

SoundLife London: Outreach Programme

SOUNDS OF THE CITY

Westminster's demographics provide a unique opportunity for the *SoundLife London* project to reflect the ethnicity and improve awareness of the other cultures and groups resident in the borough. The project in combination with the Workshop Programme was conceived after a series of discussions with Councillor Daniel Astaire, Councillor for Arts & Culture in response to Westminster's City Plan to "increase access to leisure and cultural activities and facilities, particularly for Black and Minority Ethnic communities, older people and disabled people".

Conceived in close collaboration with Westminster Council it explicitly recognizes their One City ambition, which aims to 'enable access to wide range of art forms for all people living in the city whether as a participant or performer, world class institution or local community arts organisations.'

Future of Sound members including Martyn Ware Visiting Professor of Digital Music at St Mary's College and Lewis Sykes, Director of the sound and technology festival Cybersonica, and member of the audiovisual collective The Sancho Plan will run a series of workshops which will introduce the participants to the practical and creative challenges involved in the project, through an open, collaborative process.

Through two 90-minute workshops, they will engage with up to seven groups from a variety of Youth & Community and school provision across the Borough.

The first session explains the project overall and introduces a series of activities exploring sound, honing listening skills, working with sound recording devices and thinking about the sounds that reflect our daily lives.

After the first session, members of the group will be given a sound recording device and asked to take it around with them, recording the sounds of their environment.

At the second session, the members' experiences and recordings will be shared, favorite noises chosen and a collection of sounds that best represent the group will be selected. These sound clips will be mixed with those from other community groups in London for the *SoundLife London* installation.

Participating Westminster Organisations:

The Digital Media Unit, Bayswater - 13-15 yrs

The Digital Media Unit is a Youth Digital Media & Communications Project. The project exposes young people to Information and Communication Technology, and gives them a platform to express themselves through explorations with digital and creative media. These youth are given the opportunity to develop and hone vital ITC skills that will prepare them for future employment and extended education.

Ebury Bridge Youth Centre, Victoria

Ebury Centre is in the South of the Borough – in the local area users' main ethnic groups are of white, black African, black Caribbean, Asian and Bengali heritage. More than a third of local students use English as an additional language, which is high, and many are at the early stages of learning English. There are many refugees/asylum seekers. Users are from a wide range of backgrounds many disadvantaged. Overall socio-economic circumstances are below average with a higher proportion of users would be eligible for free school meals than nationally. The

attainment of students on entry to school ranges from above average to well below and over the last five years has been below average overall. The proportion of young people with special education needs, including statements, is above average. Many have moderate or specific learning difficulties.

The area covers a diverse community with high levels of social deprivation with two thirds of the students are of minority ethnic heritage. There are high numbers of students who speak English as an additional language.

Open Age Hub, Victoria - over 50s

Open Age established in 1993, is a user led charity working across Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster enabling retired older people, from 50 to over 100 years old to sustain their physical and mental fitness, maintain active lifestyles and develop new and stimulating interests.

The organisation provides a wide range of physical, creative and mentally stimulating activities to enable older people to develop new skills and fulfill their potential as well as to encourage and support social interaction and reduce loneliness, isolation and depression.

St Marylebone School For Girls - Yr 10 - 15 yrs

St Marylebone C of E School is a specialist secondary school for girls in Marylebone. It specialises in Performing Arts and Maths & Computing.

Founded in 1791, St Marylebone Church of England School is a multi-faith comprehensive school for girls aged from eleven to eighteen. It has been designated a Specialist Arts College by the DfES, and gained an extra specialism as a Mathematics and Computing College in 2006. The school offers artist in residence schemes, workshops, and visits from and to dance companies, and local and national theatres.

Westminster Special Needs school – Music Programs

Westminster School has been active since its erection in 1179, and continued evolving into a premier academic school, with specialized curriculum for all types of young students ages 7-17 years. Specifically, the Special Needs Department is devoted to students with dyslexic or dyspraxic difficulties, providing one-to-one teaching once a week so as to provide the necessary skills for integration into secondary school curriculum.

Wide ranges of music studies are offered to Westminster students, including choir, orchestra, and instrument lessons, from jazz and rock bands to early music consorts. Individual coaching and music exposure is tailor-made for the Special Needs students.

Children's Services, LB of Westminster – Yr 5-12 yrs

Westminster Children's Services operates many community primary and secondary schools. Children's Services is part of the Children's Strategy & Planning Department, in conjunction with the Westminster Children and Young People's Plan. This plan was implemented with aims to improve the lives of Westminster youth year upon year, according to the requirements of the Children's Act 2004 and the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP).