

**Call for applications:**

**Conference Programmer**

**Engage international conference 2019, Newcastle and Gateshead**

**A cultural entitlement for children and young people**

Freelance, May - December 2019

Based in own office, some visits to London, Newcastle and Gateshead required

Fee: £5,000 (inclusive of VAT), plus expenses

**Application deadline: 10am, Friday 3 May 2019**

Engage wishes to commission a Conference Programmer to develop the concept for the Engage international conference 2019, and to programme this important annual event.

The Programmer will work closely with the Engage Director, Engage staff and members in the North East in developing their ideas for the conference, and will have agreed the main shape of the programme and the majority of contributors by late June 2019. Engage staff will work with the Programmer on the practical planning of the event; dealing with logistics, including liaising with contributors, and bookings of venues, catering, transport, etc.

This is an opportunity to play a key role alongside an enthusiastic team in a national visual arts education organisation, programming a major annual event, which brings together c.180 arts and education professionals from the United Kingdom and overseas.

Engage is the lead advocacy and training network for gallery education, with over 870 members in the UK and internationally across c.270 visual arts organisations. For more information see: [www.engage.org](http://www.engage.org)

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**Should you need application details in another format please contact Engage on 020 7729 5858 / [info@engage.org](mailto:info@engage.org)**

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## **Engage Conference Programmer brief**

### **Conference**

The Engage international conference is a major annual event, which brings together c.180 gallery and museum educators, artists, teachers, directors, academics and curators from the UK and overseas. The conference aims to stimulate debate about gallery and arts education and issues affecting practice; to inform delegates about current cultural and educational policies and developments in the visual arts; to assist in raising the status of gallery education, and to enable networking amongst Engage members and other delegates.

### **Location**

The conference will take place across two days in Newcastle and Gateshead, during the week of 4 November 2019 (TBC), and will be accompanied by fringe activities across c.1½ days. Delegates will have the opportunity to visit some of the many cultural venues across Newcastle and Gateshead, such as the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Vane, MILK Collective, Workplace Gallery, Side Gallery, Locus+, Amino, and Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums.

### **Theme: A cultural entitlement for children and young people**

The conference takes inspiration from *City of Dreams*, which is a 10 year programme across Newcastle and Gateshead, in partnership with cultural and third sector

organisations, supporting children and young people to access arts and culture.

*City of Dreams* is the starting point for the 2019 Engage conference, which will explore a cultural entitlement for children and young people. With visual arts education under pressure, children and young people's entitlement to access to culture is an urgent issue. Engage celebrates its 30th birthday in 2019, with the launch of a *Manifesto for Gallery Education*, which will restate Engage's mission to support access to the visual arts through gallery education. The conference provides an opportunity to reflect on arts and cultural provision with, and for children and young people over the last thirty years, particularly in the UK, and to reflect on what the future holds.

Engage conferences are centred around practice in the broad context of the visual arts and education sectors, and the programme is analytical and solution-focused. Conference traditionally takes the format of keynote presentations, presentations and breakout workshops; exploring research, theory, case studies and practical examples, which provide opportunities for delegate exchange, debate and peer learning. The Programmer will be asked to draw on relevant experience amongst participants (including children and young people), educators, artists, curators, policy makers, commissioners and funders, and from case studies across the whole of the UK and internationally for conference content. The programmer will strive to include contributors who represent the diversity of the UK population.

Please see the Appendices section below for more detailed information on the conference theme, context and structure, and for information about Engage.

