

# Arts Emergency

## 2022 Impact Report

Welcome

Arts Emergency was set up to give everyone the chance to contribute to the culture they live in. After a challenging year, I look back and believe more than ever that building community, sharing resources, and supporting each other on the way up is how real, positive, immediate change happens.

In 2022 we grew our Young Community by 322%, an astonishing expansion, alongside which we ran well over 3000 mentoring sessions - an estimated 155 days worth of time dedicated to young people's best, most aspirational selves. With the limited resources we have and the challenging conditions in which we work as a small charity, I think that is amazing, and a testament to the passion and authenticity of the people who make Arts Emergency such an exciting and life-affirming movement to be part of.

In this report you'll read about a lot of great things that have happened, and I'll not offer up any spoilers, but the headline here is that the collective efforts of young people, the Arts Emergency team, and our volunteers and donors to counteract the negative effects of the pandemic and austerity politics on young people's life chances and sense of what's possible, have made a vital and demonstrable difference. 97% of the mentees said that they had learned new things that helped them feel better prepared for the future since joining Arts Emergency, and all the feedback clearly shows that they are more optimistic about pursuing the life and career that they want. It's also clear from our conversations, surveys, and reports that those young people want even more opportunities to meet and connect with peers in the years to come.

So read on and see what wonderful things happen when we build community, share resources, and support each other on the way up!

Neil Griffiths

Arts Emergency Co-founder and CEO

## About us

Arts Emergency is dedicated to helping under-represented young people flourish in further education and navigate their way into creative and cultural careers.

Our Network of over 9000 professional creatives, people who have studied the arts or humanities, or who are simply passionate about arts and culture, are the core of Arts Emergency. They believe in a fairer future and share the view that the arts are richer when they represent diverse voices.

In 2022 we supported over 1300 young people aged 16-25 across the UK, an increase of 32% from 2021. It's fair to say we simply couldn't have done this without the Network. By voluntarily mentoring or coaching, offering work experience, paid opportunities and fulfilling our young people's Wish List requests, they are opening up doors to industries such as music, theatre, design, architecture - industries which are extra difficult for young people to get a foot into by themselves. Former Arts Emergency mentees are now performing on London stages, studying at Oxbridge, and

working on their own projects to change the future for the better.

## Who we support

Arts Emergency is driven by a vision to create a future where every young person can contribute to the culture that they live in, no matter their background. To ensure we are working with those that need our support the most we ask mentees aged 16-25 to meet at least one of our eligibility criteria.

Of our 2022 mentees:

- 14%are disabled
- 15%have a learning difficulty
- 42%have been eligible for free school meals or the 16-19 bursary
- 45%describe themselves as Black, Asian or from an ethnic minority background
- 45%had a household income below £25,000 per annum
- 56%do not have a university-educated parent
- Significantly,69% of mentees met at least two of our eligibility criteria

## Stats

- 96% of mentees aged 16-18, said that they had learned new things that helped them feel better prepared for the future since joining Arts Emergency
- 82% of our young people feel they have more information about career choices
- 79% of under-18 mentees said they'd met helpful people through their mentor, Arts Emergency or the newsletter

## Life-changing mentoring

During our one-year mentoring programme, a young person is paired up with someone from our Network who works in an industry they're interested in pursuing as a career. They are introduced and continue to meet for one hour a month throughout the year to gain inside knowledge about the industry, set goals and get advice on pathways into the sector.

In January 2022, we introduced a massive 398 mentees to mentors across London, Manchester, Merseyside and Brighton. Although we were able to return to in-person mentoring, the majority of our pairs chose to meet both online and in-person. Our word of the year was 'confidence', and mentees were encouraged to step out from the isolation of the past couple of years; meet new people; enter into new spaces; and work on recognising and communicating their unique strengths.

## Stats

- Mentoring pairs met up for 3235 mentoring sessions
- 89% of the mentoring pairs completed the 12-month programme
- 93% of mentees said they understood more about the world of work by the end of their mentoring year

Isabel's mentoring journey

Isabel, aged 17 from Manchester, was looking for advice about studying creative courses at university.

“I was hoping having a mentor would help me figure out what I wanted to do, because I know I want to do creative work. My goal was to figure out what I wanted, and whether university was the right route for me.

One of the big things was looking at universities with my mentor, and discussing whether that was the way to go. And if university was the way to go, thinking about costs and what courses to do - I started out with illustration, but then moved over to game design. That’s where I’ve landed.

