and sustaining a positive and mutually supportive working environment for our staff and an excellent teaching and learning experience for our students, where individuals are equally valued and respected. In September 2017 we created the post of Equality Inclusivity and Diversity Officer, to provide additional support for students and to promote inclusivity in all aspects of our provision.

We have reviewed the initial outputs from our first HESA return, which shows that we are broadly in line with other providers in the performing arts conservatoire sector in terms of the percentage of students from areas of low participation in higher education. 8.8% of our students are from low participation backgrounds, and our target is to exceed the UK average of 11.3% within the next five years.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

In order to widen access and promote our courses to potential students from a broad range of ethnic, cultural and social backgrounds, ArtsEd has established nationwide partnerships with schools, colleges and arts organisations. We offer free outreach/audition workshops led by ArtsEd staff and graduates and leverage connections made through staff, students and visiting tutors to create new partnerships each year. We are committed to increasing our

Outreach activities, and have pledged an additional £25,000 of the 2018/19 budget to support this work.

The objective of these workshops is to open pathways into performing arts training for young people from diverse backgrounds who might otherwise consider ArtsEd training unobtainable, primarily due to financial constraints or cultural perceptions. We have well established outreach partnerships with schools and colleges across the UK, alongside which we work closely with performing arts partners that include: -

The Brit School	Lyric Hammersmith	RSC Outreach
The Arts Centre	Next Generation Youth Luton	Hull Truck
London Bubble	National Youth Theatre	Yellow Earth

This year we commissioned a play for our 3rd year Acting students by renowned black writer Roy Williams, and we have reached out to a number of charities, schools and other organisations, offering free tickets to the play to students from low income and BAME families, including Stratford Royal East Youth Company, Leyton College 6th form, The Rugby Portobello Trust and London Bubble Theatre.

REGIONAL AUDITIONS. We recognise that auditioning is expensive and that the cost of travelling to London can be prohibitive for prospective students. In order to address this issue and to open access to our courses further in 2018, we launched ArtsEd's first regional auditions. Auditions for the BA (Hons) Acting course will be held in Swansea at Gower College and in Manchester at Clarendon Sixth Form. We plan to expand this pilot project in 2018/19 to include auditions in Scotland, the Republic of Ireland and Eastern England.

The host colleges for our regional auditions are offered 10 free audition places for staff to allocate according to students' financial need. All students participating in workshops in the region are offered a 40% reduction on the audition fee.

WIDENING PARTICIPATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 4 – 18 YEARS OLD

THE SKILLS ACADEMY is ArtsEd's young people's programme, aimed at ages 4-16+ offering weekly Saturday classes and a range of holiday and half term courses taught by experienced staff members. 25% of the 450 students who attended Skills Academy courses during 2016/17 received either discounted rates or bursary places. Our half term, Easter and Summer Schools attracted over 700 young people in 2017. Bursary places are available for every course and are allocated by the outreach team both locally and nationally as appropriate.

ARTSED EXTRA YOUTH COMPANY is currently in its second year of operation. The Youth Company offers access to excellent training for young people who have little or no opportunity to engage with the performing arts at school. It also provides Skills Academy participants the opportunity to further develop their skills and experience.

50% of the Youth Company places are fully funded with participants identified through open auditions at state schools within a 5-mile radius of ArtsEd. The company meet on Saturdays during term times to work on two projects: The National Theatre's annual festival, Connections and the Youth Company Musical.

National Theatre Connections is open to any company of young people aged 13-19, offering a unique opportunity to stage new plays written specifically for young people by some of theatre's most exciting playwrights, and to perform in leading theatres across the UK. In 2018, the Youth Company will be working on a new play called BLUE ELECTRIC WIND by Brad Birch to be performed at ArtsEd and the Bush Theatre in May 2018.

This year we are extending the Youth Company project to include the summer term. During this period the group will work on developing their musical theatre skills, creating a short musical project focusing on a particular show, composer, or theme and culminating in performances at ArtsEd and as part of Green Days, the annual Bedford Park Festival.

LYRIC YOUTH Over the last ten years, the Lyric Hammersmith has established a national and international reputation for its work with children and young people from all backgrounds. We are very proud of the creative partnership that we have built with the Lyric, through both their Youth Company and our own Foundation Acting course, which is based in their space in Hammersmith. To mark the strength of this partnership, we will be offering a full scholarship to a Lyric Youth member on our full-time Acting Foundation course in 2018/19. The scholarship will be targeted at a student from a low participation background.

CONTINUING PARTICIPATION: ALUMNI & PROFESSIONALS

ARTS HUB is a series of affordable courses throughout the year for graduates and professionals. The aim of these non-profit courses is to keep high quality training affordable and to provide a network of support for performing arts graduates who want to refresh their skills.

LOCAL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Our connections with the local community are very strong and are increasing year on year. ArtsEd Extra focus on community provision, which draws in a wide array of the local community to share in our facilities and expert staff. Over 400 children and adults come through our doors every week to participate in a broad variety of courses run by ArtsEd as well as partner organisations including London Kickboxing, Cecchitti Ballet, Seido Karate and City Academy.

Not only do local residents attend our shows, but ArtsEd plays host to events for the Chiswick Book Festival and Bedford Park Society as well as the Gate Arts Centre. Students and ArtsEd Extra participants perform at local events including Green Days and fundraisers at St Michal's and All Angels. Students also go further afield, performing songs and poems to residents of care homes for the elderly. In 2018, BA Acting Students will be taking their Shakespeare project to local schools and we are collaborating with the local council's Over 60's Activity Programme to offer free tickets to our public productions.

Alongside ArtsEd's own well established term-time and holiday offer for young people, we have recently developed our own adult courses. Working with local organisations including the Chiswick Calendar and Chiswick Buzz, we responded to a lack of high quality drama and musical theatre opportunities locally by creating a community show choir and drama group. These pilot projects will be expanded over the coming year.