

BEDFORD CREATIVE ARTS

EDUCATION

Anim8 (Digi-mation, Messy-mation, Junk-mation and Pixilated People)

Description

BCA's animation sessions were broadened out into a variety of different media techniques.

The participants in the Digi-mation workshops were given an introduction to Moho, a 2D animation package. Less intensive than previous attempts, the participants were given a tour around the various tools in Moho then left to create animations in whatever manner they saw fit. They ended up with an 'Amarillo' pop promo.

The Messy-mation participants were given free rein of the craft-room (except plasticine) to create animations using sand, paint, rocks, paper cut-outs and toys. This ensured that participants were animating 2 or 3 layers of action at a time and following the movements of 8 or more characters.

Junk-mation was an animation and recycling project in one. Bigger characters, bigger sets, bigger ideas!

Pixilated People was a further development of the Easter workshops with artist Matt Cook. Working with a slightly older age range, 'The Bride' animation developed in an 'about face' approach and working from a silent movie template, focused entirely on the story, leaving the sound to last.

Funded

Bedford Borough Council and Arts Council England, East

Workers

Dave Deans, Heather Leckie, Carolyn McLean, Irene Kharag (Volunteers Sharon, Aaron, Chris)

Numbers

23

Anim8 (Mini-mation)

Description

These claymation workshops took place at 31 Castle Lane as part of BCA's annual Anim8 programme. The young children worked in groups of three to make plasticine models, build simple sets and props and devise a story. These ideas were then filmed using stop-frame animation. At the final session, the children were involved in editing the hands out of their films (plus a quick sound recording session).

Funded

Bedford Borough Council and Arts Council England, East

Workers

Paul Nicholson, Carolyn McLean and volunteers Laura and Sonja

Numbers

12 per day

Children's University, Stop-motion Animation

Description

The aim here was to write and shoot a 5 minute stop motion animated film in 5 days. The technique used involved making cut outs from digital photographs. The group spent a day devising the story and making detailed breakdowns of the elements needed for each scene. The following day the group worked on sound recording and photography. The rest of the time was spent capturing and editing. Each participant received a DVD of the finished film and some came to the Summer Re:View.

Partners & Funded

Bedfordshire & Luton Education Business Partnership

Workers

Dave Deans, Aaron Currington and Flo Glasspool (Volunteer)

Numbers

12



Animating History

Description

Bedford Home Educators bought in the services of BCA to help deliver the history curriculum through the innovative use of animation.

Over eight weeks, students worked together in small teams to create scenes that could be edited together into one film, telling an ambitious story of Viking voyages. Everyone was very proud of their finished film.

Partners & Funded

Bedford Home Educators

Workers

Irene Kharag (freelance) plus parents

Numbers

16 children

Home Farm Trust

Description

BCA supported the staff of Home Farm Trust to develop their capacity to provide regular animation projects for adult residents with learning difficulties. An intensive three-day workshop gave residents a hands-on taste of animation techniques while staff developed their own knowledge and skills.

Partners & Funded

Home Farm Trust

Numbers

Dave Deans

Numbers

28

Pixillation (Stereography)

Description

Working with artist Matt Cook, two groups of young people devised a story and then produced a sound track with objects bought from Poundland. Matt mixed the audio into a manageable form and then they used the animation technique of pixillation. This involves a person becoming the puppet and being animated in a similar manner. This can be very tiring as people have to hold poses, click, move etc. However, the end result is unique, offering a fun activity that helps to get young people up to speed with current technology and engaging with one another to produce an impressive end result.

Funded

Arts Council of England, East

Workers

Dave Deans, Matt Cook, Asst: Ade Dolente

Numbers

10



KEY POINTS

- Using technology creatively
- New skills for everyone
- Promoting team work
- Empowering organisations to deliver their own projects

BEDFORD CREATIVE ARTS EDUCATION

Free Animation Festival

Description

This animation festival was organised as the grand finale to BCA's latest Anim8 project. The festival was organised on two sites, with hands-on activities and films / images on show at BCA Gallery. In the education room at Bedford Museum, the public were invited to watch a range of films made over the last two years, including work by professional and student animators. This was also the first opportunity for children, and their families, involved in the summer workshops to view their animations on the big screen / TV monitor. Models from these and older animation films were displayed, as well as the chance to try a basic stop-frame piece using a webcam set-up.

