Programme for Art of Belonging Project

Date	Venue location Exhibition	Session Activities	Outcomes from the session
7/9/21 1 to 3pm	NEST (alternative education provision)	Taster session for NEST students to meet artists and have a go at simple creative exercises to see if they would like to sign up for the project. Portrait photography with instant printing to cut and stick with images of Nottingham. Create	Postcards from Nottingham Mini Zines
14/9/21	New Art Exchange	collages and decorate postcards and mini zines about the city. Initial activity for the participants who have committed to the project for the first term. We provided collage materials and small pieces of card and spread a map across a table. Young people	Sign-up sheet with 15 names Selection of flags to represent the nationalities of the group
	Mela celebration	were invited to create a flag of the country they originate from and add it to the map. Introduction to New Art Exchange, this week were hosting city's annual Mela, a celebration of South Asian Arts. Young people were introduced to the concept of Madhubani Painting from India and Bangladesh and invited to design their own patch to add to a community window installation. We drew traditional designs onto tracing paper and ground spices to create pigments.	Squares added to NAE's community window display, featuring work by all community groups using the building. Feeling of inclusion in the art centre's cultural activities for young
21/9/21	New Art Exchange	A further introduction to the art centre with a visit to exhibitions in both galleries: 4UBU on display in the main gallery, including a site-specific mural by local artist Honey Williams, featuring a self-portrait with expressive markmaking and words.	people during their very first visit. First gallery visits to introduce students to the work of artists. Some had not been to an art gallery before.
	Arit Emmanuela Etukudo	Visited Arit Emmanuela Etukudo's exhibition; a film installation piece about an event in artist's childhood, incorporating animation, collage and photography with spoken word poetry. Inspired by the self-reflective and multi-media work seen in the two exhibitions, students were invited to share something about themselves, using a range of drawing and collage materials.	Selection of drawings and collages featuring landscapes and culturally important objects. Opportunity for participants to share
28/9/21	New Art Exchange	Introduction to batik and development of the Madhubani painting technique.	something about their cultures.
20, 3, 21	in the excitating e	Participants developed their drawings from last week, to create a canvas patch. These were drawn using batik (hot wax) lines and painted using pigments created by grinding up charcoal, grass, beetroot, turmeric, and clay using a pestle and mortar & sieve.	Selection of canvas batik squares showing remembered landscapes and cultural objects.

5/10/21	Carousel artist	Walk around Sneinton market place to see graffiti art that covers boards surrounding a building	First trip out into the city.
	studios &	site. We looked at lettering, tags, colours and images in the street art.	Introduction to street art by local
	workshop	Looked in the windows of City Arts to see more portrait work by artist Honey Williams.	people.
	Sneinton Market	Went to Carousel to look at the pinhole photography exhibition.	Tags to represent each group
	place, in		member.
	Nottingham city	Activity – Participants selected a colour scheme and lettering to sketch and decorate a tag using	
	centre	their first name or a nickname, using paint pens and sharpies on card.	
12/910/21	Greens windmill	Walking and sketching tour leaving from Sneinton Market Place.	Exploring one side of the city,
		The first destination was Green's Windmill, a working historical windmill and science centre, set	showing places they can visit
	West view in	on a hill close to the city centre.	themselves for free to experience
	Colwick woods	We sketched the windmill and participants shared stories and youtube videos of milling flour and	local history and environment, and a
		sesame, referencing methods of baking bread from their cultures.	chance to connect with the city by
		Continued the walk up another hill to Colwick Woods, where there is a panoramic view of the	viewing it from an elevated point.
		west side of the city. Refreshments shared while looking at the view of Nottingham and pointing	
		out places they knew and finding where they live on the map.	Using sketch books and drawings to
			looks carefully at places we visited

HALF TERM BREAK

2/11/21	Nottingham Castle	Visit to Nottingham castle grounds and exhibitions, including learning about local designer Paul Smith, and the history of Nottingham.	Opportunity to visit a local landmark and connect with Nottingham history.
	Paul Smith & History of Nottingham	We made graphite rubbings of the castle walls/plaques/leaves etc as a way of Exploring and looking closely at the grounds of the castle.	Selection of large sheets of graphite rubbings.
9/11/21	NAE	Reflection on the places we have visited over the past few sessions, and discussion about what resonated with the group about each place. We stuck a large sheet of paper onto the wall for each location and invited the group to come and add words, drawings, descriptions and comments onto them to jog their memory of the new places they have seen.	Chance to digest the past few weeks of visits
		Collage activity to recreate one of the city's locations, using a range of materials and including some of the graphite rubbings of the castle cut up.	Collages of the castle, windmill and local mosque
16/11/21	NAE	Visit to Cut and Mix exhibition at NAE, about Black British masculinity.	Experience of a new art exhibition and Chance to reflect on their identity.
	Cut and Mix	On a big piece of paper participants were invited to complete the sentence 'I am a man'.	
		We projected silhouettes of their faces and torsos onto large paper and drew around their shadows, then cut them out to create a template.	

		Stencil making demonstration and practice, to create stencils to use later.	Selection of stencils and silhouettes ready to use for spray paints.
23/11/21	City Arts	Workshop devised and led by students at City Arts.	Participants were welcomed into a local community arts space and took
		Visit to the Montana Spray paint shop at Sneinton Market place to look at the impressive wall of paint colours and select a colour pallet for our spray painting activity.	part in several activities.
			Masks created using collage materials
30/11/21	NAE	Spray painting activity.	Students learned to use the spray
			paints for the first time and enjoyed
		Using last week's selected colour pallet we spray-painted large pieces of card, then layered on	the process.
		top of them using the silhouette outlines and stencils made in previous weeks.	
			Large boards representing each group
			member.
7/12/21	NAE	Golden pens used to add details and text to spray painted boards.	Large boards completed with spray
			paint and pen, one to represent each
		Sewing and embroidery started using sewing circles.	participant.
14/12/21	NAE	Stitchwork continued and other media added to embroidery circle pieces. Informal display of	Selection of decorated embroidery
		artwork created so far and refreshments provided to mark the end of the first term.	circles
		Christmas gifts of art packs and sketchbooks given out as a thank you to participants for the	Chance to reflect on and celebrate the
		term.	artwork we've produced.
			Equipment to give the students
			something to do over the holidays.

