

**Covent Garden**  
**Dragon Hall Trust**

# Annual Report

2018/2019

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**2018**

**to**  
**2019**



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# Dragon Hall Annual Report



Delivering a wide range of social, educational & recreational activities & events, developed & delivered in partnership with users to serve the needs of our diverse communities.



2018 - 2019

A photograph of two men against a dark background. The man on the left is standing, wearing glasses, a blue suit jacket, a blue sweater, a light blue shirt, and a dark tie. He is holding a dark smartphone in his right hand. The man on the right is sitting, has a full white beard, and is wearing a dark blue sweater over a collared shirt. He is smiling slightly. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting their faces and clothing against the dark background.

*'I am delighted to have discovered Dragon Hall and really enjoy not only the Art Classes but also the sense of community and the socialising which accompanies this. It is very well run and very well informed and is constantly offering different interesting activities for us to take part in'*

”

# Chair of Trustee's REPORT



## Sue Vincent Chair of Trustees

The Trustees are pleased to report that following our financial review last year the ambition to hold four months operating reserves has been achieved. This is directly as a result of Dragon Hall's dedicated staff team, the extension of our partnership work and the solid support of both Camden and Islington Councils in backing Dragon Hall to provide a broad range of preventative, learning and fun activities at other centres including Soapbox Islington, a youth centre for those young people 13 to 25 and N1C, a Community Centre in Kings Cross.

These activities would not be possible without the steadfast support of far-sighted & generous trusts; our thanks especially to: The John Lyons Trust, The City Bridge Trust, Children in Need, The William Shelton Foundation & St Giles United Fund, Mercer's Trust, The Big Lottery and Comic Relief. We are also delighted to provide older peoples services in partnership with Age UK Camden and the local Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church.

These activities include the vibrant 55+ club with an astounding 695 activities over the year. Without the continued support of the Volunteering Team, these services would not be possible. Our special thanks to: Ling Ayeung, Origami and session support; Lux, Writers Class; Diane, Karen, Ingrid & Noor for supporting many sessions over the year.

Our After School Clubs had 130 individual attendees this year, with over 70% Camden young people attending and in partnership with two local primary schools, St Joseph's and St Clement Danes. The Intermediate Club activities for those aged between 12 and 15 are organised and delivered by the very entrepreneurial members themselves, raising money for trips out and setting their own timetable of activities. The Seniors Club for those aged 16+ gives support to young people looking for work experience, considering University and coping with exams as well as more social and fun activities.

We continue to host monthly and quarterly Advice Surgeries for our local Councillors and Member of Parliament, and provide free space to local housing groups and unfunded tenant associations and activists.

As Trustees look forward to the coming year, Dragon Hall will seek to extend its expertise in providing a range of social, educational and diversionary activities, welcoming partnerships across London. We will endeavour to consolidate our reputation by exploring and strengthening our inter-generational work and links with the arts, theatre and technology; being a safe and secure stepping-stone for the health, well-being and aspirations of our many diverse communities.



## Sue Vincent

### Chair

Holborn & Covent Garden ward Councillor for LB Camden and local resident



## Jeff Hopwood

### Treasurer

Former Camden council officer and supporter of the voluntary sector.



## Kate Matheson

### Secretary

A local resident in Covent Garden, member of West End Women's Institute, retired.



## Alex Lloyd

### Trustee

PhD student in Psychology at Royal Holloway, University of London researching when and why teenagers take risks.



## Claude Asgill

### Trustee

Experienced fundraiser and mental health advocate working in the construction industry.



## John Quigley

### Trustee

A data protection lawyer advising companies of legal obligations on personal data and an experienced independent mediator.



## Simon Breugger

### Trustee

Local resident, merchant banker. Used to be a teacher & continues to support young people.



## Tim Lynn

### Trustee

Sound Engineer in West End Theatres and former resident of Covent Garden.



## Francis Go

### Trustee

VP of Engineering at Technology Startup changing the future of work.



# About Us

## Dragon Hall Trust

**Delivering a wide range of social, educational & recreational activities & events, developed & delivered in partnership with users to serve the needs of our diverse communities.**

## Aims

To promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Inner London by associating local authorities, voluntary organisations and such inhabitants in a common effort to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupations with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants

To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the said inhabitants and in particular the advancement of education & skills (with particular but not exclusive reference to technology & the arts)

To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area and to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of buildings or features of historic or public interest in London to enable them to be enjoyed by the public

To establish or secure the establishment of community centres and to maintain and manage the same in furtherance of the above objects



**82% of young people felt they had developed their confidence at Dragon Hall**

**93% of the group stated that they had improved their communication in a group setting**

**71% felt they had input into activities & their ideas were listened to.**



# Working with Young People - 2018 to 2019

Dragon Hall runs after school clubs for the 8 to 11, 12 to 15 and 16 plus age groups. All of our work with young people is free of charge & funded by a variety of Trusts and Foundations. Our experience & expertise is widely recognised and we are proud to work closely with the diverse communities that make up our area.