## **Programmer role**

Engage is seeking a Programmer who will work with colleagues at Engage to:

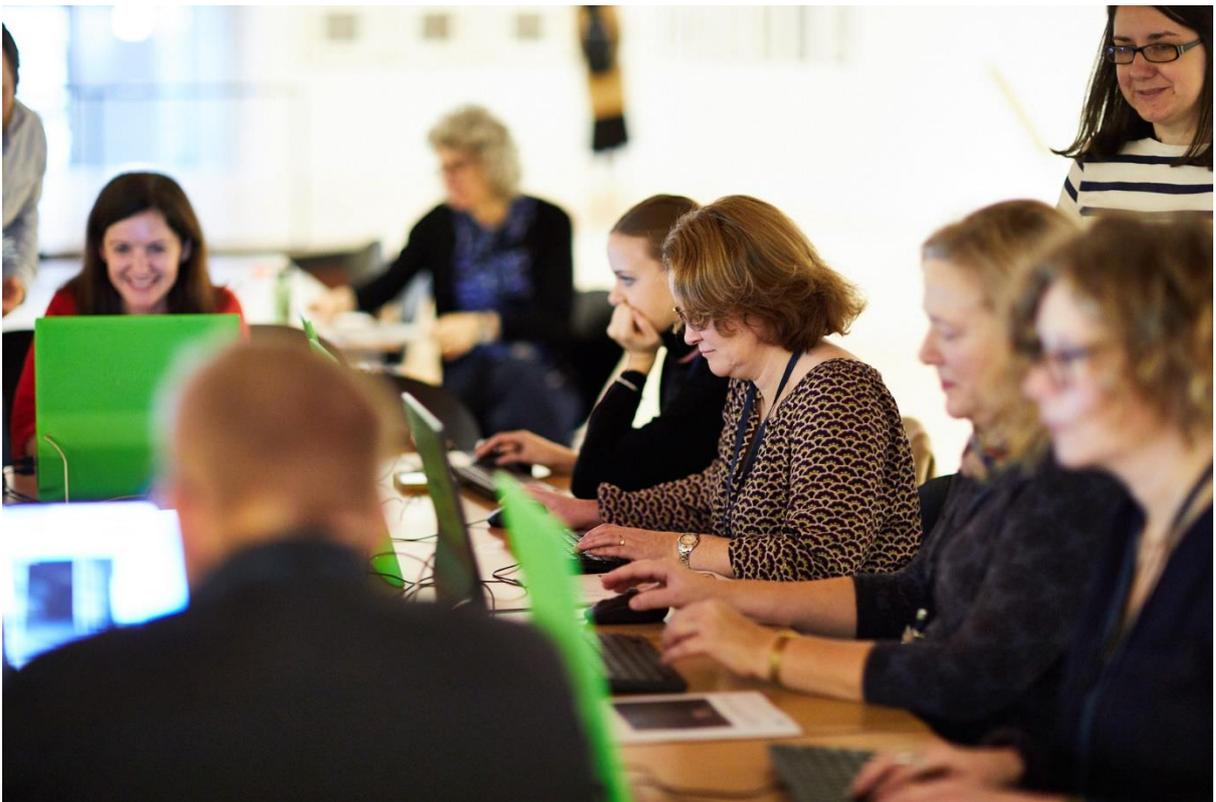
- Develop an overall concept for the conference within the broad theme outlined
- Devise facilitation/other activities that enable discussion and participation
- Define the areas to be debated
- Identify key contributors and their role in the conference, in liaison with Engage staff and members/colleagues in the North East
- Identify other contributors in consultation with Engage, members and stakeholders
- Ensure contributors represent the diversity of the UK population
- Develop a programme that satisfies the interests of gallery educators and associated colleagues from the UK and overseas, at different stages of their careers
- Invite contributors (keynote/ speakers/ facilitators/ chairs) for the main programme and breakout workshops sessions, working to a template and fee structure agreed with Engage
- Provide contact details for proposed contributors
- Provide alternative suggestions for contributors in case of changes in availability
- Brief all contributors
- Attend the conference and provide support for contributors and staff

The Programmer will work within a limited budget of £4,000 to programme contributors for the main keynote and plenary sessions, and breakout workshop sessions. Engage would expect there to be c.25-35 contributors in total; some contributors (keynote/ speakers/ facilitators/ chairs) will also run breakout workshop sessions; some contributors (speakers/ chairs/ facilitators) will be local. The Programmer will visit Newcastle and Gateshead and consult with sector colleagues and members in the North East (Engage will set up and manage this consultation)'

### **UK and international reach and diversity**

Through presentations and workshop breakout sessions and discussion, the Conference Programme will need to share practice from across the UK and internationally, in particular, practice in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The programmer will ensure that contributors represent the diversity of the UK population.