We went to the degree show at Manchester Metropolitan University. We got to see some of the work of the Illustration and Animation students, and that’s how I found out about Futureworks School of Media, so I ended up going to one of their open days as well.

Over a few sessions we worked on how to build a good portfolio. It's been really nice having a friendly and approachable mentor who I can talk to and ask if I'm ever stuck on something. I have since applied to Manchester Metropolitan University for a Games Art course and have been successful in getting a conditional offer.

Having a mentor has definitely improved my understanding of how university works. I pretty much knew nothing about it before, since my parents didn't go to university, and I'm the oldest. This is all new to us."

**"My highlight was preparing Isabel for university by giving her first hand experience of universities, introducing her to students and academics and coaching her through the application process. I'm so pleased Isabel is now receiving offers from her chosen institutions."**

Isabel's mentor Ben on his highlight of the mentoring year.

Stats

- 98% of mentees would recommend Arts Emergency to a friend or family member

## Work Experience

Our summer Work Experience programme offers 5-10 day placements with an organisation in a young person's area of interest. Placements take place in person, online or as a combination of both.

Demand from our young people for this programme is high and we were delighted to be able to place 31 young people in London, Manchester, Merseyside and Brighton at organisations including: creative studio Margaret London; production company NKD Films; and independent record label Partisan Records.

## Stats

- In 2022 we had 15 onsite placements, 9 online placements and 7 hybrid placements
- 86% of young people felt their Work Experience placement will help them in the future
- 83% of our Work Experience providers were happy to sign up to offer work experience next year

## Taralea's Work Experience

Taralea, aged 17 from London, is hoping to have a career in the music industry. In 2022, she did a 5-day work experience placement at independent record label, Partisan Records.

"I do music production at school, and this work experience opportunity was music-based so I thought applying would be a good way to gain access to a network and actually see the jobs available in the music industry.

I spent each day with a different member of the team. They each gave me various roles, for example looking at upcoming charts before being released, thinking of the next tour for an artist, and thinking up competitions and giveaways. I learned that there are loads of different jobs within the music industry - I don't need to know what field I want to go into straight away.

The best part of the placement was presenting all the work that I had been doing to the team at the end of the week. The placement made me go on to look at record labels, it got me intrigued about all the job roles to do with record labels and motivated me to do work experience at another label.

I wouldn't have got this opportunity without Arts Emergency as I had no clue how to go about getting a placement."

**"We wanted to play a small part in helping to address the systemic inequality in the music industry and provide opportunities to people who may otherwise not have access to them. We were hoping to show [a young person] the**

**variety of roles available to them and give them enough experience in these roles to start applying for internships.”**

Jake at Partisan Records, on his motivation for being a Work Experience provider.

Traineeships, opportunities and long-term support

When a young person has completed their one-year mentoring programme they become part of our Young Community until their 26th birthday, when they are encouraged to join the Arts Emergency Network. Each month in the Young Community Newsletter we share paid work opportunities, exclusive ticket offers to events and resources.

In 2022 our Young Community became 937 strong. We commissioned young people to write articles for our website, design our Christmas card, and we ran Career Clinics for young people to do mock interviews and get advice about their CVs.

## Stats

- 59% of the community said they had followed up on the opportunities signposted in the Young Community newsletter
- We shared 299 creative and cultural opportunities Young Talent enjoyed
- 54 free tickets to theatre shows, galleries, concerts and more

## Rowena's traineeship

Rowena from Manchester, aged 19, applied for a BFI traineeship she saw in the Young Community Newsletter and has never looked back!

“Through the Arts Emergency Young Community newsletter I saw the link for the BFI mini-traineeship. It was a BFI animation course, I worked with people from Aardman Animations, and people from ‘Calling the Shots’, and I made my own little animation called ‘Mossy’. It was really good.

That then led me to be an alumni of the BFI and to apply for a traineeship with Disney, which is where I am now.

I'm on a CFX (Creature Effects) traineeship for six months with Disney/LucasFilms. In the workshop we mould things, we cast things, we 3D design things, we sculpt things, we paint things, we foam things. At the moment, I'm in the model shop which is where we make things out of metal, or different props. Then there's the neck shop where they do loads of animatronics. And the hair punching bit, concept design. Basically, that's what CFX is. And during my traineeship I get to jump around each department within the workshop.

The traineeship made me realise that the arts are for everyone. I don't feel as scared to apply for a job or to talk to professionals, because I feel it's not as scary as it seems. You can ask so many questions. Everyone was a beginner, and no matter what background you're from, it's fine, because everyone accepts you. So it made me feel more involved and more able to apply for things that I otherwise wouldn't have

done. My confidence has definitely gone up in terms of talking to new people and just having that mindset that anyone can do it.

