

I Am Festival 2026 In-School Activity

We are looking for three schools who are interested in working with a commissioned artist to develop activity that will be delivered in your school.

This year we have commissioned organisations, **VOOT Collective** and **Tourettfeshero** to work closely with the chosen schools to co-create a festival activity exploring this year's I Am Festival theme '**Journeys**'.

VOOT Collective will be partnered with 1 school to develop a flash mob performance.

Tourettfeshero will be partnered with 2 schools to develop a spaceship themed interactive installation.

If you are interested in this exciting opportunity to work with one of the above organisations, please see the information in this pack.



Credit: Eric Aydin Barberini

Who are the organisations?

VOOT Collective

VOOT Collective is made up of public artists and producers Liza Vallance, Nikki Watson and Del Taylor. VOOT combine their lived experience of disability and neurodiversity with outstanding inclusive creative practice to produce unique, celebratory arts experiences in the public realm.

VOOT's practitioners have a combined track record of over 60 years of experience of co-creating arts experiences with individuals and communities making work with, by and for community groups, schools, youth groups and arts organisations across the UK.



Image credit: Simon La Roche



Image credit: Barbican Centre

VOOT's artists are known 'doers' with a reputation for rolling their sleeves up and getting it done. They love, thrive on a challenge, and approach their work with an exciting blend of humour, passion and excellence!

Touretteshero



Image credit Ro Murphy

Touretteshero's mission is to create an inclusive and socially just world for disabled and non-disabled people through working creatively with children, young people, and adults in dynamic interdisciplinary contexts.

Past projects include [Burnt Out in Biscuitland](#), a critically acclaimed performance-installation and [Rebel Play](#), an intergenerational project exploring positive memories of disabled play.

Touretteshero work across art forms with a particular focus on creative access, co-creation, and community joy.

They take time to understand each setting, adapt to individual requirements, and design sessions that are both structured and responsive.

Many of the team come from an inclusive play background which heavily influences their work!

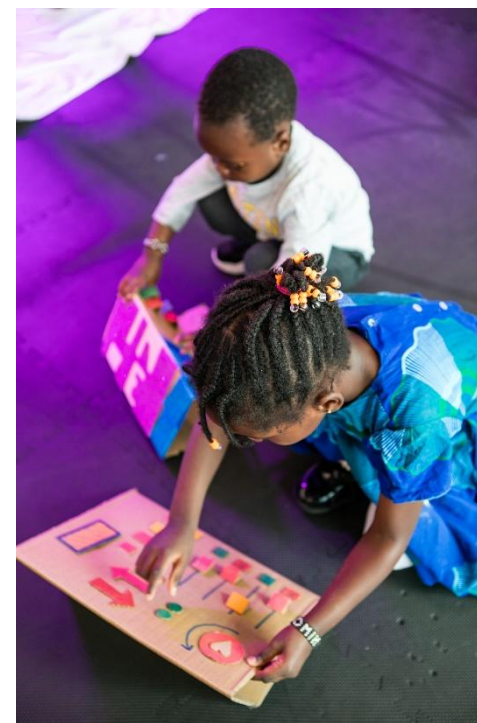


Image credit Ro Murphy

What are the commissions?

Organisation	Idea to be explored (Please note these are initial ideas and will be fully developed in collaboration with the matched school(s) to best suit your young people)	Who can they work with?
VOOT Collective	VOOT Collective would like to co-plan an interactive flash mob with students to perform at the I Am Festival. They would like to hold workshops with students to create a multi-layered immersive flashmob performance that explores journeys, pathways, desire lines and destinations. Each workshop will start with a suitcase filled with a range of stimuli, including objects, sounds, music, props, costumes, materials, textures, and smells to explore, respond to and spark ideas. Workshops will have a consistent and creative ritual to open and close the session and artists will use a multi-faceted approach to communication (verbal/visual/signing/social stories/patience etc) tailored to your student's needs. During festival week the flashmob will pop up in the public spaces at Tate Modern. VOOT Collective will perform alongside the school groups, and 'conduct' the flashmob.	Location: open to all boroughs. Students who take part in the school workshops must be able to travel to Tate Modern Age: this commission is suitable for all ages Setting type: this commission would suit any setting type as long as a group are able to travel to Tate Modern for the performance during the I Am Festival
Touretteshero	Touretteshero would like to bring 'Journey to a Better World' - an adaptable and evolving strand of Touretteshero's work - to I Am Festival 2026. This iterative project invites children and young people to join Touretteshero on the Starship Biscuit, a playful space to imagine inclusive futures together. Using interactive, sensory storytelling and arts activities to open up conversations about what kind of world we want to live in and how we can get there together.	Location: open to all boroughs. Touretteshero are particularly interested in working with schools in South London

	Students will design and build their own control panels for a better world. These could include buttons, switches, sound recordings, symbols, drawings or textures, depending on each student's preferences. They will explore questions like: What would an accessible world be like? What buttons need to be on the control panel to help us get there? And Who is missing from the flight deck - how do we make space for everyone? Each customised control panel becomes a reflection of the participant's hopes, experiences, and social imagination. The control panels created in schools will then come together to create an exciting installation at the I Am Festival 2026! Sessions will include creative access tools like tactile materials, visual storyboards, and chill out spaces, ensuring everyone can engage on their own terms. *Please note Touretteshero can offer an introduction session for the staff team prior to workshops to support understanding of the project and engagement.	Age: this commission is suitable for all ages Setting type: this commission would suit any setting type. Schools whose students may not be able to attend the I Am Festival could apply for this commission Access: the selected schools must be wheelchair accessible, have an accessible toilet suitable for an adult and have accessible parking available.
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When will this work take place?

Planning will take place between **late October 2025 to January 2026**

The school activity will take place in **February – March 2026**. Exact dates to be decided by schools and organisations. Depending on the nature of the project, activity may take place on one day or over a number of days. This will be decided between the schools and organisations.

The I Am Festival will be held **Wednesday 11th – Friday 13th March 2026**.

How do I apply?

To apply, you will need to complete an Expression of Interest Form: <https://www.tfaforms.com/5193733>

The form will ask you the following questions:

1. Which organisation would you like to work with
2. Why would you like to work with them?
3. How many students would you want to engage with this work?
4. What are the ages of the students who you'd be hoping to engage with this work?
5. Please can you tell us a little about the students, e.g. their interests, access needs, ways they engage best etc
6. What outcomes would you like to see for you, your students and the wider school community by taking part in this work?
7. A New Direction will be evaluating these commissions and will ask for your feedback on how students have been impacted by the workshops. How will you evaluate the outcomes of this work?
8. Do you have a large space in your school that could be used for delivery of activity?



We will also ask for confirmation that Senior Leadership have been consulted and are aware of this application.

The deadline for applying is: **Wednesday 5th November at 5pm.**

How will the schools be chosen?

We will be choosing schools based on the following factors:

- **Geography:** Can the facilitators get to the school? How balanced are the different locations of the schools e.g. are they all in Hackney? As an organisation serving all London boroughs, we need to ensure the work is spread out across the city.
- **Outcomes:** What are your intended outcomes and how will you evaluate them?
- **Reach:** Will this work have longevity within the school and what will the impact be for the wider network?
- **Previous Opportunities:** We will be prioritising schools that did not take part in commissioned activity in 2025.

We can only choose three schools to work with so please don't be disheartened if you are not chosen. There will be other opportunities to engage with the work!

If you have any questions, please email: iam@anewdirection.org.uk