**The fee for this work is £5,000 (inclusive of VAT)**, plus up to £500 expenses (including travel, accommodation etc. during conference). The Programmer will work from their own home/office. Regular meetings will be held between the Programmer and the Engage staff team via Skype or conference call, though some visits to London, Newcastle and Gateshead will be required.



**Person specification**

**Essential**

- Experience of programming a conference or large scale continuing professional development event
- Knowledge of participatory, education or learning programmes in the visual arts sector with children and young people in the UK
- Knowledge of gallery, museum or heritage education and/or visual arts education
- Knowledge of cultural policy development in the UK, particularly children and young people's participation in the arts
- Clear, concise communicator, confident presenting ideas in writing or verbally
- Ability to work on own initiative, and collaboratively as part of a small team
- Ability to meet deadlines and work within a set project timetable
- Ability to work within a set and limited budget
- Ability to prioritise and work under pressure
- Creative problem-solver

### **Desirable**

- Experience of programming visual arts events
- Knowledge of participatory, education or learning programmes in the visual arts sector with children and young people internationally
- Knowledge of contemporary visual art

### **Application details**

Supporting documents are available to download at:

[https://www.engage.org/engage\\_opportunities.aspx](https://www.engage.org/engage_opportunities.aspx)

To apply, submit the following documents to [operations@engage.org](mailto:operations@engage.org) by 10am on Friday 3 May 2019, using the subject line 'Conference Programmer 2019: [your name]':

- A proposal (no more than two sides A4) explaining how you will approach this brief. This must include ideas for theme development, potential contributors, ways of facilitating discussion and an outline budget with notes on how you would manage costs. *When considering your programme proposal please refer to the timetable in Appendix 2 and example budget provided via the link above.*
- A statement (no more than one side A4) giving evidence of how your skills, knowledge and experience meet the person specification and equip you to undertake this work
- A current CV, with details of two referees
- A completed equality and diversity monitoring form (*provided via the link above*)

Applications should be sent via email only by **Friday 3 May 2019, 10 am**. Interviews will take place in London on **Monday 13 May 2019, 12 - 4pm**. Applicants shortlisted for interview will be contacted by Tuesday 7 May 2019. Reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed.

A meeting to meet fringe partners in the North East will take place in Gateshead or Newcastle on Tuesday 28 May, which we would like the Conference Programmer to attend. If possible, we would also like the Conference Programmer to contribute to a meeting of the Engage Council at MK Gallery, Milton Keynes on Tuesday 21 May 2019. This could be in person or by Skype.

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If you have any queries, or wish to discuss the brief further, please contact Jane Sillis, Director of Engage on 020 7729 5858.

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Engage is committed to equality of access in its employment. We welcome applications from all sections of the community.

Should you need application details in another format please contact engage on 020 7729 5858 / [info@engage.org](mailto:info@engage.org).

## **Appendix 1**

### **Theme: A cultural entitlement for children and young people**

Engage conference will focus on a cultural entitlement for children and young people, and the role visual arts organisations can take working with partners to deliver this.

Inspired by the *City of Dreams* initiative in Gateshead and Newcastle, and Engage's 30th birthday, this feels a timely moment for Engage conference to focus on children and young people's cultural entitlement.

