

PRESS RELEASE
26 March 2019

Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning wins National Creative Learning Award's SEND Achievement for its work with The Garden School

Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning has won the SEND Achievement (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) at the National Creative Learning Awards for its work with The Garden School in Hackney, a school for learners with autism aged 4–16.

Run by The Creative Learning Guild, the new Awards celebrate the inspirational innovators, educators and practitioners who live and breathe creative learning.

Pat Quigley MBE, Head of The Garden School said: *“The Garden School is incredibly proud to have been part of the process that has led to the award which also recognises the creative work taking place every day with our children. We are a school firmly committed to ensuring all of our pupils have access to a rich arts curriculum which benefits every aspect of their development from communication to independence and from which they can derive so much fun.”*

Jenny Mollica, Director of Creative Learning (Interim) at the Barbican and Guildhall School of Music & Drama said: *“We’re absolutely delighted that our work with The Garden School has been recognised at a national level. Our Associate Schools model involves a school-wide approach that aims to inspire teachers to harness the power and value of creativity within educational settings and to widen access to the arts for all. Our work with The Garden School is a hugely successful example of the impact of this model and approach - one which we’re proud is being recognised through this award.”*

The Garden School is one of three schools participating in Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning's Associate Schools programme this year. Participating schools take part in a range of tailored arts and learning projects which respond to needs identified by the school. The aim is to embed an ethos of creative and cultural education within the school that continues beyond the life of the programme itself.

The Award was judged based on Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning's work with The Garden School during the 2017/18 academic year in which 56 students and 48 members of staff participated in nine different projects with over 1,400 total contact hours. A particularly impactful element of the project has been sessions delivered by the Barbican's Associate company Drum Works, with teachers noting high levels of engagement, musicality and increased confidence and self-esteem. Similarly, the drama workshops were so successful that the school is developing an after-school club as a direct result. Parental feedback reveals similar themes with 78 per cent feeling more confident taking their children to arts venues compared to a year ago, with the majority attributing this to Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning.

In choosing Barbican Guildhall as the recipient of this award, one of the judges, Canon Ruth Gould MBE, DL, FRSA, said: *“Disabled young people and children are often only engaged*

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in music for therapy and passive learning, but this programme to tailor-make learning to the individual's potential and learning style is much needed for future change and levelling equality of opportunity for all. I applaud the approaches and commitment shown by the Barbican and Guildhall School and look forward to seeing the results for years to come."

The Associate Schools programme is unique in a number of ways:

- A three-year commitment to Associate Schools enables the provision offered to be **highly bespoke**. This personalised approach to SEND provision is extremely valued by the school.
- **A whole school approach** is central to the ethos of the project. Central to the approach of the Associate School's model at The Garden School is the engagement of the school's senior leadership team from the outset. This is integral to fulfilling the ambition for the ethos of creativity and cultural education to be embedded throughout the school.
- **Mutual learning and development:** The Garden School have delivered training in several areas of SEND work to Barbican and Guildhall School staff, allowing them to develop programmes and respond to the school's needs in the most appropriate way. The school has also supported the development of new models of SEND work which is going to be offered to other schools. Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning is now seeking opportunities to share and disseminate this learning in order to influence practice across the sector.

The City of London provides the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre.

For further press information please contact:

Rebecca Driver Media Relations
Tel: 0203 691 7034
Email: rebecca@rdmr.co.uk | ruth@rdmr.co.uk
Web: www.rdmr.co.uk

Tom Vine, Communications Officer, Barbican
Tel: 0207 382 7321
Email: tom.vine@barbican.org.uk

Notes to Editors

About Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning

A pioneering cultural alliance that brings together world-class artistic partners with students and communities in ground-breaking new ways to create inspiring arts experiences for all. The Barbican Guildhall Creative learning programme draws on 30 years' experience of working in east London to launch cultural partnerships that offer outstanding creative opportunities for every young person across eight east London boroughs. It creates new routes for people to take part in the arts – from first experiences to higher education programmes and professional training – developing interests, skills, confidence and careers.

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About the Barbican

A world-class arts and learning organisation, the [Barbican](#) pushes the boundaries of all major art forms including dance, film, music, theatre and visual arts. Its creative learning programme further underpins everything it does. Over 1.1 million people attend events annually, hundreds of artists and performers are featured, and more than 300 [staff](#) work onsite. The architecturally renowned centre opened in 1982 and comprises the Barbican Hall, the Barbican Theatre, The Pit, Cinemas 1, 2 and 3, Barbican Art Gallery, a second gallery the Curve, foyers and public spaces, a library, Lakeside Terrace, [a glasshouse conservatory](#), conference facilities and three restaurants. The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre.

The Barbican is home to Resident Orchestra, [London Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Orchestra, [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Ensembles the [Academy of Ancient Music](#) and [Britten Sinfonia](#), Associate Producer [Serious](#), and Artistic Partner [Create](#). Our Artistic Associates include [Boy Blue](#), [Cheek by Jowl](#), Deborah Warner, [Drum Works](#) and [Michael Clark Company](#). The [Los Angeles Philharmonic](#) are the Barbican's International Orchestral Partner, the [Australian Chamber Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble at Milton Court and [Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble.

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About Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Guildhall School is a vibrant, international community of young musicians, actors and production artists in the heart of the City of London. Ranked the UK's top conservatoire in the Guardian University Guide 2019 for Music and selected as one of the top ten performing arts institutions in the world (QS World University Rankings 2019), the School is a global leader of creative and professional practice which promotes innovation, experiment and research, with over 1,000 students in higher education, drawn from nearly 60 countries around the world. The School is also the UK's leading provider of specialist music training at the under-18 level with nearly 2,500 students in Junior Guildhall and the Centre for Young Musicians.

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