## Case Study

9 year old male has been attending Dragon Hall for a year. At a self-assessment at the beginning he reported feeling fairly confident, but that he struggled with communication & maintaining eye contact. He was reluctant to be involved with group games & was uncomfortable with charades and pictictionary. He said he was scared of making guesses in case his guesses were wrong.

Over the year's sessions, workers & his teammates encouraged him to make guesses & when he found that he was not penalised or mocked for his incorrect guesses, he began to offer more and more. By the final third of the year he was even able to stand in front of the group and draw answers in pictictionary.

When asked to reflect on the self-reporting at the beginning of the year he not only reported much increased levels in communication but also revealed he was surprised about how uncomfortable he had been and that he now felt confident in all the activities.

## Case Study

10 year old female started at Dragon Hall by herself with only a few of the boys from her school as her peers. She had to deal with not knowing any of the other girls as she was new at her school when she started with Dragon Hall. She joined Code Club where she was in a group of 7 girls and 2 boys who learnt to use Scratch together and create their own games.

This provided opportunities to develop positive relationships with new people, support each other's learning & develop communication & confidence skills. We also worked with her on group games where she was involved with team quizzes, tower building and crafts.

Over the year we have witnessed a change in her attitude towards spending time and developing relationships with girls from the other schools & diversifying her activities. She was given a role as captain for the Friday games and has excelled, supporting younger members & making sure they are involved.



*'Everyone is so friendly and smiley here, actually youth workers care'*  
After School Club User

# After School Clubs Young People

**Our after school clubs have exceeded expectations this year with the group doubling in size!**



We have worked with 7 schools & universities this year to create volunteer placements including King's College London, ADC College & Arcadia University. This has allowed us to meet the needs of increasing numbers, as these students have provided additional skills, knowledge & expertise to our existing staff. This volunteer pool has brought a new look to the work that we do & new ideas that have been of significant value to young people, staff and the wider organisation.

The significant growth in our older people's services has presented unexpected opportunities for intergenerational work, an initiative that we intend to build upon, in particular in relation to our digital and technology provision.

Our tech sessions have seen a 50% increase in Code Clubs as well as a 15% increase in our holiday tech sessions & 20% increase in the number of weekend tech session attendees. These have reached a audience of young people age 11-21, who have been able to get involved in activities which they stated they hadn't had access to before.

These Clubs have delivered many high quality projects including mobile app development workshops, anti-bullying adverts, a film review club, music & video production, Coding and Technology clubs. Credit should go to Youth Manager Keeley Reed and her team for delivering a fantastic year of activities for young people.



# 130

## After School Club Sessions

122 individuals aged between 8 & 11 attended our regular after school club sessions during 2018 to 2019. Supported by youth workers & volunteers the young people undertake a wide range of activities including homework club, film club, arts & crafts, technology, sports, science, trips out, music & drama sessions. We also did 4 intergenerational projects that included a Christmas lunch & show, Chinese New Year crafts and quizzes.

**82% of young people felt they had developed their confidence at Dragon Hall**

# 85

## Intermediate Club Sessions

35 young people aged between 12 & 16 attended our intermediate club & holiday sessions. With no local secondary school in our area young people are sent to any one of 14 different schools in 9 London boroughs - young people can keep in touch with friends who live nearby who have been sent to a different school. They created 2 music videos with Fitzrovia Youth in Action and are supported in their homework by staff and volunteers.

**93% of the group stated that they had improved their communication in a group setting**

# 84

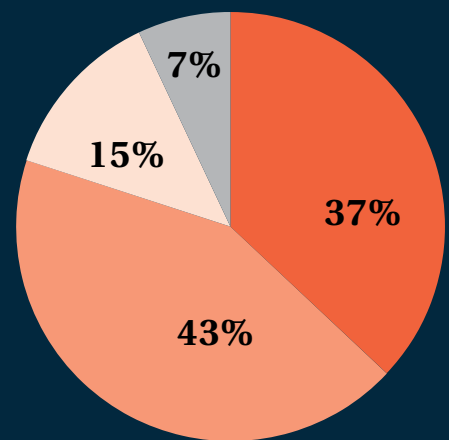
## Code Club & Dojo Sessions

24 young people aged between 8 & 12 attend our Code Club, working on projects using HTML, Scratch & Python (computer coding programmes) to create their own computer games and animations. Our weekend Coder Dojo sessions enable young people to develop their skills with others. One of our attendees won a top prize at 'Coolest Projects' - an international competition held in London to showcase digital ideas & games.

