



SOLIHULL CEP NEWSLETTER

April 2023



SOLIHULL CEP VICE CHAIRS

We are pleased to announce the appointment of 2 vice chairs for Solihull Cultural Education Partnership. Our vice chairs will support the Chair (Lisa Cleaver) in leading on developing Solihull CEPs programme of activity, advocating for our work and supporting us in our goals to provide arts opportunities for children and young people in Solihull.

VICE CHAIR- CULTURE

KAMALJIT SUMAN- ART AT THE HEART



Solihull Resident & Founder/Director of Art at the Heart CIC, a Solihull based not for profit arts organisation and Arts Award Centre.
For the last seven years, I have been working hard alongside co-founder Mukesh Kumar, to create cultural opportunities for children, young people and residents of Solihull. Co-production with young people has been at the core of our artistic practice for almost 30 years. We pride ourselves on developing long-term life changing relationships not just with young people, but with their support networks.
World Culture/social justice issues are a focus of our work which we explore through visual and combined arts including digital.
I'm looking forward to encouraging greater interaction between cultural practitioners and educational establishments and collectively achieving more for our young people.

VICE CHAIR- EDUCATION

BETH VENESS- JOHN HENRY NEWMAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE



As a Dance teacher with 9 years of experience, alongside five years of managing a dance department in the borough I am delighted to be joining Solihull CEP as Vice Chair.
Growing up in the local area and dancing since the age of six I was always inspired to continue my love of dance into an aspirational future career. I have passion in promoting the Arts especially across the borough and have an established network of art and cultural links to propose to Education partners. My resilience, experience, tenacity and commitment to working within the borough clearly demonstrates that I am primarily motivated to lead and promote the value of artistic vision to the younger generation in Solihull. I hope to assist the CEP in the process of raising the profile of arts and culture across our borough and look forward to the exciting opportunities ahead.

CREATIVE YOUTH CONSULTATION CPD



Tuesday 21st March saw Solihull CEPs first CPD session, which explored ways to use the arts for creative consultation with young people. We were joined by Lee Skinner and Nicola Prestage, who took us on a practical exploration using film and stop motion animation as the ways through which to capture young peoples views and draw out their creativity.

CPD participants reflected on our recent youth consultation project, considering elements of our physical exhibition, and online videos, to produce a 'young peoples manifesto' in response to the messages.

They were excited to use the new techniques to produce their own films in response to the learning.

These documents and videos are available to view now on our website, alongside the footage from our original program.

www.solihullcep.co.uk/youth-consultation

CREATIVE CAREERS

On 7th March, Solihull CEP were delighted to host our first careers event at The Core Theatre, which took place as part of National Careers Week.

Nearly 100 students from 6 schools and colleges across Solihull engaged in a range of workshops and activities including developing and presenting their own vision for running the venue, a Q&A with an exciting panel of industry professionals, and an exclusive backstage tour!

Funded by Arts Connect and Delivered by Creative Alliance the opportunity provided hands on experience in the creative industries, creating connections with professionals and offering a stepping stone for future careers.

We heard proposals for Dance battles, installations and sculptures, musical madness, murals and heaps more leaving all of us incredibly inspired!

This event was one of nine careers events supported by Arts Connect as part of national careers week (6th-11th March 2023).



To find our more visit <https://www.solihullcep.co.uk/creative-careers>

NEW COMMUNITIES

'MY COMMUNITY, MY HERITAGE, MY PLACE'- YOUTH ARTS FESTIVAL



Solihull CEP will be running 'My Community, My Heritage, My Place' for the next year, which encourages children and young people to celebrate and share their cultural heritage through the arts. The festival will work with 20 schools and youth groups across the borough, to celebrate place, community, and identity, culminating in a celebration event that brings them together. Each school will receive 5 days of an artists time for this project. The festival will focus on working with newly arrived communities in the area and support them to explore their identity and heritage, in particular we are interested in schools with high numbers of students from Ukrain and Hong Kong.

If your school is based in solihull with high numbers of newly arrived communities, get in touch with us at solihullcep@gmail.com

We are looking for artists of a variety of specialisms to work on this program. If you have experience delivering projects celebrating cultural diversity and promoting cohesion we'd love to hear from you.

WE ARE RECRUITING FOR A YOUTH BOARD



We are looking for enthusiastic young people who are interested in shaping arts and culture in and across the Borough of Solihull. This is an opportunity to share views, thoughts and ideas on the work and programmes of Solihull Cultural Education Partnership (CEP), collaborating with our growing network of over 40 members, including arts organisations, freelancers and schools. The youth board will be an integral part of Solihull CEP, helping us to respond directly to youth voice to shape our projects and drive future developments.

There are many reasons why this is a great opportunity – not least because it'll look amazing on your CV! You will be the first to hear about exciting opportunities from the CEP, and create valuable industry connections for a career in the creative industries. You will develop skills in leadership, problem solving and decision making, as well as taking ownership of Solihull CEPs activities.

Our first meeting is taking place 18th April 4-5pm

To register your interest, complete our form: <https://forms.gle/GUsde42DyUmXMRH69>

TOGETHER IN SOLIHULL

As part of refugee week (20th to 26th June), Solihull MBC are pleased to be running a free festival to celebrate the cultural diversity of the borough. 'Together in Solihull' will bring together creative communities to celebrate their cultural heritage through the arts, and we want you to get involved!

CULTURE BOX PROJECT

Solihull MBC would like to create an art installation in collaboration with schools across the borough, to celebrate the opening of the festival. They will be distributing blank boxes for schools to decorate with important references to their own children's cultures, and will be used to physically build a picture of the cultural diversity of our area.

If your school is interested in taking part in this project and decorating your own box, get in touch with Lisa Cleaver or Haroon Ravat, or email solihullcep@gmail.com and we can put you in touch.

PADLET

Solihull CEP are pleased to be introducing our own Padlet!
This is an online space for our members to share what creative activities they have been up to. Whether it is paintings, performances, school trips or more- we want to hear about it all!
We hope that this will provide a place to be inspired, celebrate achievements, and encourage connectivity between our members.

To find our more visit padlet.com/solihullcep/ShareYourCreativity

KATIES ALUMNI VISIT

Our CEP Development Coordinator Katie was delighted to be invited to Solihull Sixth Form College on 30th March to talk to students about her career in the creative industries and her journey since being a student at the Sixth Form. She was joined by numerous other creatives across drama, photography, textiles and game design, to inspire students about the possibilities of their careers!
It was fantastic to have so many keen young people asking questions and leaving inspired to pursue their own creative careers!



If you are interested in having one of our team visit your school, get in touch at solihullcep@gmail.com for a chat

CORE CREATIVES



Core Creatives is based on the first floor of The Core, Solihull and is open to those who live, work or study in the borough. The space has been designed with and for local creatives and it's support packages aim to help local creatives grow and develop their practice by supporting collaboration, experimentation and business growth.

What's on offer:

- meeting and collaboration spaces
- agile desk space to pre-book or drop in
- project support and advocacy
- free training tailored for creative and cultural professionals
- business to business support
- exposure to new audiences

Sign up to be a member of Core Creatives for free: <https://eservices.solihull.gov.uk/SMBCWebForms/?Form=Core-Creatives>