Partners

Bedford Museum

Funded

Bedford Borough Council and Arts Council England, East

Workers

Paul, Dave, Carolyn and volunteers Flo, Nuzma, Aaron and Sharon

Numbers

127



Trip to Co-operative Young Film-Makers Festival

Description

Two animated films from the previous year were selected for screening at this international film festival, held at Bradford's National Museum of Photography, Film and Television. The work selected was 'Ring of the Lords' and 'Na-Bo Espacial' and eight of the group came over from Catalonia especially for the weekend. Our young filmmakers were thrilled to see their work on the big screen in a real cinema and all of them received certificates for participating. Alongside the young people involved in the films, a number of people who have attended other BCA workshops plus volunteers joined us on our day trip.

Partners

Associacio Gabarrots

Funded

Anim8, Co-operative Film Festival

Workers

Paul Nicholson, Laura Pottinger, Dashamira Talo & Eva Munoz-Marti

Numbers

35

BEDFORD CREATIVE ARTS

EDUCATION

Arts Club Network

Introduction

BBC Children in Need's Arts Club Network is in its final year of developing creative play between children and parents. It remains popular within communities who have little local resources or venues. Young people aged 6 – 13 years have engaged with their local environment in a creative way using photography. Our focus this year has been to design and develop creative packs so that community leaders and parents can continue to sustain this creative play within their own area.

Funded

BBC Children in Need

Partners

Paul Nicholson BCA project worker with volunteer Sabrina Ram and Urban & Street Rangers

Numbers

227

Great Barford

Description

This workshop proved really popular and soon became over booked as word got around the local villages. The group was able to learn the basics of stop frame animation using objects brought from home and drawn scenery. They worked in groups of up to five and had a number of local parents to support the activity.

A follow up session in Great Barford Village Hall involved some of the older, keener participants from the Easter workshop and the smaller numbers enabled them to produce a more finished piece of animation. They were able to work on editing and adding sound to their films.

Faraday Square Community Centre

Description

Two sessions involved taking photographs of various objects around Faraday Square that formed a photo quiz for use at the local fun day. The group enjoyed the challenge of finding interesting features and devising tricky questions about the images. Some of the older children downloaded the photographs onto a laptop to produce a double-sided A4 sheet of questions, which proved popular with the local young people. Building on the mini photo quiz project in the summer, we ran photography sessions at the Kids' Arts Club to support the parents who had set it up as a regular activity. Providing a more technical activity (using digital cameras and a laptop) gave the older members of the group a chance to explore their imagination and also learn some basic PhotoShop techniques. The regular parents running this group have steadily improved in confidence, have created a constitution and been CRB checked, with support from BCA, the Street Ranger and BPHA. They have seen the value of having photography projects as an alternative to their craft-based activities and the young people relish the chance to use digital cameras and laptops. This area is one of the most deprived areas in Bedford and our input has been greatly appreciated by the local residents involved in this Arts Club.

Gostwick Road Cop Shop

Description

These digital photography sessions involved taking the group out and looking for, then photographing objects in the shape of letters and numbers. Despite the rain, the group enjoyed the challenge and produced some imaginative images. Before the sessions, we ran a training course in using the digital cameras for the parents and street ranger involved.

BEDFORD CREATIVE ARTS

EDUCATION

Asperger Bedfordshire group

Description

We ran animation workshops at 31 Castle Lane for children with Asperger's syndrome and their parents at the end of the summer holidays. The young people brought along their favourite objects and these were animated on hastily arranged sets. The youngest members of the group (5 year olds) produced a short piece, whilst the older members worked on much longer films. They were very focused throughout and showed great interest in the technical side of animation. Their animation films were shown the following week at BCA's Film Festival at Bedford Museum.