**71% felt their they had input into activities & their ideas were listened to.**

# Over 60s Activities

*Dragon Hall doesn't dumb down activities but consistently offers activities that are outside the box...*



**37% Age 75+**  
**43% Age 65 - 74**  
**15% Age 55 - 64**  
**7% Not known**

## Partnership Working

Partnership working is an area that is prioritised by Dragon Hall.

Working with other organisations and individuals has enabled us to increase the number of sessions delivered to the over 60s from less than 100 during 2017 to 2018 to 695 during 2018 to 2019.

New Partners include:  
Westminster  
Kingsway College  
Royal College of Music  
Assential  
West End Community Trust  
Skip Garden  
Outings in Art  
John Soanes Museum  
Doyle Collection  
Chess in Schools & Communities



Dragon Hall users continue to request activities that can support them to lead an active and full life.



# 497

Registered Members  
for Over 60s  
Activities

## Over 60s

Dragon Hall users continue to request activities that can support them to lead an active and full life. Traditional activities such as bingo and sing-alongs are replaced by mindfulness, meditation and trips to gardens, galleries, theatre and concerts.

These services are funded by City Bridge Trust, St Giles United Charity, Mercer's Trust, The Big Lottery Awards for All and Ageing Better Camden

During 2018 to 2019 Dragon Hall began to offer activities in the evenings and weekends. Going to shows, restaurants, museums and concerts are just some of the events that were arranged. A Tea Dance was scheduled for a Saturday afternoon and was expected to attract around 30 to 40 people. By mid afternoon 90 older people had turned up!

# 695 Activities

Dance has been a favourite this year with the regular Tea Dance still going strong, with sessions in Line Dance, Flamenco, Argentinian Tango and Tap.

Other regular activities include meditation, music, arts & crafts, aromatherapy, pilates, yoga, kele ball, singing, technology, advice sessions & purely social get-togethers.

# 6,912 Attendances

Dragon Hall staff & volunteers work flexibly within the community & across 5 different venues, delivering a huge range of activities. Dragon Hall organised a total of 36 external events with an attendance of 402 participants. These included Buckingham Palace, Kew Gardens, theatre, museums, seaside and canal trips.

**It has been stated by users & partners that there is a real 'community feel' to the services provided by Dragon Hall, despite operating from 5 different venues - Dragon Hall, Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, Covent Garden Community Centre @ 7 Dials Club, The Phoenix Garden & N1C Centre in Kings Cross**



## Combating Social Exclusion

Dragon Hall provides impactful opportunities for the most socially excluded in society and during 2018/19 this has included:

SEND- weekly Digital, Media & Tech workshops & SEND Youth Club; 3 year long work placement opportunities; 4 supported volunteering places and 1 paid work position;

NEETs- delivering Social Action, Emerging Technology, Games Design & Employment Support to 100+ young people as part of The Mayor's 'Digital Talent Programme';

BAME- mentoring support for 18 young people; 13 work placements; 5 paid roles and two Apprenticeships.



# Soapbox Youth Centre Old Street, Islington

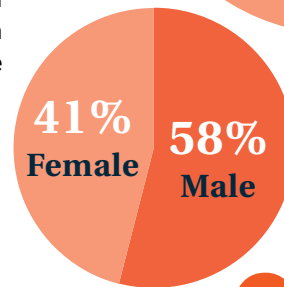
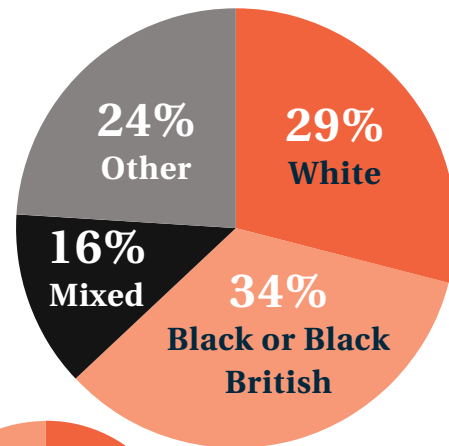
SoapBox is a 21st Century Youth Centre for young people aged 13 upwards, who live, study or work in Islington. The Centre is managed by Dragon Hall Trust on contract, and in partnership with LB Islington. We offer a strong youth work programme where young people find support, advice & opportunities and a wide range of activities. Music, digital media, tech, creative arts, dance & much more. There are weekly activities for young people with ASD, people with learning disabilities, care leavers, and young women, with dedicated support staff on hand.

Employability sessions, budgeting, cooking, volunteering, social action and the SoapBox Forum, where young people design and shape the programme. Young People also use SoapBox to run their own live events. Come join us at SoapBox, where everyone is included, so that no-one is left behind.