The most useful aspect of the Arts Emergency support was those monthly newsletters. Every month I'm gearing myself up to see what new opportunities there are, or what new Ruby Tickets there are! Those links have (hopefully) changed my life."

## Youth Collective

Young people are at the heart of everything Arts Emergency does. In 2020 we launched our first ever Youth Collective to ensure that young people's voices are amplified through our work. In 2022 our Youth Collective consisted of 10 talented young people from diverse backgrounds who are passionate about the work Arts Emergency does. Two members of the Youth Collective have joined the board as Young Trustees to ensure our activities keep a focus on young people's needs.

The new 2022 cohort went on a residential trip to Yorkshire to make plans for the year ahead and to get to know each other. For the first time, we welcomed young people from outside of London including four from Greater Manchester and one from Coventry. During their residency, they established what their individual roles in the Youth Collective would be, including responsibility for socials, project management, finances and campaigns.

## Stats

- 97% of our Young Community members said they would recommend Arts Emergency to a friend or family member

## Sarah's time as a member of the Youth Collective

Aspiring filmmaker and artist, Sarah from London, has been a member of the Youth Collective since 2020.

“I joined the Youth Collective because I wanted to be able to input on what would be good for the Arts Emergency Young Community. Also, I am studying for a Computer Science degree and I wanted to still stay engaged with my creative side and connect with other creative people.

The Youth Collective is about representing young people’s voices. By being part of it I’m able to implement my ideas on how I think things could be improved for the young people engaging with Arts Emergency in order to provide a sense of community.

During my time as a Youth Collective member, I’ve practised my graphic design skills, exercised my team working skills including gaining experience collaborating on artistic projects, and I have learnt more about activism and politics. I’ve also learnt about balancing a side hustle alongside my degree and job.

I’m interested in pursuing a future in media production, and being part of the Collective and the Young Community has

given me the chance to attend the London Podcast Festival and the RTS Future Careers Fair without cost being a barrier. These opportunities have been invaluable to me as they've given me a good understanding of how to get into the industry. At the RTS Future Careers Fair I got to talk to Helen Johnson who works for Talking Point, an organisation that helps people train to work within the art department in films. Talking to Helen made my ideas about working in media feel more real. I learned about how I could work in film whilst working full-time as a computer scientist. Being part of the Youth Collective has meant that working on creative projects remains a priority in my life. I really like working with the other members of the Collective, we're currently making a film together - I'm really excited about it because I've always wanted to produce films and I have the support to do it now."

Click [here](#) to find out more about the Youth Collective

First steps into industry

Our long-term support for ages 16-25, means we are able to support young people on their journey as they enter adulthood, leaving the structures of school, college and university, and work towards taking their first steps into the professional world.

Young people from less privileged backgrounds often struggle to get their first break in the creative industries, as many internships and training programmes are only advertised by word of mouth and are unpaid. We ensure that the organisations we work with have a transparent application process and that finances are not a barrier - each placement comes with a travel bursary or is paid at the Living Wage if it is over one week. We also offer Career Clinics and CV reviews to ensure young people feel supported as they navigate their entry into the industry.

Industry experience means that not only do young people get hands-on experience in their chosen field of work, they also get to start building their professional network, which can

open doors to future opportunities and potential employment.

### Elise's first steps into industry

Freelance illustrator Elise, aged 26, took part in a four-day training lab at publishing house Wonderbly.

"I discovered Wonderbly through the Arts Emergency newsletter, and after looking into the company I found I really resonated with its ethos. I love the idea of children receiving customised books - to see yourself and the people you love in a story is really special.

During the lab I worked as an avatar artist, which meant assisting the artists who create the characters. Since the picture books have custom characters, you need many variations for every one-page spread. I helped with colouring, illustrating features and editing pages for consistency. I was introduced to the Wonderbly practices by Amy, who was super supportive and helpful! On the days I was working

from home she set me up with tasks, checked in to give feedback and answered any questions I had.

Amy gave me a tour of the studio on the days I was in-house, introducing me to artists. They were all very friendly and great for providing guidance during my time there. I discovered the inner processes of a working publishing house first-hand and got to see how more complex books are put together. Additionally, I learnt some more digital abilities and artistic techniques which I can apply to my own work in future. I really enjoyed getting to see the behind the scenes working of a creative publishing studio. As someone who works from home, I found it was refreshing to work in a creative community towards a common goal.