The National Society for Education through Art and Design in its annual members' survey has demonstrated that art, craft and design education is under pressure, particularly in England in the state education sector, with less time being spent teaching the subject, fewer students studying art and design at exam level, and less visits being made by schools to cultural venues,

A broader concern about children and young people's access to the arts is evidenced by two Arts Council England initiatives. The Durham Commission <https://www.dur.ac.uk/creativitycommission/> into creative education, and a review of how children and young people can access the arts from 0-25 year old <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/blog/making-more-our-nations-talent>

Concern about children and young people's access to the arts is set in the broader context of the challenges within the visual arts sector across the UK since the onset of austerity, with the decrease in public funding for the arts and the impact this has had on education and learning programmes.

These challenging circumstances are set against the publication of evidence demonstrating the benefits children and young people gain from participating in the arts, within and outside of formal education. This is evidenced by both the evaluation

of the *Circuit* for young people <https://circuit.tate.org.uk/> and of *Time to Listen* <https://researchtate.net/>, a Tate, Royal Shakespeare Company and University of Nottingham study looking at the benefits to teachers and students of working with cultural organisations.

Engage Scotland is collaborating with Edinburgh College of Art to deliver a conference looking at similar themes - *A creative curriculum: Embedding contemporary art in Scottish schools*, on 14 June 2019 in Edinburgh. In 2018, Engage Scotland worked with Visit Scotland and Creative Engage Scotland to deliver Celebrate ART <https://engage.org/celebrate-art.aspx> as part of the year of young people, which effectively engaged with older young people in urban and rural areas, many of whom were vulnerable.

Creative Scotland has worked extensively with the National Youth Arts Advisory Group (NYAAG), to consult with young people about what they want from culture. The NYAAG have produced their own report in response to this: *Culture and Connection: How can Children and Young People shape their Creative Future*, January 2019 [https://www.youngscot.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/NYAGG\\_Report\\_ONLINE.pdf](https://www.youngscot.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/NYAGG_Report_ONLINE.pdf)

The Art of Learning (AoL) in Ayrshire was a two-year pilot programme devised and delivered in Scotland by a partnership comprising Creative Scotland (CS), Education Scotland (ES) and Creativity, Culture and Education (CCE). It was also supported in this pilot form by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation (PHF) and was one of seven initiatives being carried out across the UK through their newly established Teacher Development Fund (TDF). [https://www.creativitycultureeducation.org/case\\_studies/art-of-learning/](https://www.creativitycultureeducation.org/case_studies/art-of-learning/)

In Wales, the new Curriculum for Wales is being piloted and will become statutory from 2022. This includes the Expressive Arts as one of the Areas of Learning, with the visual arts, design, dance, drama and digital arts as compulsory elements. The Welsh Government are committed to the curriculum and will fund teachers' continued professional development. There is concern that artists and PGCE teacher trainees receive sufficient support.

The Lead Creative Schools Scheme (2019-2020) is a £10,000,000 Arts Council of Wales and Welsh Government programme. The All Wales Offer has developed four arts and education regional networks across Wales, which have brokered relationships between schools, creative practitioners and cultural organisations.

The conference could explore the following questions:

- What has happened in terms of children and young people's access to the visual arts and artists in the last thirty years in the UK?
- What impact have Engage initiatives such as *enquire* <https://www.engage.org/enquire> and *Watch this Space* (part of the Strategic

Commissioning Programme for Museums and Gallery Education)  
<https://www.engage.org/watch-this-space> had on understanding the benefits for students and teachers of engaging with art and artists?

- How can children and young people access culture on their own terms?
- How can vulnerable children and young people, and those new to the arts be encouraged to engage with the visual arts?
- How can we ensure that children and young people with protected characteristics have equal access to the visual arts?
- Have programmes which champion young people's agency, such as the Engage *envision* initiative, given children and young people a stronger role in visual arts organisations? <https://www.engage.org/envision>
- Have programmes such as *Generation Art* raised awareness of the value of art, craft and design education? <http://generationart.gallery/>
- What does best practice look like in terms of children and young people and cultural entitlement outside of the UK? What can we learn from the *Norway Cultural Rucksack*, which guarantees children and young people access to culture?
- What does the future look like for visual arts education in the UK? What are the challenges and the opportunities?
- Are there demographic, social and economic changes, which will impact on the lives of children and young people in the UK that we need to consider?
- What role can children and young people take in leading this future, and from how young?
- What partners do visual arts organisations and education institutions need to work with?

