

Silver & Gold Arts Award - Top Tips

Silver & Gold was a nine-month action research programme that supported six cultural organisations in London to explore new models for delivering Arts Award. The programme was designed, facilitated and funded by A New Direction. This document is one of five that share the learning from the programme. The full set can be found on the AND website www.anewdirection.org.uk/

Why Silver and Gold?

Already experienced at delivering Bronze Arts Award, what additional benefits did Silver and Gold offer the cultural organisations and participating young people?

- Silver and Gold Arts Award (with associated UCAS points for Gold) were of particular value to young people planning to apply to college or university.
- The Youth Advisory Panel members and the Young Consultants working at the Geffrye Museum were attracted to Silver as this accredited and enhanced the leadership aspect of their role.
- Tomorrow's Warriors, Harrow Arts Centre and Tiger Monkey plan to continue offering Silver and Gold as part of a progressive, accredited pathway for young people.
- The Almeida found that the reflection required for the Silver arts challenge was an excellent way for you people to think about themselves as artists.
- The Tricycle found that the Gold Arts Award provided an opportunity for young people to engage with their arts practice in a professional manner.

Learning from the field

Silver & Gold network partners translated their learning into recommendations for other cultural organisations embarking on Arts Award projects.

Recommendations for Organisations

- Give Arts Award a try! You probably already have youth learning programmes that meet all the criteria, you just need to map your programme to Arts Award.
- 'Big up' the benefits; an accredited qualification is attractive to young people.
- Increase capacity and spread the workload by having at least two trained Arts Award advisers in your organisation.
- Find and create space for young people to meet outside designated Arts Award sessions (preferably with access to computers).
- Create an organisational ethos where work with, by and for young people is given equal status with other work.

- Encourage and support staff outside the learning department to engage enthusiastically with young people.
- Sign up as an Arts Award Supporter.
- Link with other organisations to help deliver elements of the Award.

Recommendations for Arts Award Coordinators/Advisers

- Think carefully about which parts of your learning programme and which groups of young people will benefit from the structure, challenge and accreditation of Arts Award.
- Really get to know the Arts Award criteria and understand how to be creative within these guidelines.
- Ensure young people understand that they are signing up for Arts Award and appreciate the commitment and work required.
- Sell the benefits to parents and carers; support from home can influence on-going commitment.
- Map out deadlines and milestones at the start of the programme; an agreed moderation date will keep everyone on task.
- Devise a structure and resources that will guide and support young people through the Arts Award process.
- Adapt levels of support offered to meet differentiated needs of individual young people; if employing freelancers, ensure they have a bank of flexi-hours to accommodate these needs.
- Ensure staff across the organisation are familiar with Arts Award and are suitably briefed to work productively with young people.
- Hold regular portfolio meetings with young people (to monitor and support progress with reflection, documentation and evidence collection; use *Artsbox*¹ if appropriate)
- Arrange young people's access to a camera, computer and printer to support portfolio work.
- Allow flexibility for young people to move between Arts Award levels if appropriate.
- Some young people will drop out owing to other commitments or illness; anticipate this and recruit accordingly.
- If possible, link with Arts Award advisers in other cultural organisations for mutual support (AND's Arts Award Support Surgeries can serve this function).
- Explore the support offer from Trinity.

¹ Developed by Arts Award, *Artsbox* is a social media space where young people can record and share their Arts Award experiences.

Try to avoid

- Bolting Arts Award onto a programme as an afterthought, this is likely to make it more time-consuming and harder to achieve.
- Exam periods: you will lose commitment from young people in Year 10 and above.
- Retrospective evidencing: you will have lost opportunities to gather data and the workload can seem insurmountable if left to the end.
- Too many partnerships: it's hard to keep track of young people's progress over a range of centres.
- An over-extended time-frame; young people may lose focus; both young people and adviser may let tasks and deadlines drift.

Further information

For information about Arts Award in London, including support surgeries and training:

www.anewdirection.org.uk/programmes/arts-award-in-london

For an overview of Silver and Gold Arts Award:

www.artsaward.org.uk/site/?id=66

www.artsaward.org.uk/site/?id=67

For information on Arts Award Supporter:

www.artsaward.org.uk/site/?id=2546

To find Arts Award Supporter Organisations:

www.artsaward.org.uk/centre/supportermap.php

To find Arts Award Centres:

www.artsaward.org.uk/centre/lookup.php

For information on support from Trinity College London:

www.artsaward.org.uk/site/?id=2369

For information about Artsbox:

www.artsaward.org.uk/site/?id=2173

www.artsbox.co.uk/

For further information on Silver & Gold network partners:

<http://www.almeida.co.uk/>

<http://www.geffrye-museum.org.uk/>

<http://www.harrowarts.com/>

<http://www.tigermonkey-uk.com>

<http://tomorrowwarriors.org/>

<http://www.tricycle.co.uk/>