



Researching the Shore: Co-Creating Coastal Community Arts for Young People

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Abstract

This collaborative research project has been co-produced by the Artistic Directors, practitioners, young people and volunteers, involved in the community arts organisation, House of Wingz, members of the local community, and an educational researcher from the University Centre, Blackpool, Lancashire. The project aims to gain unique insights into the attitudes and perception of young people towards creative arts in their coastal town of residency. It explores how young people and families view the cultural identity of their town and investigates how music, arts, dance and creativity can better engage and empower local young people in creative conversations and activities. This, with a view to improving both educational and employment outcomes for young people, including the prevention of youth crime. The results will inform the production of an original piece of Art, in the form of an outdoor mural which will reflect the cultural values of the local area. The study has the potential, via a future, follow-up project to provide insights into how music, arts, dance and creative activity can positively impact on young people's well-being and aspiration in coastal towns. Finally, it suggests ways in which local and national organisations can work with collaborators, including young people and practitioners, to create an urban environment that they can be proud of, which includes access to a diverse and meaningful creative arts offer, that will assist them in developing the essential skills that they need to be able to successfully navigate their lives.

Keywords: culture; education; identity; justice; youth