



# YOUNG NORFOLK ARTS 2019 REPORT

A celebration of creativity and performance  
by and for young people in Norfolk

## SUMMARY

In 2019 Young Norfolk Arts provided opportunities for thousands of children and young people across Norfolk to engage with arts and culture. This is an exciting time for the Trust and with thanks to a National Lottery Project Grant from Arts Council England, we will continue to grow and develop, creating activities and projects that enable young people to experience great quality arts and culture across the county.



[youngnorfolkarts.org.uk](http://youngnorfolkarts.org.uk)



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# YNAF 2019

This year's Young Norfolk Arts Festival launched at Anteros Arts Centre on 5 June and saw 45 events and creative workshops across 22 venues, including the Young Norfolk Visual Arts exhibition.

Highlights from this year's YNAF included the Creative Multilingualism project and performances which brought together pupils from Catton Grove and Colman Junior School and students from City College to celebrate the range of languages spoken in Norfolk schools including British Sign Language. We also welcomed a diverse range of performers to our Lost River Stage as part of the Lord Mayor's Celebrations. The hard work our Young Comms Team put into their Fountain of Youth event at Norwich Arts Centre really paid off too with a buzzing evening of eclectic arts.

We hosted a variety of creative workshops this year, from comic book drawing and comedy to VJing and music production. These were delivered by a range of practitioners, including young artists such as local musician and YNA alumni Finn Doherty.



**45 events and workshops  
across 22 venues**

**5,200 children and young  
people under 25 participated,  
performed or enjoyed**

# FEEDBACK

*"Brilliant all round- thought provoking, immersive and excellently synchronised."* **Even You Song**

*"Thank you so much - we both had such a good time and learnt lots! I look forward to any future workshops that may take place."* **Songwriting and Production Workshops**

*"Overwhelmingly positive. Students seemed to have a great time. Teachers were impressed by workshops. Parents at the end were very enthusiastic."* **North Norfolk Poetry Slam**

*"The opportunity was amazing and it helped my confidence"* **Lost River Stage Performer**



**Total audience figures for this year's YNAF were over 18,200**

**YNA worked with 55 organisations and artists to deliver YNAF 2019**

# YNA COLLECTIVE

Through a range of workshops and training, the 2018-19 Young Comms Team were able to pick up new skills in events planning, photography, media and digital communications. They were able to confidently take ownership of events across YNAF 2019, starting with the Festival launch event in June.

The Team curated their own event as part of YNAF; 'The Fountain of Youth' at Norwich Arts Centre, where they took over all the performance spaces in the building, creating a platform for emerging creative talent from across the region. The event was a huge success and they all really enjoyed the experience.

Building on feedback from this year we are moving forward with a new model, the group has been rebranded as the 'Young Norfolk Arts Collective'. We hope that giving the group a broader title will allow us to expand our offer of youth arts provision and attract a more diverse demographic of young people with a wider range of creative skills and interests.

We have now recruited a new cohort of the Collective, with their first project training and planning to report on the Norwich Science Festival during October half-term. Following on from this they will be working with a graphic designer (and YNA Collective alumni!) to re-design the YNAC logo and branding. Looking ahead to YNAF 2020 we'll be recruiting again from January and would like to see the Collective involved in planning and facilitating more of their own events and projects.



*"Being a member of the Comms Team has really built my confidence, helping me to talk live on the radio, and perform poetry live on stage."*

*"It's a really nice community, all just trying to find our place."*

*"It was a great opportunity for learning new skills, to meet new people and to get experience behind the scenes."*

*"The Young Norfolk Arts team are really attentive to your personal development, providing opportunities tailored to your particular skill set and interests, this is something that I've really enjoyed about being a member of the Collective."*

Feedback from the 2018-19 Young Communications Team

# > ENGAGE WORKS

In October we hosted our first conference exploring youth engagement in the arts, a partnership with the National Centre for Writing who brought learning and themes from their Engage Young Producers programme.

The event was held at Anteros Arts Foundation and brought together young people, arts organisations and practitioners for a day of lively debate, workshops and performances. Sessions included; rural access to the arts, what works in youth arts programmes, spoken word, mental health and wellbeing, arts and activism and more.

We all felt that the day achieved it's aims of creating a platform for both young people and organisations to come together in an accessible space, to have fun, to discuss and to share ideas. There was a great level of energy and engagement throughout the day, and we look forward to continuing to build on this with similar events in 2020.

View a round-up of activity by searching for #EngageWorks on Twitter or visit: [youngnorfolkarts.org.uk/news/engage-works/](http://youngnorfolkarts.org.uk/news/engage-works/)



# LOOKING FORWARD

Young Norfolk Arts believes that youth voice is at the core of what we do and we will continue to strengthen our youth led approach. The YNA Collective programme will develop further and see more members of the Collective planning and facilitating more of their own events and projects, especially as part of YNAF 2020.

We are looking at developing youth governance at a strategic level, and through more events such as our successful >Engage Works which brought together young people and arts organisations to brainstorm youth engagement in the arts.

YNAF 2020 will have an exciting array of projects and performances, and we are looking forward to commissioning a range of young people to make work for the programme.

Our year-round activity continues to broaden with project such as Storymakers and creative holiday workshops with Norfolk Libraries, as well as working with Norfolk County Council's Virtual School programme to develop their own Young Communications Team.

We will also be looking at continuing to diversify our funding streams, working on a fundraising plan to develop the sustainability of the organisation whilst continue to make all of our activities and projects accessible.



# SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS

The support from many organisations and individuals allows Young Norfolk Arts to continue to deliver great quality arts and cultural experiences to young people across Norfolk.

The substantial provision from Arts Council England is particularly significant and we are extremely grateful for their on-going support. We have been successful in our application to Arts Council England's National Lottery Project Grants for 2019-2020 which will enable us not only to deliver two Festivals but will also support the continued development of our year-round activities. Further to this, we have received remarkable support, both financially and practically, from a number of regional and national trusts and charities and from all of our Young Norfolk Arts Partners.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of those who have supported Young Norfolk Arts. You can see a full list of our supporters, partners and friends on our website at [youngnorfolkarts.org.uk](http://youngnorfolkarts.org.uk)



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