Elstow Lower School

Description

Elstow Lower School after school sessions. Introduction to basic stop frame animation involved a session making models from plasticine and designing simple backdrops. The following sessions were spent either filming or developing their stories ready for the animation. After school sessions proved a good way of getting to know the group and the venue, helping to attract a lot of interest for school holiday workshops.

KEY POINTS

- Providing the opportunity for young people and adults to play together creatively
- Sustaining creative engagement at a local level and with local people
- Helping communities to see and engage in their community in a different way
- Providing an easy to use tool kit and sharing good practice

Queen's Park Neighbourhood Centre

Description

These half term workshops, organised in partnership with the Urban Ranger, were our first chance to use the newly opened Queen's Park Neighbourhood Centre. The group's activity was to create mosaic designs and they had the opportunity to take digital photographs in the area to use as backgrounds for their designs. One of the parents showed a great deal of interest in helping to establish a regular Arts Club in the area and the Ranger Service are keen to support the development of this idea (possibly in school holidays to begin with).

Gurdwara Queen's Park

Description

To coincide with the Gurdwara's celebrations for Guru Nanak's Birthday, we set up a mini photography studio in the main hall to encourage parents and their children to take photographs of each other. A number of families took part and signed up as being interested in forming a regular group as part of our Arts Club Network project. Despite this initial interest, we were unable to pursue this any further as our contact in the organisation failed to respond.

Salvation Army Hall

Description

Following an introductory workshop at the Salvation Army Hall the previous week, we set up a day of animation during the half-term holidays. The room was inundated with young people in the afternoon, all of whom had their first chance to try some basic stop-frame animation. The youth workers attached to the venue also had great fun and the possibility of turning this venue into a space for creative arts activities is being explored.

BEDFORD CREATIVE ARTS

EDUCATION

Introduction

The Local Network Fund provided resources for a two year programme of work to develop disabled young people's creativity through the use of photography, animation and film.

The project has reached in excess of 230 young people in the first year. Groups have produced a high standard of funny and innovative films and animation. The original storytelling and development is apparent from all participants, providing evidence about how these young people perceive themselves. Popularity is such that organisations are considering investing in buying in their own materials to continue to develop this type of activity. The message emerging is a very strong and positive one.

Funded

Local Network Fund & Harpur Trust

Workers

Paul Nicholson plus volunteers and support workers

Youth Matters

Description

This introduction to digital photography involved several young people with learning difficulties supported by Youth Matters. The first session took place in Bedford Park as the two group members got used to the cameras. A follow-up session in the town centre was switched to Bedford Museum and also included an introduction to the Adobe PhotoShop program.

The last session in March gave the three young people a chance to photograph their views of Bedford and two of their images won awards in the Beds on Sunday / Camera Club competition 'Bedford Life'.

Numbers

3

Sunflower House films

Description

Sunflower House is a respite care home where disabled young people stay for short periods. BCA Project Worker Paul Nicholson made a number of visits throughout the year in order to give a range of young people the opportunity to learn film-making skills and to express themselves through digital media. He would revisit when groups came together again in order to show rough edits of their films and to allow the groups to make final decisions about their work.

Four different groups of young people participated at different times to create films that included a short sketch called 'Put Up, Shut Up', a Kylie Minogue music video and several dramas. Students grew in confidence both behind and in front of the cameras as the project progressed.

Numbers

14

Smiley Club animations

Description

Smiley Club is a weekly youth group for young people with a range of disabilities, who meet at the NCH building.

After an initial visit to gauge interest, a small animation studio was set up in one corner, so that members of the group could drop in and have a go, or sit and watch how the films are produced. The activity proved very popular and some of them stayed for the whole session, noticeably improving in ability and confidence throughout the workshop. The keen participants also had the chance to try some basic editing techniques to tidy up their short animation pieces.

A session in January gave them the chance to meet artist Agnieszka Chojnacka and give her their wishes for the future as part of her installation at BCA Gallery.

Numbers

44

BEDFORD CREATIVE ARTS

EDUCATION

L.O.A.F. Scheme (‘Loads of Autistic Fun’)

Introduction

L.O.A.F. is a fortnightly group, meeting at Rainbow School in Bromham, for young people with autism and Asperger’s syndrome.

