

9 January 2018 ~ For immediate release

All the world's a stage, some of us just have better credit.

Teaching financial literacy to young people in areas of deprivation through drama

Despite significant regeneration and economic growth throughout the borough over the past decade, Hackney has one of the highest rates of child poverty and infant mortality in England, and pockets of severe deprivation still exist. Around 36% of people in Hackney live in poverty and 30% have ultimately fallen into homelessness.¹

The link between poverty and financial literacy is becoming more and more apparent and is now outlined by The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as a major factor in low income families². During January, Create, the UK's leading charity empowering lives through the creative arts, is running its *A Wealth of Stages* project which offers children attending schools in areas of deprivation a fun, creative way of exploring financial literacy, helping them to increase their knowledge and understanding about money.

During the two week programme of workshops at Northwold Primary School in Hackney, 50 students aged 8-9 will be exploring aspects of finance. The project uses games, discussion, writing and drama to help them understand the importance of making careful and ethical choices around the use of money, enabling them to build a valuable life skill in an engaging and creative way.

Create's professional drama artist James Baldwin will introduce performance activities, where group games are played and real-life scenarios acted out through the participants' own scripts. The project started in December with a trip to the Bank of England Museum, providing the students with inspiration for their upcoming workshops.

The *A Wealth of Stages* drama activities enable the students to explore the responsible use of money, and opens up debates around the differentiation between needs, wants, necessities and excesses, spending and saving, and charitable giving.

Create's Co-Founder and Chief Executive, Nicky Goulder, commented, "*A lack of financial awareness at a young age can lead to financial difficulty later in life. A Wealth of Stages endeavours to strip finance of its often inaccessible jargon to more simplistic, digestible terms for young people. In doing so, through fun and interactive playwriting and drama sessions, children become well-equipped for the future whilst also building upon their creative, interpersonal and communication skills.*"

Notes to the editors

Project Dates: 15 January – 24 January (performance on 26 January)

Funders:

The Ironmongers Company
Worshipful Company of World Traders

¹ <https://www.trustforlondon.org.uk/data/boroughs/hackney-poverty-and-inequality-indicators/>

² <http://www.oecd.org/daf/fin/financial-education/launch-pisa-financial-literacy-students-2017.htm>



Create

Create is the UK's leading charity empowering lives through the creative arts. Our focus is on engaging the most marginalised participants in inspiring, sustainable arts programmes in areas where provision is poor and engagement in the arts is therefore low. We prioritise our work with seven participant groups: young patients; disabled children and adults; young and adult carers; schoolchildren in areas of deprivation; vulnerable older people; young and adult offenders; and marginalised children and adults.

Images: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/e6sqh5d52r5vr4j/AAAM_dCj5hqTyOfVqTTEi5v5a?dl=0
(Other images available on request)

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