## 2018 - 2019

**928** Attendees

**4,702** Attendances



*Hello - I have only just spotted the video and photo. It didn't just make me smile it made me laugh out loud with total joy. You guys transform people's lives. Just thought you should know that. Lost in admiration*

**Parent of an autistic young person**



# 20:20 Digital Vision

## The problem

**The UK has the G20's largest Internet economy, the world's 3rd largest tech-cluster and will have 1 million unfilled tech jobs by 2020, but despite a Commons Select Committee stating that 'digital exclusion has no place in 21st Century Britain', many young people are denied access to the digital, media and technology skills and competences they require in the 21st Century.**

This is creating a double-helix of exclusion, with the most socially excluded young people in society (learning disabled, autistic, in-care etc) also being the most digitally excluded. As a result

*"those who have the greatest level of access, ability and understanding who will continue to prosper."*

Those with the least *"will fall behind"*, finding it *"progressively harder to catch up"* (Ashok Vaswani, CEO Barclays).

### How do we know this?

Despite global efforts, women make up only 17% of the tech workforce, which is being compounded by less young women taking Computer Science qualifications than previously studied ICT;

In the Government's 'Digital Strategy', underrepresented groups are mentioned in only 4 sentences in the whole paper. If you are only getting 4 sentences in a Government Strategy, you are the definition of underrepresented;

Our own experience of delivering Digital, Media and Technology programmes to over 10,000 socially excluded young people.



*"I'm really, really enjoying my work experience at Soapbox especially because I feel like I'm part of the team. All the staff and people that attend Soapbox are extremely friendly and helpful."*  
**from a Young Person with a Learning Disability**





## A solution?

**Dragon Hall's '20:20 Digital Vision' is a dynamic & world-class response to these issues, utilising Nonformal Education, alongside Digital, Media & Technology, to enable YP to develop Specialist & Higher-Level Skills in addressing 3 core areas:**

**Positive Mental Health**

**Community Cohesion**

**Employment**

And it exists at the centre of three overlapping areas: the range of socially excluded YP that we work with; the variety of Digital, Media & Technology that we use and our commitment to Humanistic Youth Work Norms, Values & Practices.

The work is currently taking place across 3 locations in London, **Dragon Hall (Holborn)**, **N1C (King's Cross)** and **SoapBox (Old St)**, which provide unique access to the capital's digital, media and technology centres, alongside expansive regional, national and international outreach work.

**Range of Socially Excluded Groups worked with**

**Humanistic Norms, Values & Practices**

**Variety of Digital Media & Tech used**



# Digital Theory of Change

**Our footprint has seen Dragon Hall build a network of educators, technologists, researchers etc who are taking participants through a 6-stage Digital Theory of Change:**

## **Exclusion - Novice - Advanced Beginner - Competent - Proficient - Expert**

These changes are based upon scaffolded, experiential learning, where 8-25 year olds learn-by-doing, progress from exclusion to expert at their own pace and move from passively consuming education to active engagement in their learning.

## **Combating Social Exclusion**

Dragon Hall provides impactful opportunities for the most socially excluded in society and during 2018/19 this has included:

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities - SEND weekly Digital, Media & Tech workshops & SEND Youth Club; 3 year long work placement opportunities; 4 supported volunteering places and 1 paid work position;

Not in Education, Employment or Training - NEET delivering Social Action, Emerging Technology, Games Design & Employment Support to young people as part of The Mayor's 'Digital Talent Programme';

Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic - BAME mentoring support for 18 young people; work placements; 5 paid roles and two Apprenticeships.



# Programmes

**20:20 Digital Vision** represents an innovative way of delivering youth work and ‘industry-led digital training’ a call-to-action where industry professionals provide digital opportunities unavailable elsewhere and qualified youth workers facilitate personal capabilities & 21st Century competences development.

**These core, free-at-the-point-of-access digital opportunities, are delivered through five programmes:**

**Discover** - providing a first glimpse of emerging technologies, innovations and ideas;

**Make** - developing specialist (Coding, CAD etc) and Higher-Level (Critical Thinking) Digital Skills;

**Act** - enabling YP to design, hone and deliver technology projects that resolve relevant social issues;

**Create** - encouraging YP to imagine new ways of doing things via playing, hacking and developing;

**Accelerate** - providing YP with skills and networks so that they can gain work experience and paid work.



*Thank you and your team for an amazing day last week. The trip definitely sparked an interest for most of the girls, who previously felt like computer science was boring or more a boys subject. I believe it would really benefit our students to collaborate with Soapbox.*  
**Year 10 Teacher**

## Contact Us



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