Engage would like the conference to be analytical and solution-focused. The suggested issues for the Programmer to explore listed above were put together through consultation with members and colleagues; the Programmer may decide to select a narrower focus for the conference. We would like the programme to suggest creative ways to encourage discussion and debate between delegates.

## **Appendix 2 Structure**

This is the structure that the Engage conference has taken over the last few years, (with the exception of the 2018 conference):

For the two afternoon sessions of the main conference we would like a mix of presentations with time for Q&As from delegates and for delegate debate. We would like creative ideas from the Conference Programmer on how this might be structured and facilitated, e.g. hosts to lead delegate discussion at the round tables; a facilitator setting up delegate discussion and reporting back on this to the conference; practical exercises for delegates to get to know each other, and to exchange ideas; methods of summing up and sharing actions from the conference etc. We normally have a half day of breakout workshops, which are participatory discussion-focused sessions, some of which are practical. This is to allow for discussion and to cater to a variety of learning styles, i.e. participants who prefer learning through making. These sessions normally take place in venues across the city hosting conference. You may want to suggest different mechanisms to encourage debate and discussion within the conference e.g. through offering Open Space sessions to delegates, or by using different social media platforms.

In 2018, the conference took a different form, with breakout workshops taking place throughout conference, breaking up the main conference sessions. We were able to achieve this as the host venue had the capacity to host multiple breakout sessions as well as the main conference sessions.

We suggest that the 2019 Conference Programmer plans activity on the afternoons of the second and third day in the main venue, which has one large space big enough for all delegates plus two other spaces. Additionally, there should be one set of breakout workshops on the morning of the last day of the conference across venues in Gateshead and Newcastle.

In the last seven years conference has been accompanied by a 1-1½ day fringe programme to celebrate the arts and education practice of the host city, which has proved very popular with delegates. In 2019, Engage will work closely with arts organisations in Newcastle and Gateshead. Colleagues in Newcastle, Gateshead and the North East, through the Engage North East Area Group, will curate a fringe programme to include an evening reception/ studio visits/ artists or educator talks/ workshops, etc. Whilst the main conference centres around the chosen theme as curated by the Programmer, fringe focuses on sharing local arts and education practice, and is programmed by Engage with colleagues from the region.

There is content on the evening of the second day, which Engage organises: Delegate Soapbox a space for participants to share practice and ideas in short presentations; the annual AGM and the launch of a *Manifesto for Gallery Education*. The annual Marsh Awards for Excellence in Gallery Education where winners attend and during which short films about winners' work are screened will take place for an hour on the afternoon of the third day.

Engage would like a broad range of contributors at conference to reflect the diversity of contemporary UK, and the wide range of colleagues involved in gallery and visual arts education. Engage would like contributors from outside the gallery education sector who will bring insights on the theme of conference e.g. from other parts of the arts and cultural sectors, from the corporate and education sectors, from the visual arts and from other disciplines. Contributors to conference need to engage and

stimulate delegates who will include: educators and curators in galleries, museums, visual arts and heritage venues; artists, policy makers, researchers/ academics; funders; colleagues working in education. Contributors will need to provide a range of approaches in the way that they present or lead sessions to appeal to delegates' learning styles, e.g. presentations, debate and practical activities. The Programmer will need to put in place a structure to encourage and facilitate contributor and delegate discussion. The main programme will take place in a flat space with round tables for delegates to sit round. Other sessions will take place in venues, principally arts and education venues in Gateshead and Newcastle.

