

# Specialist Leaders in Cultural Education

Cultural Partner Case Study 2015/16	
Cultural Organisation and SLICE Lead	Polly Brannan Education Curator at Liverpool Biennial
SLICE Fellow and Partner School	Alex Brewster Studio School
Action Research Question	<i>"How far and in what ways can you evidence the impact on your organisation of working with a SLICE fellow and their teaching school alliance?"</i>
Other Partners	Extended partners: Design partners: HATO
Dates of Project	January 2016-September 2016

## Background of cultural organisation

Liverpool Biennial is the UK Biennial of Contemporary Art. Taking place every two years, the Biennial is underpinned by a programme of research, education, residencies and commissions. Founded in 1998 Liverpool Biennial has commissioned 268 new artworks from 400 artists around the world, including 35 collaborative neighbourhood projects in the city. During the last 10 years Liverpool Biennial has had an economic impact of £119.6million.



## Project Summary

Alex Brewster, Slice Fellow worked closely with Polly Brannan, Education Curator at Liverpool Biennial and met with other members of key departments.

During Alex's placement he was working over the most busy period of Liverpool Biennial's 2 year programme, witnessing the build up and production of the Liverpool Biennial 2016 festival.

He witnessed many aspects of the programme and process of the organisation including;

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- Commissioning process of artists for the festival through to the production of the projects and artworks
  - The marketing and press strategy and overview of this years festival
  - The production of the entire Liverpool Biennial and approach to working across the City with various stakeholders, partners and locations
  - Liverpool Biennial's vision and approach to working collaboratively with young people and children in this year's Children's Episode
  - The various programmes that Liverpool Biennial have developed, City is A School, family days, public programmes, teachers resources and supporting activities

This gave Alex a fantastic insight into how the festival works from ideas to dissemination.

Alex did some brilliant research around existing learning resources for the classroom. Alex feedback to Polly on her ideas and activities for the Liverpool Biennial 2016 Digital Resource and how functional and useful the resource was for pupils and teachers.

At the end of the fellowship Polly organised a teachers and educators Private View of the Liverpool Biennial's Children's Episode at Cain's Brewery (one of the main sites of this years festival) as well as a presentation about how teachers could book group visits and use the digital resource designed by Liverpool Biennial in the classroom, it was an also an invitation for Alex to talk about the Slice fellow partnership between Liverpool Biennial and Studio School.

Alex supported the event by inviting staff from Studio School and sharing best practice with other teachers about the SLICE fellowship partnership as well as providing Liverpool Biennial with a space within the school for the presentation.

### **Impacts and Outcomes**

- Liverpool Biennial has developed a new audience of young people and teachers who are engaged with art, as a direct impact of working on this project.
  - Liverpool Biennial has been able to reach more teachers and education networks through this programme, enabling more school visits to this year's festival.
  - Liverpool Biennial staff (from other departments) now have a better understanding of how and why it is important to nurture and develop relationships with schools and the time and flexibility that is needed for that.
  - Liverpool Biennial and Studio School have been able to establish an on-going relationship and collaboration and a shared interest in developing a teachers social network group with possibilities of meeting through the academic year for networking, sharing knowledge and ideas.
  - Liverpool Biennial has realised how integral working with schools, teachers and young people is to its vision to create an integrated programme, where education is key to all thinking and delivery.
  - Through this programme it has enabled Liverpool Biennial and Studio School's relationship to extend beyond the initial agreed partnership enabling an opportunity for pupils to work in more depth directly with leading contemporary artists, including Marvin Gaye Chetwynd through a workshop with pupils from the school.
  - Polly also invited five 6<sup>th</sup> form pupils to work with a number of artists on aspects of filming
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(mentored by professional film makers and artists working with Liverpool Biennial). The outcome of this has meant an authentic and in depth involvement in the creation and involvement of the Liverpool Biennial's *Children's Episode*.

#### Next steps and futures

- Studio School departments to bring groups of students for bespoke tours of Liverpool Biennial 2016
- We hope to develop a more formal partnership, working with younger pupils for a number of years in developing them to involved in the Biennial ideas include;
- Core advisors of the Liverpool Biennial team when planning and developing ideas, artists and projects towards Liverpool Biennial 2018 —Dedicated media teams to work with documentation of artworks and processes, interviewing artists, and being part of the film crew for projects and artworks.
- A team of young people to work on interpretation for the public viewing the festival in 2018 through a training process in critical writing around art and culture
- For Studio School and Liverpool Biennial to develop an on-going teachers social networking in Merseyside

#### Legacy from SLICE 2015 and SLICE 2016:

School: **Childwall Sports and Science Academy and HATO**

Liverpool Biennial and Childwall Academy worked together on the Slice Fellowship programme in January 2015 which came to a formal end of the partnership in September 2015. Since this date Liverpool Biennial and Pete Ward/Childwall Academy have continued a relationship and worked together on projects working towards Liverpool Biennial 2016 festival.

#### Project:

1. Children's Guide Book – Year 7 pupils designed stamps for the children's guide book.
2. Hello Future Me Bus – Year 7 pupils and HATO a new artwork for the City on a double decker bus
3. A number of visits, workshops and tours have been organised by Liverpool Biennial including; a class trip to Tate Modern's new education building as part of Tate Exchange, a class visit to Arriva's bus garage to over-see the production of the pupil's artwork for Hello Future Me, group visits to Liverpool Biennial festival's venues and a workshop led by Liverpool Biennial's mediators tailored for this school.

School: **Studio School**

#### Project:

1. Marvin Gaye Chetwynd *Dogsy Ma Bone*

After the initial, formal placement with Alex Brewster and Liverpool Biennial we have continued to work together in a number of ways:

- By inviting 6<sup>th</sup> form pupils to become part of the film crew for various artist's works for this years festival. Liverpool Biennial provided a platform for these young people to be mentored by professional filmmakers and artists.
- Inviting Year 10 pupils and teachers to work directly with UK leading contemporary artist Marvin Gaye Chetwynd in a workshop to develop a number of props for her newly commissioned artwork *Dogsy Ma Bone*

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#### Quotes

*"Working with Studio School through this SLICE fellowship partnership has meant that this year's Liverpool Biennial 2016 festival has had an even deeper engagement with young people as part of our Children's Episode, where we see artists making work with children and for children. Through this partnership we are delighted that young people have worked in collaboration with leading international contemporary artists in the development and delivery of large scale commissions."*

Sally Tallant

Director, Liverpool Biennial

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