

Cultural education news, research, policy and strategy

March 2018

Arts Council England

[Arts Council England to develop England's Music Education Hubs](#) – 8th March

Following a 2017 pilot project, Arts Council England is developing a crowdfunding project to support Music Education Hubs and to match the money raised from its own budget.

British Council

[Education and Culture's role in the UK's relationships with Europe](#) – 1st March

The British Council APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group) subcommittee is launching an inquiry on the role that education and arts can play in strengthening and maintaining the UK's relationships with Europe and in supporting soft power. It will aim to inform how the British Council and other organisations can contribute towards UK and European soft power in order to ensure positive relationships moving forward, looking towards an optimistic future with its neighbours. Key areas that the Inquiry aims to explore are:

- Details of programmes and projects currently in place in the UK and Europe that are contributing towards bilateral relationships;
- Gaps in this work and how they might be filled;
- Case studies of successful collaboration and work in the region.

Creative Industries Federation

[Creative Careers Programme launches in Leeds](#) – 13th March

The Creative Careers Programme aims to ensure that more than 2 million teenagers receive better advice about creative careers. The programme will provide up-to-date information on the range of careers many young people have never even heard of and will train careers advisers about the pathways to those roles, helping a more diverse range of young people to take up the exciting opportunities available. The ambition is to reach more than 160,000 students through face-to-face encounters by 2020, with around 2 million young people accessing information online.

Creative England

[GamesLab Leeds: The supported companies](#) – 27th March

Creative England's GamesLab Leeds programme is coming to an end, having supported unique and interesting game companies throughout the three-year project, totalling 60 fantastic developers and studios throughout the Leeds City Region.

NESTA

[Partnership toolkit](#) – 25th February

The toolkit has been designed to help you prepare for getting your partnership off the ground practically, as well as structuring your written partnership agreement. It should help to set you up for success throughout the partnership, and enable you and your organisation to make the most of it.

News

[Arts organisations and creative businesses across the north of England can bid for](#)

[investment from the Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund](#) – 26th March

DCMS's Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund is available to organisations in twelve Local Enterprise Partnership regions across the north of England. It will run for two years and is open to creative and cultural community and social enterprise organisations. Awards from the fund will be in the form of "blended investments" comprising loans and grants worth up to £150,000. Up to one-third of each award can be in the form of a grant, and the funding can be used to help with working capital, the purchase of equipment, or the refurbishment or purchase of a building or land.

[Art is 'the elixir' to teach humane lessons](#), MPs hear – 29th March

DCMS Committee heard from academics, culture professionals and Government officials that arts organisations are in a strong position to understand their communities and help provide a local dimension to national events. In an ongoing inquiry into the UK's decision to commemorate the WWI centenary with a series of ambitious contemporary art projects, MPs were told public art projects are uniquely placed to bring disparate communities together to remember and learn from violent history.

[UK institutions collaborate on 'virtual conservatoire'](#) – 29th March

Six of the largest drama schools and conservatoires in the country have joined forces on a pioneering digital project to enable real-time collaboration and "push the boundaries of performing arts training" with a four-year project, 'Virtual Conservatoire'.

[Five projects to lead £5m performing arts skills programme](#) – 22nd March

'Youth Performance Partners' have been selected to lead a £5m government-backed scheme to provide on- and off-stage opportunities for people aged 5-18 from disadvantaged backgrounds. Croydon, Plymouth, Derby, Salford and Medway are to share government funding to teach children on- and off-stage skills to improve self-esteem and confidence.

[Culture-led regeneration must involve communities](#), says report – 15th March

The support of local communities must be central to any plans to stimulate growth through culture, according to a new report by the Local Government Association examining how culture-led regeneration can achieve sustainable growth.

[National Lottery Heritage Fund opens new £7 million loan programme](#) – 8th March

The new-look National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) has established a major new loan programme to support the acquisition and maintenance of historic buildings. The £7m Heritage Impact Fund will provide charities, social enterprises and community businesses – which could include venue operators – with loans to help them deliver "positive economic and social impact" through the re-use of heritage buildings.