### Day 1

Afternoon - Fringe event options at venues across Gateshead & Newcastle  
- An evening reception, part of the Fringe (TBC)

### Day 2

Morning - Fringe event options at venues across Gateshead & Newcastle  
Noon-1pm - Registration and lunch  
1-5pm - Keynote/ plenary presentations and discussion  
5pm onwards - Delegate Soapbox Engage AGM; launch of the Gallery Education Manifesto, drinks reception and conference dinner

### Day 3

9 – 11am - Breakout sessions: Parallel discussion and practical breakout workshop sessions, exploring topics and/ or case studies related to the conference theme, held at venues across Gateshead and Newcastle  
12 noon -1pm - Marsh Awards for Excellence in Gallery Education  
1 – 2 pm - Lunch and networking session for Engage groups  
2 – 5 pm - Keynote/ plenary presentations and discussion  
5 pm - Conference ends

For a example of the 2017 programme, visit: <https://www.engage.org/conf-timetable-17.aspx> Please note the 2018 conference had a different structure, as there was capacity for all the breakout workshops and for the main conference sessions to take place in one venue. We do not anticipate being in a venue which allows for this format in 2019. The 2017 conference programme is therefore a better guide.

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*“Engage conference is always a really valuable professional development experience for me. The conversations that take place and the connections that are made during the two days inform and impact my work. Partnerships and support networks are initiated and I return with renewed energy and commitment to what I do.”*  
Conference delegate

## **Appendix 3**

### **Conference planning and delivery timeframe**

#### **May**

- Tuesday 28 May, Conference Programmer and Engage staff attend meeting with Engage North West group and colleagues in arts, health and wellbeing colleagues to discuss the conference theme and the fringe events
- Programmer develops conference programme
- Conference budget agreed by Engage
- Engage staff take practical steps to implement conference programme, e.g. book venues, accommodation and catering, and research transport for delegates between venues
- Programmer supplies promotional text relating to theme. Initial publicity for conference with dates, venues and theme sent to Engage members by email and posted on website

#### **June**

- Programmer produces detailed programme to be agreed by Engage colleagues; publicity updated and distributed by Engage staff, to include conference leaflet
- Programmer confirms contributors (keynotes/ speakers/ workshop leaders/ chairs/ facilitators etc.)
- Programmer briefs contributors and passes their details onto Engage
- Conference bookings open

#### **July**

- Engage staff taking bookings for conference
- Engage staff contact contributors re. technical requirements, travel and accommodation
- Engage staff liaise with venue staff re. practicalities, e.g. technical requirements of contributors, with support from Programmer where needed
- Engage staff (with help of Programmer) liaise with contributors to finalise biographies/ presentations/ reading lists required prior to the event for conference packs

#### **August, September and October**

- Engage staff continue to liaise with venue staff and Programmer on practicalities
- Engage staff finalise arrangements for accommodation and catering etc.
- Engage staff allocate delegates into breakout sessions, etc.
- Engage staff put together delegates packs with Programmer, including a programme, delegate list, contributors' details, reading and resources list, and an evaluation form
- Roles for Engage staff and volunteers at conference agreed with Programmer

#### **November**

- Programmer attends conference and supports contributors (wb. 4 November tbc)

#### *December*

- Engage staff and Programmer meet to evaluate conference

## **Appendix 4 About Engage**

Engage is the lead advocacy and training network for gallery education. We support arts educators, organisations and artists to work together with communities in dynamic, open exchanges that give everyone the opportunity to learn and benefit from the arts. Engage has a membership of around 800, including c.270 galleries, museums and arts centres across the UK and in over 20 countries internationally. Engage is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation Sector Support Organisation, and receives project funding from Creative Scotland and the Arts Council of Wales.

Engage provides a platform for education professionals working within galleries, museums, heritage venues, schools and other community venues, to meet and connect through Area Group meetings, Engage professional development events, the Engage Journal and website.

For more details about what we do and how to join visit [www.engage.org](http://www.engage.org).

Engage is supported by:



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**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



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**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
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