



CAMBRIDGE
JUNCTION

CREATIVE LEARNING

JUNCTION.CO.UK



AMPLIFYING THE CREATIVITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE SINCE 1990

Cambridge Junction was born out of a community led campaign in the 1980s to create a place for young people in the city. Since we opened in 1990 the interests of young people have been coded into Cambridge Junction's DNA.

At Cambridge Junction we believe every young person has a right to participate in creative opportunities. Our programmes are built on principles of inclusion and collaboration, to share the power of music, art and creativity. Our wide-ranging creative learning programme has grown substantially over the last decade, particularly our work with young people with complex needs and those who experience barriers in their lives. From free tickets to live events to bespoke creative career qualifications, our inclusive projects welcome young people to be creative and be part of something extraordinary.

In 2022/23 we delivered 741 creative learning sessions providing young people with over 4000 engagements with the arts.

Across our programmes evaluated in detail: 82% of participants noted an increase in confidence, 88% reported that they gained new or improved creative skills, and 97% said they had fun!



CREATIVE JOURNEYS START HERE

From first cultural experiences to creative careers, our programmes empower young people and enrich their lives by:

- developing social, technical and transferable skills;
- nurturing and celebrating young people's creativity;
- promoting happiness and wellbeing;
- creating opportunities to have fun while learning.

The three main strands of our creative learning programmes are:

- open access programmes: integrated and inclusive arts activities, training and events;
- targeted participation projects: activities in partnership with education settings and youth focused charities;
- career insights and development opportunities: events and accredited programmes.

Many of our programmes are offered at low or no cost to the individual or partner organisation. Bursaries, including those for travel are available on all programmes.

We have grown our programme by piloting initiatives and embedding learning from them in our year-round offer. Many participants report a positive impact on their social, emotional and academic development.

We also engage with young people on arts activities as projects when opportunities present themselves, for example our work with primary schools.



IMPACT & OUTCOMES

We devise accessible, co-created and artist led projects which remove barriers to engagement in creative activities and to provide social, emotional and educational development opportunities for young people, often focusing on young people with complex needs.

Built on a Theory of Change model we ensure our programmes create impactful opportunities and positive outcomes in skills, qualifications, and career progress for our participants.

SKILLS ▶▶▶▶

- Managing feelings
- Communication
- Confidence and agency
- Resilience and determination
- Creativity
- Relationship and leadership
- Planning and problem solving



QUALIFICATIONS ▼▼▼

- Arts Awards
- Apprenticeships

CAREER PROGRESSION

- Artist facilitation roles
- Creative careers sessions
- Work experience
- Customer service stewards
- Events team



OPEN ACCESS PROGRAMME

JUNCTION YOUNG COMPANY (JYC)

Junction Young Company (JYC) is an inclusive programme for young people aged 14–21, who are interested in and excited by live performance. Participants are supported by professional artists and theatre companies, developing a range of theatrical skills, and annually create an original devised performance.

CONTEMPORARY YOUTH CHOIR (CYC)

Contemporary Youth Choir (CYC) is an accessible and inclusive vocal programme for those aged 11–25. Working alongside artist Yvonne Hercules, guest musicians and skilled support workers, it offers a safe space for young people to express themselves, connect with others, and be heard.

HANDS ON HAPPENINGS

Hands on Happenings are drop-in, pre-show arts and craft sessions in our foyer. These creative activities, led by a professional artist are themed to tie in with the family shows being presented.

TOTAL ARTS

Our long-established participation group for disabled young people aged 13–25 offers opportunities to participate in exciting arts activities.

See more on Total Arts overleaf...

“Inclusivity feels like a core value at JYC and I think it makes her more confident to expect this, and ask for it, in other areas of her life.”

Parent of JYC participant

“My child is happier since joining CYC and I can see a big improvement in her behaviour and her mood. She had signs of depression and low mood before CYC, these have disappeared.”

Parent of CYC participant



TOTAL ARTS

Total Arts is Cambridge Junction's longstanding programme for young disabled artists.

Running since 2010 as a performing arts group for young people with both physical and learning disabilities, providing high quality arts activities.

It has grown from a group of twelve members meeting fortnightly to a programme that now comprises:

- Total Arts Mini Bytes (9–13 year olds)
- Total Arts (13–25 year olds)
- film making taster workshops in SEND schools
- annual and ever-expanding film festival
- theatre productions

“The arts has changed my life for the better, the arts made me want to be the best.”

Total Arts participant



TOTAL ARTS FILM FESTIVAL: BIG TROUBLE LITTLE PICTURES

Big Trouble Little Pictures is our annual film festival curated, programmed, managed and delivered by the young artists from Total Arts for a public audience. The festival celebrates incredible films made by young people with complex needs and those who experience barriers in their lives.

The festival includes day-time school screenings and workshops, covering various aspects of filmmaking followed by a sell-out red carpet screening, awards ceremony, and relaxed party.

Ahead of the festival, Cambridge Junction delivers a programme of filmmaking workshops in SEND schools. Young people learn to use film making equipment and a range of techniques before, developing a storyline into a script. Once the participants have created the content, their films are edited before being premiered at the festival.

“...one of my students, who tends to seclude himself away from others and is unable to attend lessons, stepped out of his room... engaging with others, enjoying himself... it’s a SIGNIFICANT success that would not have been achieved without this project!”

