**The Mighty Creatives Research Brief:**

**What is the picture of Young People’s Voice in Schools in the East Midlands?**

**June 2020**

**1.The Brief**

**Background:**

In order to achieve our strategic objectives outlined in the Supporting Information and Business Plan attachments, we deliver the following programmes: Cultural Education; Creative Communities; Creative Careers and Creative Leadership. Amongst these programmes, our Creative Leadership work demonstrates our commitment to involving children and young people in every aspect of our work, from choosing our name to shaping the services we offer to children and young people.

The Mighty Creatives are keen to offer and develop young people’s leadership and governance opportunities to the young people we work with across our programmes. This includes our work with schools. One of our key programmes with schools is [Artsmark](https://www.artsmark.org.uk/).

Artsmark is a school development programme and the only creative quality standard for schools and education settings. Included in the criteria, it encourages schools and education settings to develop children and young people’s engagement and young people’s voice from whatever their starting point, which can be very varied.

We recently commissioned a research and mapping project looking at the current picture of Youth Voice opportunities across the East Midlands, responding to the question “What is the current picture of Youth Voice across the East Midlands?”.

This research covered all degree of youth participation and referenced Phil Treseder’s model of ‘Degrees of Participation’.

* Assigned but Informed: An adult-chosen and led project where children and young people (CYP) can volunteer and be involved but direction and governance is owned by adults within the dynamic.
* Adult-Initiated – Shared Decisions with Children: Adults generate initial ideas with subsequent phases of planning and implementation actively involving CYP.
* Consulted and Informed: Adults run a project or programme that has been crafted from consulting with CYP.
* Child Initiated and Directed: CYP have the original idea, determine what will happen, when and how. Adults are available but do not control.
* Child Initiated and Shared Decisions with Adults: CYP have the ideas, establish the project and determine when to seek support, advice, and consultation, but not direction, from adults.

**Objective:**

We would like to build on this research to explore how schools and education settings are approaching young people’s voice and find out what good practice exists that we and others can learn from. We would like explore the question: “What is the current picture of young people’s voice in schools?”

It is therefore important that the research:

* Surveys East Midlands schools to gain a clearer picture of how schools are approaching this and where the challenges lie. We would like to hear from both Artsmark schools and non-Artsmark schools.
* Identifies examples of programmes that support schools to develop Young People’s Voice outside of the arts and cultural sector as reference points
* Collates a small number of in-depth case studies from a range of different types of education settings (including SEN, Primary, Secondary and PRU/Alternative provision) that demonstrate meaningful and best practice. We are also particularly interested in finding out about how settings support young people’s voice with Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils.
* Identifies the challenges schools face in developing Young People’s Voice.

We will be using this piece of research to inform the development of a Young People’s voice toolkit for settings to use (including schools and educational settings).

**The approach:**

Using TMC’s school contacts we anticipate that this work will include:-

* Collating information from desk-based research on exemplar practice in this area
* Creating, collating and analysing an online survey that will be circulated by TMC to all our Artsmark settings (approx. 400).
* Undertaking 1:1 and/or focus group meetings and consultations with schools/education settings. N.B. We understand that during the current COVID-19 crisis that face to face meetings may not be possible.

This work should result in a written report, including case studies, to be completed by **27th November 2020.** We would also like the report findings presenting to key TMC staff.

The total fee for this work is £2200.00, inclusive of VAT and all expenses.

**2. Criteria**

TMC is seeking to work with an individual or organisation that has:

Essential:

* A strong understanding of and experience in the arts and cultural sector across the region, including education/participation work
* Experience and understanding of good practice in relation to participation and developing Young People’s voice.

Desirable:

* A good understanding of schools and educational settings.
* Some knowledge/understanding of Artsmark and Arts Award

**3. Responding to this opportunity**

Please submit a proposal of 2 pages consisting of:

* A summary of your relevant knowledge and experience
* An outline of how you will approach this work including the approach you will take to gathering information and a timeline with key milestones you aim to reach

Proposals should be submitted to Hazel Townsend via email hazel@themightycreatives.com no later than 9am on Monday 20th July 2020.

**4.Timescale:**

Deadline for applications: 9am Monday 20th July 2020

Applicants informed of outcome: Monday 27th July 2020

Research to be completed by Friday 27th November 2020

**END**

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