

Specialist Leaders in Cultural Education

Cultural Partner Case Study 2015/16	
Cultural Organisation and SLiCE Lead	Royal Exchange Theatre Natalie Diddams
SLiCE Fellow and Partner School	St Ambrose Barlow RC High School Bernie Furey
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	HOME Marissa Draper
Dates of Project	14 June – 24 September 2016

Background of cultural organisation

The Royal Exchange Theatre is the largest theatre-in-the-round in the country. Each year, we showcase an ambitious programme inspired by the world's greatest stories: taking artistic risks, working as part of exciting partnerships, seeking out bold collaborations and championing new talent. We have a broad participation & learning programme, which includes work with schools, communities, young people and adults.

Project Summary

I worked with Bernie Furey (St Ambrose) and Marissa Draper (HOME) to design and project-manage a film project with primary and secondary teachers from St Ambrose Barlow's Teaching School Alliance. Teachers spent one and a half days at the Royal Exchange, working with creative practitioners to learn about the history of the building and storyboard films inspired by it. The teachers then made the films with their students, with support from a professional filmmaker from HOME. The films will be presented at a celebration event at HOME on 24 September.

Impacts and Outcomes

- The Royal Exchange has continued to grow in confidence in its approach to CPD. We have now committed to offering 4 CPD events a year, and developed a bespoke INSET/CPD day based on using local history to inspire creativity in the classroom.
- We have learnt how to inspire teachers to create films with their students, which is not something we have done before (as the Royal Exchange does not have a cinema space).
- All of the teachers that attended the CPD have joined our Exchange Forum, and 2 of the schools are going to be participating in a project that we are running in the autumn called CREATIVE CODES.
- The Royal Exchange's horizons have been opened by working with HOME. We hope to find other ways of partnership working through the Cultural Education Challenge.
- We have gained a deeper relationship with St Ambrose Barlow RC High School, and also met new schools that we look forward to working with more in the future.

Next steps and futures

- We hope to run our local history INSET/CPD day next spring and extend it to a larger group of teachers. It would be great to work in partnership with HOME on this.
- We will be working to continue a relationship with all of the teachers that participated in the film project through the Exchange Forum and other projects at the Royal Exchange.



Quotes

Natalie Diddams: “Working on the SLICE programme has been great news for us. It has given us the space and time to plan and deliver a tailored programme of CPD, which will now feed into all the work we do with teachers. Our partnership with HOME has also invigorated our plans for the future – showing us new and exciting ways of working with other arts organisations and with schools.”