CHRISTMAS BREAK

11/1/22	Nae	Batik activity. Using the batik process students decorated a strip of fabric to create patterns, names, flags and landscapes. These were painted using fabric dyes.	Strips of batik produced.
			Chance to develop understanding of
			the batik process introduced last term.
18/1/22	At NAE	Create a character	
25/1/22	At NAE	Cricut stencil cutting	
1/2/22	At NAE	Cricut stencil cutting	
8/2/22	At NAE	Cricut stencil cutting	

HALF TERM BREAK

22/2/22	Wollaton Hall	Staff provided a tour of T-Rex exhibition plus some fossil handling in the education space	Connection to a great outdoor space
	visit		close to the city and free museum
			they can visit again.
1/3/22	Last carousel visit	Completion of Cricut sessions	Cricut landscapes created using
			fabric.

8/3/22	National Justice	Visit to the National Justice Museum.	Opportunity to learn about local
	Museum visit	Tour of museum, courtroom and dungeons with staff. Actors on site bring the experience to life.	history.
	Young people and protest exhibition	Look at the exhibition about young people and protest and add to interactive display.	Chance to see an exhibition about protest, and contribute.
15/3/22	NEST		Reflection on issues that are
		Soap carving activity inspired by carvings seen at the National Justice Museum made by people in detention	important to group members.
		Discussion about important issues to the group, and current political and global concerns.	Soap carvings and protest placards produced.
		Protest placards created highlight participants views on their chosen issue	P
22/3/22	Nottingham	Visit to another local arts venue and look around their current exhibitions.	Chance to visit another free art
	Contemporary visit	Tour of Silver City exhibition by member of staff.	space
		Collage workshop by Associate Artist	Series of photomontage/ collages

EASTER BREAK

19/4/22	Exhibition prep	Introduction to the upcoming group exhibition At NAE.	Reflection on the meaning of
	NEST	On large cheets of namer we asked the group to respond to the following questions:	belonging, where they feel they
		On large sheets of paper we asked the group to respond to the following questions:	belong and what they bring to
		What does belonging mean to you?	Nottingham.
		Where in Nottingham have you found that you belong?	
		What do you bring with you to Nottingham?	
		The answers were used as a starting point for a collaborative banner.	
		Some group members sketched an outline of a map Nottingham onto a huge piece of canvas,	
		while everyone else began to paint patches to illustrate places of importance to them in the city.	Collaborative map project started
26/4/22	Exhibition prep	Collective banner making continued,	Collaborative map project continued
	NEST	Started to add batik wax lines onto map for background.	
		Continued painting on small squares of fabric to applique onto banner. Participants included	
		words relating to the concept of 'belonging', and flags and words to represent them and what	
		they contribute to the city by being here.	
10/5/22	Exhibition prep	Collective banner making continued.	Banner backdrop and patches
	NEST		completes
		Large canvas map outline painted with dyes. Another layer of wax was added to create patterns	
		and the map was dyed again.	
		Group continued to add to the collection of patches being produced for the banner	

13/5/22	Extra session NEST	Additional session with a smaller group of young people opting to help put the banner together. Arranged patches onto the abstract map outline of Nottingham city centre, then stuck them down and added outlines in marker pen.	Chance for core group members to work together and chat while completing work.
			Completed collaborative map banner
17/5/22	NEST	Another chance to have a go at spray painting. This time we used skills learned previously such as using the spray paints and stencil making allowing the group creative freedom to produce boards to celebrate cultures, origins, journeys and Nottingham, etc. A few members completed these the following day in an extra session	Series of additional spray-painted boards, in the same colour scheme and dimensions to the silhouette portraits.
19/5/22	Deadline for all artwork to be submitted to tech team at gallery. Selection.	Small number of NEST members came to NAE gallery, to select artwork for exhibition from all work produced.	Exhibition curated and ready for install day Students felt empowered by having ownership over their exhibition
20/5/22	Exhibition installation at NAE	Artwork installed with assistance of gallery technicians	Exhibition completed with a professional finish
	NAE	Small group reflection on the project and the themes introduced, such as the concept of belonging and where they have found it in Nottingham. They took it in turns to make a short recording responding to prompts so that we could capture the essence of the project.	Reflection on the project in the students' own words. A recording to play in the exhibition alongside a slideshow of images.
10 June 2022	Exhibition launch at NAE Alongside NAE OPEN exhibition	Private View, opening the exhibition to the public. Some students and teachers came to this event, and it was well attended by the public and visitors to the art gallery.	The Art of Belonging project and final exhibition was shared widely with the public and Nottingham art community. Students felt empowered and proud to showcase their work in a professional gallery setting.
11 to 25 June 2022	Art of Belonging Exhibition Mezz Gallery, NAE	Participants visit with entire cohort of NEST students. Four groups visit the exhibition over the course of one day. Students had informal discussions about the art on display and shared what they had done with those who had not taken part. Refreshments were enjoyed while students relaxed and reflected on the final outcome of the project. Coincides with Nottingham Refugee Week.	Young people shared and felt proud of their work, and celebrated their achievements with fellow students and friends.