The opportunity has increased my confidence in my own ability. I have always felt nervous about applying to big industry jobs since I didn't go to university, but this has shown that I should have faith in my skill set, and still strive for exciting opportunities. Also, I think it has further solidified my desire to work with the children's publishing industry.

If I hadn't received that Arts Emergency newsletter I wouldn't have known the opportunity was available! I also doubt I would have had the confidence to apply had I not been to my Arts Emergency mentor's studio and discovered what publishers look for.

The training lab has really helped me progress my career. I have since done some more freelancing work with Wonderbly, and they recently contacted me to help them with one of their next projects!"

## Ruby Tickets

Launched in 2021, the Ruby Ticket scheme helps young people access cultural experiences such as theatre, art exhibitions and music events without cost being a barrier. In 2022 our Young Community received 54 free tickets from venues in London and the North West including Kiln Theatre, the V&A, Unity Theatre, the British Library and Tate Liverpool. By entering cultural spaces, often thought of as

exclusive places, young people gain confidence and are empowered to engage with arts and culture. After attending the events, the young people can exercise their critical skills by writing a review that features on our website.

**“The exhibition was incredible! It was so insightful and I learned lots even though I already knew lots about the Korean wave beforehand. I wanted to go there for research for my final project and I was able to collect so many reference points and take a lot of photos for it as well.”**

Zehra attended Hallyu! The Korean Wave exhibition at the V&A

**“It was absolutely beautiful. It was lovely being in a safe and judgement-free environment where Black men are able to voice their feelings and experiences that most Black people such as myself are able to relate to.”**

Amida saw For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When The Hue Gets Too Heavy at the Royal Court Theatre  
Click [here](#) to read more Ruby Ticket reviews.

## Stats

- 67% of the Young Community said they felt more at ease when visiting cultural spaces because of Arts Emergency programmes

## Wish List

We encourage our Young Community to take advantage of our Network of over 9000 creative and cultural professionals by submitting a 'wish' to talk to someone who has expertise in an industry they'd like to know more about. Wishes have ranged from a chat to an architect about university courses, to advice on how to create a showreel for drama school auditions.

## Stats

- 91% of young people who made professional connections via the Wish List felt the experience helped them further their career or educational interests
- 148 Wish List requests were fulfilled in 2022

How you can help

Hello! Mummy here!

To thrive creatively you need space and time to fail. Too often that means that only those with money and resources get the opportunity to make their best work. Arts Emergency does brilliant work to redress the balance, providing; mentoring, coaching and work experience programmes, financial support, and opportunities for young people to network with arts professionals and get access to cultural events. I'm a proud supporter of Arts Emergency because art is more exciting and richer when it reflects the voices and lives of people from all backgrounds, not just the privileged few.

I was delighted to be able to sell the badge by Arts Emergency co-founder Josie Long at my 2022 tour and help raise awareness of the charity. The sales of the badges raised £52,000, so a HUGE thank you to anyone who bought one. Arts Emergency truly is people-powered. Whether it's giving

up time to talk to a young person about a career, donating a fiver a month, £1000 a year, or more, everyone connected to this wonderful movement makes a difference.

There are big plans on the horizon for Arts Emergency so that more young people can access their services, so if you can, please consider donating and joining the Network!

Joe Lycett

Comedian, artist and Arts Emergency Bursar

Click [here](#) to find out how you can help.

Thank you

We'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful community of major donors, bursars, our 1800 monthly donors, organisations, and trusts and foundations. With your help we've been able to offer thousands of under-represented young people across the UK the support they need to plan a future they want and deserve.

### **Bursar Club**

Andrew, Anna, Ash, Ashley, Charles, Charles, Chris, Chris, Dan, Daniel, David, David, Eve, Francesca, Hannah, Hilary, Ian, Jack, Julie, Katy, Lisa, Lucy, Marcus, Mark, Mathew, Mike, Nicholas, Nish, Oliver, Peter, Rebecca, Richard, Richard, Russell, Sam, Sara, Scott, Sunny, Tim, Tony, and Yomi.

Plus two Anonymous Bursars and one in memory of Anne and Kenneth, Muriel and Bernard.

### **Bursar Organisations**

A Year with My Camera, Four Corners Books, INCK, Sadie Coles HQ, Show and Tell Productions.

## **Major Donors**

Alex, Andrew, David, Harriet, Imelda, Jeremy, Joshua, Julia, Matthew, Nicholas, Russell, Sarah & Tom.

Thank you to all the anonymous donors.

## **Trusts & Foundations**

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