Teacher at partner school attending Total Arts Film Festival



TARGETED PROJECTS

TAKE TWO

Take Two is our three-year partnership programme with four local alternative school settings. Through co-created creative activities young people exercise their agency to build confidence, transferable and technical skills through music, theatre and filmmaking projects, Industry Days, and attending shows. Building on this introduction to creative activities we provide progression opportunities for participants who are interested in developing their skills further.

FILM TASTER SESSIONS

We deliver a programme of filmmaking workshops in SEND schools where young people learn to use film making equipment and a range of techniques. They develop storylines and scripts before creating their own films. These films are premiered at Total Arts Film Festival each summer.

BEATS TRIALS & TRIBULATIONS

In partnership with Romsey Mill, who work with disadvantaged young people, **Beats, Trials & Tribulations** offers young people the opportunity to work with industry professionals to unlock their lyrical, production and filmmaking talents. The participants workshop ideas, explore techniques, learn production skills before going on to write, record and produce original tracks and make music videos to accompany them. Previously, the participants' work has been showcased at the Barbican Centre alongside The UK Drill Project, by HighRise Theatre.



“I’ve grown and changed over this project ... I realise there is another chest that I can open filled with value that I haven’t even collected yet ... you realise that anything is possible, that’s not a lie!”

Take Two participant, Olive AP Academy

“These projects are integral to the development of young minds. They nurture, provide, assist and grow the individual through recognising their strengths and weaknesses and then allows them time to develop and transform their lives. Vital services.”

Natty, Project Artist, Take Two

“I’ve dealt with anxiety and depression for about 5 years and making music has given me an outlet to express it instead of bottling it up!”

Beats, Trials & Tribulations participant

“I honestly can’t thank the Junction and Romsey Mill enough at the moment. My son is a different lad thanks to your support with his music.”

Beats, Trials & Tribulations parent

“We were driving home and I was saying to my mum, I was like, I felt part of something. ‘Cos I haven’t really experienced something like that. Being in a group of other people who I know nothing about, but still feeling so many connections with them. And, yes, it was a really nice feeling.”

Beats, Trials & Tribulations participant



CAREERS

INDUSTRY DAYS & EVENINGS

We regularly open our doors to young people aged 12–18 who are thinking about a career in the creative and cultural sector. These events offer an insight into the wide range of job opportunities in the arts and show what happens behind the scenes. Young people explore Cambridge Junction with a backstage tour and enjoy ‘behind-the-scenes’ workshops in areas such as technical theatre, design and directing. There is also a chance to talk to industry professionals about entry routes, career paths and their individual experiences.

SOUND TECH COURSES

This course focusses on the technical aspects of live sound for performance. Taught by industry professionals over a week, it culminates with participants delivering the sound engineering for a live gig in our 850 capacity venue!

“I made huge improvements to my confidence, time management, working under pressure... I developed some new skills as well which include leadership, delegation, decision making, and cash handling.”

**Kam, former apprentice, and current duty manager
at Cambridge Junction**



APPRENTICESHIPS

Creative Apprenticeships offer an accessible entry route to working in the creative and cultural sector. Cambridge Junction provides a learning space at the venue for apprentices to complete their qualifications. Working alongside industry professionals in a working arts venue creates highly skilled and outstanding arts employees.

Many of our former apprentices have continued to thrive in the creative industry within Cambridgeshire, some have gone on to work nationally and internationally on tours and festivals.

CUSTOMER SERVICE STEWARDS & EVENTS TEAM

The Customer Service Steward role is our flagship employment programme which offers paid work experience to young adults with complex needs. Our stewards build a range of transferable skills for future employment. Many of our Customer Service Stewards have gone on to work in paid facilitation roles on other creative learning programmes. Our Events Team positions also offer a progression route for young adults who have come through our creative learning projects.

“I have gained so much confidence in my abilities to help others, while being part of a encouraging, caring team... We have received so many opportunities through Total Arts!”

Mary-Ellen, Total Arts artist and volunteer, former Customer Service Steward and Events Team member



We work with a variety of education, charity and community partners to deliver programmes to young people, especially those with complex needs and barriers in their lives.

We would like to offer our profound thanks to all our partners, supporters and funders. All this work could not happen without your generosity and support. With your help we can work towards making it possible for anyone to take part in creative opportunities.

For more information about our work visit junction.co.uk/creative-learning
if you have specific questions contact us on creative.learning@junction.co.uk

To find out more about how you can support our work visit junction.co.uk/support-us

If you have specific questions about supporting us contact us on support@junction.co.uk

FUNDED TICKET SCHEME

Our Funded Ticket Scheme enables us to welcome 100s of people into our venue each year at no cost to the individual. Many participants in our programmes benefit from accessing live music, theatre and comedy through this programme, which regularly gives young people their first experience of live performance. This scheme has seen SEND schools, alternative school settings, children on Pupil Premium, young carers, children in care, refugee families, and many others experience the magic of live events.

THE FIVER

Since 2003 The Fiver has given emerging bands the opportunity to play on our main stage. It provides local musicians with their first experience of the professional music industry, with mentoring and advice from the Cambridge Junction team.

Find out more about The Fiver visit junction.co.uk/the-fiver

Thanks to photographer Claire Haigh, and our Creative Learning team for helping us to tell our story.

Junction (CDC) Ltd (trading as Cambridge Junction) is a social enterprise and registered charity (number 801637).



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