Partners

Autism Bedfordshire

Worker

Paul Nicholson

Description

Regular sessions were held between April and July, giving lots of young people their first quick attempt at stop-frame animation.

After an initial session based alongside the bouncy castle, future sessions were held in a separate room where young people could book a 30 minute slot to further develop their films in pairs, or on their own with a volunteer. Many brought along their own toys and ideas, including one participant who chose to act out his own Doctor Who mini adventure using animation and live action.

Autism Bedfordshire also run a popular summer scheme for young people with autism or Asperger’s syndrome. The older group has two weeks of activities, the second of which also involves siblings. Young volunteers give one-to-one support and many of the group also attend the L.O.A.F. scheme.

BCA’s involvement enabled the young people to participate in live action filming, including both video booth and roving camera set-ups. They had the chance to operate the camcorder, direct the action or be filmed or interviewed. At one

point some of the group started filming another child singing ‘Amarillo’ and this became the theme song for their documentary. A screening of ‘Amarillo’ at the start of the next day’s session encouraged a number of new people to take part in that day’s filming and animation activities.

In November a special screening was held to show the group the final edits of their films from the spring and summer sessions. Due to the nature of their disability, the children do not often sit together on any group activity and certainly not for the length of time some of them sat glued to the laptop screen, watching the films over and over again. Each family got a copy of the final DVD to enjoy at home.

The screening session coincided with BCA’s first Photomathon and eight of the group chose to take part by taking photographs relating to our six competition titles. One three year old participant became our youngest winner for her shot of her brother covered in autumn leaves for the category ‘Hidden’.

The success of these sessions led Autism Bedfordshire to use some of their own funding to bring Paul Nicholson back during January and February to deliver follow on sessions where film-based activities could be developed further.

During one of these sessions, members of the L.O.A.F scheme also had the opportunity to meet Polish artist in residence Agnieszka Chojnacka and to give their wishes for the future to be included in the ‘Territories’ exhibition at BCA Gallery.

Numbers

L.O.A.F 60, Summer Scheme 20 plus parents, volunteers and staff

BEDFORD CREATIVE ARTS EDUCATION

Skool's Out

Introduction

This is a summer scheme at Ridgeway School in Kempston, organised by Bedford & District Cerebral Palsy Society.

Partners

Bedford & District Cerebral Palsy Society

Worker

Paul Nicholson

KEY POINTS

- Matching new technology with the right people
- Responding to young people's interests
- Achieving a powerful end result that challenges stereotypes
- Developing imagination and nurturing young talent
- Contemporary arts is relevant to everyday living

Description

An initial visit to the playscheme enabled members of the group to devise ideas for a basic plot. Having come up with an alien kidnapping action movie concept, the script developed as the day of filming went along.

More confident members of the crew took on larger speaking roles and volunteers ensured that severely disabled young people had the chance to take part in all of the action. Those who were shy or whose parents did not give consent to appear in front of the camera, became more heavily involved in the filming and directing roles.

Numbers

30 including Skool's Out volunteers



Creative Access (3)



Introduction

Creative Networks was funded through Aspiration funding and provided the opportunity for those who have been out of training and employment for long periods of time to learn new skills.

Funded

Aspirations – European Social fund managed by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity



Creative Networks (Photography groups)

Description

Two photographic courses were designed, offering an introduction to photography and progressing onto an eight week intermediate level. Many organisations working with people who have been out of mainstream education or employment are realistic about sustaining attendance. Time was required to build up relationships with agencies and client groups and an estimated 15 initial contacts were explored before groups could be established. As a result of this experience, important learning points have been made including: the need to identify a key worker so that they could be pro-active in encouraging attendance and in helping to identify potential new participants. This support meant that the BCA project worker could spend time exploring the benefits of learning photography.

As a result of gaining this understanding, participants' attendance was secured for both levels. This sustained progression enabled two different groups to work together providing the opportunity to build on

communication, networking and social skills. These positive outcomes led onto developing further unplanned progression based on participants' enthusiasm.

