

' I made this '

Education through the Arts

RAISING ASPIRATIONS AND CELEBRATING DIVERSITY BY
IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF SOME OF THE MOST
VULNERABLE PEOPLE THROUGH THE PROVISION OF
CREATIVE ACTIVITIES.

At the heart of the '**I made this**' philosophy is our belief that everyone is creative and that cultural and creative activities are fundamental to our lives. By encouraging people to participate in a culture of creation, we seek to develop our community by raising confidence and aspirations through access to the arts. Central to this vision is the concept of developing transferable skills through creative activity to help all disadvantaged groups including the unemployed, those with low skills and all those marginalised by lack of access to affordable training, with particular focus on the young.

'**I made this**' is a registered charity. Its founders and trustees all have backgrounds in the arts and media, and have lived all their lives in the area. Our activities include film and TV production, singing, dance, D.J.ing, rap, drama, music and music production. Through these activities we will sponsor a spirit of excellence, raise confidence, increase skill levels and provide the opportunity to work as a group. We will also look to partner with schools, the police, crime prevention bodies, the extended school network and the NHS to provide a positive platform from which to deliver education, information and a vehicle for the whole community to express itself.

Trustees

Paul Fitzgerald – Has worked in the media for over 30 years. He has worked for all the major broadcasters including the BBC, ITV and Discovery Channel. For 10 years he ran an independent production company making social issue films for BBC television. He also has a keen interest in music and has run a professional recording studio for over 20 years.

Jude Cowgill – Has worked in both the media and the public sector. In TV as a production manager and producer, and has run her own business. She has also

worked in the caring professions both as a nurse, as an administrator for the NHS and as a residential social worker.

Rory Fitzgerald - is a professional TV cameraman. He is also a skilled recording technician who has worked for all the major broadcasters. He also works as a recording studio engineer and is a talented singer songwriter and plays guitar and drums.

Rose Eastaugh - Works as a participation worker for Suffolk County Council and has worked as a Drama Facilitator / Workshop Leader in both Kenya and Hong Kong. She has also worked as Special Education Needs Facilitator for the Spare Tyre Theatre Company and as an Assistant Teacher / Lecturer, with SEN responsibility, for the Applied Theatre Arts Company - London. She has a Degree in Drama, Applied Theatre and Education from the Central School of Speech and Drama London, UK.

Frank Pescod - is a musician and music promoter who ran Oxford's leading independent music venue. He has worked in the retail sector and the catering industry. He is a skilled studio engineer and a talented song writer.

Clare Richardson - has a strong background in both business and the arts. She has worked in the theatre and also for a major international publisher in the field of investment and finance. She currently works for the World Land Trust. She has also worked in the Third sector in the U.S. as a drug rehabilitation councillor.

Claire Taylor-Crisp - Is an experienced charity practitioner who also works for The Waveney Community Forum. She brings her extensive knowledge of the third sector to the committee.

Ali Casey - Has a strong local knowledge of the charity sector and has worked for local charities as a finance officer. She is also a talented actress.

Our Vision

'**I made this**' is an artistic media initiative that aims to engage people in professional and personal development, cultivating achievement through experiential learning. '**I made this**' is a community based project for all age groups who need a creative outlet. Designed to engage participants of all abilities, '**I made this**' provides participants with the chance to explore creative mediums that they wouldn't normally access. '**I made this**' projects, workshops and events aim to provide participants with positive cultural activities, supporting them to develop their individual identity, work together as a team and achieve a positive contribution to their community.

Learning Philosophies

The '**I made this**' philosophy uses experiential learning techniques to support individuals talents and interests. It encourages their personal and educational development. This non traditional learning style engages children and

young people of every ability and background, including those who have previously been disengaged or excluded by formal education.

By building on personal experiences, talents, interests and skills, **'I made this'** projects allow people to achieve a quality product, work with professionals in a professional setting, realise new media and artistic skills, and develop confidence individually and as part of a team.

We believe that space plays a huge part in the success of a project. It is important that the space validates the creative medium as well as fully engaging the participants in the process. Our philosophy is that the participants should work with the latest technology not only to create a professional product, but also to provide them with the self esteem, inspiration and confidence that working in a professional environment brings. In doing this we hope to equip the participants with transferable skills and models that they can take forward into school, further education and the work place.

