



Funding awards

nesa has recently been granted two key funding awards to develop our work with children, young people, and their families. The Arts Council England South West award of £100,000 is funding **creativity|works**, a project which will ensure that **nesa**'s work is integrated with Children's Services, exploring the rolling out of creative outreach work with children and young people in the South West and providing positive, creative activities that children and young people want, need and will use.

Mediabox is a Big Lottery fund that promotes the use of media in education and **nesa** has been awarded a grant of £40,000 to work with partners using digital media to support participants to tell "Our Side of the Story".

Our Side of the Story enables young people access to tell their personal and group stories, to learn about how to use visual media and digital and traditional photography to tell a story, and how to design and present those stories in the publication of a book. The project is multi layered and tailored to the individual needs and learning of 40 young people whose stories and voices are rarely heard. The project includes skills transfer and learning alongside rather than teaching to groups and is a creative approach to engagement with young people. The response from young people has been uplifting and inspirational.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Launch of Bath & North East Somerset Wellbeing and Arts Partnership

DATE: WEDNESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2008
VENUE: ST LUKES CHURCH, HATFIELD ROAD, BATH
 Please contact **nesa** for more info or visit our website www.nesa.org.uk

art|speak seminar

DATE: WEDNESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2008
VENUE: YMCA, BATH
 A seminar for creatives/facilitators/artists working with communities dealing with health issues – part of **nesa**'s series of professional support and training within the community arts sector.



nesa
creative change

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The next issue of *Creative Change* will be out in March 2009.

Further information about **nesa** and our work can be found on our website www.nesacreativechange.org.uk

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art|works a treat!

Happily the sun shone for **nesa**'s second annual art|works in Radstock Community Festival on Saturday, 20 September. The creative events started at 1pm and went on for four hours with hundreds of people turning up to enjoy a wide range of activities. A trail of 39 brightly-coloured silk flags made by children from local Radstock schools decorated the town and signposted the sites where the main events were taking place. Creative activities on the day ranged from stone carving; bag-decorating; mosaic-making; willow weaving; jewellery making; banner making and even pop-corn making! A



"We really enjoyed singing here. Just to see the children out in the open air at this community event; their pride shone through with the sunshine that greeted us today"

Pepe Rahman-Hart, Trinity School Choir headmistress

willow and felt exhibition by **nesa** group Creative Links decorated the local Tea and Trade Café which sold-out of ice cream! Music to get your feet tapping was provided by The Bath Tub Ceilidh Band and The Midsomer Norton and Radstock Silver Band gave great ambience to the green field as did Somervale School String Group.



"So many children came up to me and said they loved seeing their brightly-coloured flags on display"

Philippa Forsey, NESA artist and facilitator of the flag workshops



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© nesa/photowork by Media Box participants



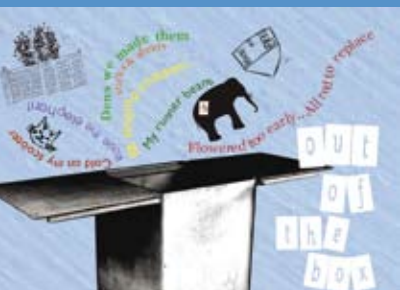


Once upon a time

The 'Once – Arts and Ceremonies' residency in Cladown and Tynning culminated during September with an exhibition of posters created by the artists from conversations and creative interventions with local people. During the residency, Once used a mobile Creative Box which travelled with them to street corners and playing fields to engage with local people. The Creative Box took on a variety of identities as a Home Box, a Post Box, a Map Box and a Poem Box, and each time local people responded with thoughts and ideas around these themes.

The artists, Refkah A'Court and Rebecca Gee, commented that "often the box became a social space, drawing other people in and creating new connections or proximities." The posters contain comments, drawings, photos and poems contributed by local people and reflected on and pulled together by the artists. The outdoor exhibition, where posters were hung from railings and lamp posts generated much local interest and, as they hung the posters, the artists were able to show local people how they had contributed to the art works.

The initiative was part of **nesa's** Creative Places project and **nesa** will continue to work with the community, picking up on the buzz created by the Creative Box project and continuing to engage with local people's stories.



Flagging up Creative Places

The launch of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad was celebrated with a variety of cultural events in Bath. **nesa's** contribution took the form of 20 flags made by local people working with artist Philippa Forsey being hung from the ramparts of Bath Abbey. The flags celebrate participants' ideas about what makes their community special.

From pit wheels and pigeons to spectacular sunrises and wide open spaces, the stunning silk-painted flags have become emblems for taking part, working together and co-operation.

As they blow in the wind, the flags symbolise hopes and aspirations for the future. Philippa Forsey comments: "As they worked, people talked about their local communities, past, present and future. They enjoyed letting their stories unfold about their communities as they expressed themselves through this immediate and colourful art form."

© nesa /photowork by Philippa Forsey



News and forthcoming events

Second International Community Film Festival

Two of **nesa's** films were recently screened under the Health, Education & Arts section of this festival.

"The stories selected are primarily concerned with the people behind the headlines, and by the work that they are undertaking to improve their community-life. A sense of hope, based in collective action, comes through more powerfully than the familiar portraits of tragic situations and political deadlock. We find evidence that individuals and community groups are taking up the camera rather than the gun as the best tool to fight for a better world". (Festival Director)

nesa's films are *Fit for Life* which demonstrates a creative partnership between arts, health and education working with primary school children to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle; and *My Time My Space* which highlights **nesa's** creative work with women experiencing postnatal depression, enabling their journey towards recovery.



For details about the projects or to receive a film contact Philippa Forsey at **nesa** 01761 437 251 or philippa.forsey@nesa.uk.com