Four groups were invited to the BCA Gallery to view the current exhibition. Not only did this provide a platform for lively discussions, but ideas generated influenced creative and technical approaches used within participants' photographic sessions and their own creative images.

This successful engagement encouraged an open invitation to be made across a number of groups to visit Tate Modern. A full educational day was arranged through the Tate education team, providing a tailor made session based on work that related and complemented photography. There was a diverse range of abilities within the group but our key objective was to build confidence in both communication and planning. The level and interest of discussions, observations, support for each other, getting to and meeting up on time at various stages of the day provided the

BEDFORD CREATIVE ARTS EDUCATION

Description (continued)

opportunity for everyone to put into practice their creative and organisational skills.

Parents at the Goldington Family Centre progressed in a slightly different way, choosing a specialised darkroom workshop to help progress their photographic techniques using negative prints from a photograph of themselves.

The final session held at 31 Castle Lane exhibited participants' work using a slide show of selected images of all the ten groups that took part throughout the project.

Partners

CAN, James Kingham Project, Surestart, Goldington Family Centre, Job Centre – Disability Advisor, Emmaus Village Carlton, Barton House, Langley House and Surestart Kingsbrook

Worker Joanna Clark

Numbers 41



KEY POINTS

- Providing participants with transferable skills
- Breaking barriers (learning is fun)
- Demonstrating to agencies the positive impact of being creative
- Creating an interest in volunteering and learning
- Getting people into employment by building their confidence and skills

Creative Networks (Photography in Prison)

Description

These two groups of prisoners at HMP Bedford had the chance to use digital cameras, laptops and print out their favourite images. In many cases, this was their first opportunity to use the latest technology in photography. The groups were asked to produce images that showed something about themselves, without actually showing their faces. This huge restriction was due to a prison rule, but became the catalyst for some very imaginative photographs using close-ups, personal objects and various means of disguising their features.

Partners

Aspirations, HMP Bedford

Worker Paul Nicholson

Numbers 17

BEDFORD CREATIVE ARTS

EDUCATION

Bedford Park Fun Day & Oakley Carnival

Description

Two further local outings for the Cameravan, BCA's caravan camera obscura. A particularly good site in Bedford Park, coupled with extremely sunny weather, resulted in wonderful views of the event and record numbers of visitors. The Cameravan also proved a popular attraction at the biennial village carnival in Oakley.

Partners

Park Ranger Service, Oakley Carnival Committee

Funded

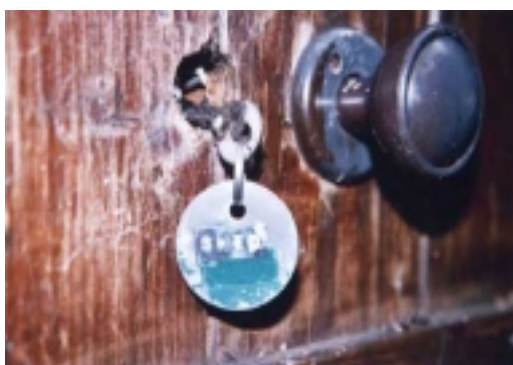
Bedford Borough Council Parks Department

Workers

Hedj & Tidj Ijyaho-Dollman, Laura Pottinger

Numbers

Bedford Park 250, Oakley 65



KEY POINTS

- Reaching the masses
- Making creative participation easy and fun

Spurgeon's Young Carers

Description

These final sessions with the two groups of young carers involved showing the rough edit, then completed silent movies. There was also a film booth set up for the young people to try some basic stop-frame animation. Their silent movies were shown during BCA's Summer Re:View at the gallery. Every member in the group received a DVD copy of the two silent movies and their short animations, with a couple of sessions arranged at the end of the year to view all of the final films.

Funded

Bedford Healthy Living Initiative

Workers

Paul Nicholson plus Spurgeon's staff

Numbers

24

Photo-marathon 05

Description

BCA ran a mini photo-marathon offering budding photographers the chance to be innovative in snapping their shots. The focus was not about technical ability but rather developing a sense of improvisation. Participants were given 35mm film and a set of six titles. The titles were: Loud, Bird's eye View, Bronze, Shed, Entry Number and Hidden.

