



Canterbury City Council

At the heart and taking part

At the Heart and Taking Part: will engage children and young people creatively with their cultural heritage, in the context of the radical refurbishment of an historic building within a rapidly changing medieval city. The development of a new art museum and improved library in the city is one of the key projects for Canterbury City Council and Kent County Council. The selected site is the Beaney Institute, a late Victorian building in the High Street, which occupies a prime position at the heart of a cultural and creative city.



The ArtBus

The partnership project will transform the building and its services, to meet the needs of the widest possible range of users. It will promote community involvement and access to cultural heritage and learning through a cross-domain approach to inspirational displays and resources in the building; interpretation of the heritage building itself; and use of ICT, to link museum and library resources, and key into a wider network through 'Investing in Knowledge'.

The core pathfinder project is a partnership between Canterbury City Council, Kent County Council and Creative Partnerships Kent. It will involve two Canterbury schools in a cross-curricular programme that will operate on several levels:

- exploration of the issues faced by the Beaney design team as they develop plans for building refurbishment
- practical engagement in some of the temporary and permanent public art projects
- involvement in the way-finding and interpretation of displays with an emphasis on encouraging young people's enjoyment and learning

- devising a promotional or marketing strategy and a range of introductory activities, to encourage other young people to use the building and its services when it reopens

Two schools – one primary and one secondary, which are both within walking distance of the Beaney and both have lower levels of attainment and deprived catchment areas.

Three themes: first, the theme for the primary school project, 'Life inside the Beaney', is a programme of active discovery, which will produce an actual and virtual exhibition. Second, the theme for the secondary school project, 'Understanding Architecture', is a programme of practical research, involving Kent School of Architecture and culminating in a multi-media presentation. Third, a joint theme for both schools entitled: 'Life outside the building', which looks at how the Beaney relates to its surroundings. Children will work with a professional artist, to produce a piece of public art.



Walking with animals

Creative Partnerships Kent and Kent County Council are initiating a wider outreach project roll-out, which will involve up to 20 schools, using the council's new mobile arts unit and offering opportunities to take part in a 'Young Curators' programme. Artists-in-residence with a range of disciplines will also be engaged, to support the children.

For further information please contact:

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