Testimonials

"I joined Connor and Ben both from Grange Road for LACESS educational project at the studio. I felt this project was one of the best I have personally been to with the children, I was extremely impressed with the people running the project at their studio being very interactive, enthusiastic and extremely approachable both with the children and staff alike. I thought giving the children the chance to take part in all aspects of film making ie making costumes and starring in the film brilliant. The children appeared to thoroughly enjoy taking part, although they both have quiet short attention spans they managed to take part in a majority of the activities put on for them in connection of the film being made.

The children, especially Ben loved having the finished product on film and it is a lovely memento of what was a great project"

Vicky Benford-Brown. Carer Grange Rd Childrens Home Beccles Suffolk.

" It's great to come away with a product, it gives the participants a sense of confidence and achievement to create a collective product. The professional venue and facilitators validate the children's experience, everyone engaged really well with the children, allowing them to complete the tasks."

"Each individual child got something individually out of the project, whether the highlight for them was exposure to the musical equipment, working with professionals, the art work, costumes, the song writing, the opportunity to get practically involved, or a chance to participate in the editing, they each got a variety of experiences in media production. The facilitators modelled positive ways of getting involved and being proactive."

“Music can be really good for children who struggle verbally, they can find a creative way to communicate that’s healthy... even if it’s thrashing out their anger on the drum kit!”

Angela Weston, LACCESS. Commissioner of alternative education project
‘Four eyes’ 2009

This is what some of our participants say about school and ‘I made this’

Its too boring, I would like more help with school. I want the subjects to be fun, they are boring! (‘I made this’ participant aged 9, 2009)

I don’t like having to sit at a desk and do the same things all the time.
(‘I made this’ participant aged 11, 2009)

He (the child) does not attend formal education as they can not cope with his behaviour, yet he worked in the studio for hours, recording a track that he is really proud of. (Carer of a ‘I made this’ participant aged 8, 2009)

At school, if I can’t do something I feel embarrassed, that I will get picked on for not being able to do it. In the classroom [at school] I feel like I can’t do a lot of things so I don’t like it. (‘I made this’ participant aged 13, 2009)

I don’t like being told what to do, I want to decide how to do things for myself.
(‘I made this’ participant aged 12, 2009)

School is boring, just a boring classroom. In the studio there are lots of buttons and lights and things to do and touch and have fun with. (‘I made this’ participant aged 12, 2009)

Sometimes I get angry and I can’t express my feelings at school, it just makes me more angry. When I go to the studio I can bang a drum and get rid of my anger. Also music helps me to express my feelings about some of the things that have happened to me. (‘I made this’ participant aged 12, 2009)

Its fun, it doesn’t feel like learning you just get to have fun and make a good tune, when I heard myself play the instruments on the computer, I couldn’t believe it was me, it sounded so good! (‘I made this’ participant aged 16, 2009)

Its one of the best things I have ever done. (‘I made this’ participant aged 8, 2009)

I like to do things that are constructive, making something that is mine, you just repeat things at school and sit in a classroom with lots of other people, it isn't constructive, I like the feeling I get from actively constructing something. ('I made this' participant aged 14, 2009)

I like music, but this was the first time I have been to a studio, it was fun to work in the studio using the instruments and equipment and to learn about all the things it takes to make a CD, I didn't realise it was such hard work. ('I made this' participant aged 17, 2009)

It gave me something to do, everything else is boring ('I made this' participant aged 15, 2009)

It is fun, you get to use all the equipment and learn about making music and working together. ('I made this' participant aged 15, 2009)

Music makes me feel happy, it is free and I can develop and express my feelings in my way, without anyone telling me how I should feel, or what I should do. ('I made this' participant aged 15, 2009)

I thought it would sound really crap, but it sounds really good. It's amazing that from those few words we wrote down we now have a song – I've done more in a day than I would have done in school in a week – Leah 15

I've learnt how to write a song, and how to improve my singing. It's been a good experience, I am glad my social worker persuaded me to come (Lori 17)

It has made me more confident and I have made new friends (Leah 15.)