Supported by: UGC Cinema, Bedford Arts Centre, Cecil Higgins Art Gallery, Bowen West, Bedford Box Office, Ouse Valley Processing and BDP Ltd.

Workers

Hedj Ijyaho-Dollman and Alice Burns

Numbers

60

BEDFORD CREATIVE ARTS

EDUCATION

Film Club

Description

Launched last year as part of BCA's involvement in the Healthy Living Initiative (b.healthy@bedford), this club for keen young film makers continued to meet to share skills and ideas and to work together on productions.

The make up of the club changed and developed as young people from other BCA projects joined in.

Master Classes

In response to the needs of the group, professional experts in lighting and sound were brought in to deliver intensive skills workshops. These sessions were opened up to students and staff of Bedford College's media department.

Productions

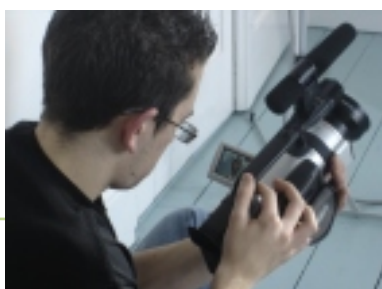
Members of the film club decided to put their skills into practice by documenting the experience of BCA's Polish artist in residence Agnieszka Chojnacka as she developed work for her exhibition in BCA Gallery. They have also gone on to help record other gallery talks and events, which have been turned into 'pod casts'.

Funded

Arts Council England, East and The Bedfordshire & Luton Community Foundation

Worker Dave Deans

Numbers 8



Choices Project

Description

Bridge House and Perkins House received taster sessions in photography, film and animation. These bite size introductions to new media went well. With the Perkins residents, a date and time was arranged to help participants continue with their chosen activities. Perkins House were quick off the mark and booked their day and spent 6 sessions devising and shooting "Badder Girls" on the taster day and "The Choice" in the following 6 weeks. Numbers varied but you wouldn't know if you watched the film. Film-making, especially in 2 hour chunks without a script, is always difficult, but the commitment from the core members helped the group to make an enjoyable film, devoting 12 hours each to the project.

Programmes of work are ongoing with Bedford Housing Link. It is a partnership that has been sustained through their financial support and their ongoing interest in BCA projects. A good relationship was developed between BCA and BHL project workers which we hope to sustain through future activities.

Partners & Funded

Bedford Housing Link

Worker Dave Deans

Numbers 11

KEY POINTS

- New media skills
- Sustaining relationships
- Values and promotes inclusion
- The project develops personal and creative expression

BEDFORD CREATIVE ARTS EDUCATION



The Older People's Project (TOPPS)

Description

Launched during 2005/06, this ambitious project will engage with a variety of older people's groups over the coming months. Expressly not about reminiscence, this initiative encourages older people to celebrate their lives in the here and now, through the medium of digital photography. OPAG (the Older People's Action Group) was the first group to seize the opportunity of getting their hands on our digital kit and their experience over six weekly sessions has helped inform how the project will develop with other groups.

Funded

Arts Council England, East

Worker

Dave Deans

Numbers

15

Active Friendships

Description

BRASS (Bedford Refugee and Asylum Support Service) approached us to deliver a photography project promoting healthy lifestyles. BCA chose to explore what friendship means to people and its impact on health and well being.

Participants included Croatian, Albanian, Kosovan, Serb and Iraqi Kurd people. The subjects they chose to celebrate included close family and friends and wider social networks including community support groups and football teams.

Partners & Funded

BRASS

Workers

Joanna Clark & Dave Deans

Numbers

6 Photographers

Identity

Description

Young people participating in the Youth Offending Service's Reparations programme were given the opportunity to explore issues of identity and stereotyping through digital portraiture workshops. This short pilot project highlighted the need for BCA to invest more time in planning and preparation of structured sessions for this key target group.

Funded

Youth Offending Service

Worker

Dave Deans

Numbers

4