

The Bluecoat has been successful in applying to the Breathe Better Air Community Fund to deliver a series of creative workshops on the subject of clean air with the aim of improving air quality awareness. We are seeking an artist to design and deliver these workshops during October half term and during our Family Weekend on 11 + 12 November.

These workshops will be for children from our Out of the Blue outreach programme and families attending our Family Weekend in November.

'Out of the Blue' (OOTB) is our after-school outreach programme for 7-11 year olds connecting them to Bluecoat and the city's art scene giving access to high-quality arts and informal creative learning experiences. OOTB has been running since 2014, facilitated by in-house experienced artist facilitators and guest artists throughout the year.

During the school holidays, children from OOTB attend full days of creative activity at Bluecoat. These sessions are run by facilitators and assistants from our Children & Families team. OOTB utilises a 'stepping stone' approach; once children have attended the holiday activity days at Bluecoat, they are then invited to bring their families to our public family programme and are supported through provision of free public transport vouchers and hospitality.

Our Family Weekends are a takeover of our Performance Space with 'activity stations' offering a range of activities for different ages. Some images from our last Family Weekend can be viewed [here](#).

Workshop times and dates:

Half term activities:

Monday 30 October

Tuesday 31 October

Wednesday 1 November

Thursday 2 November.

The children will be at Bluecoat from 10 - 3pm with session times running from 10.30am - 12pm and 1pm - 2.30pm.

Family Weekend:

Saturday 11 November

Sunday 12 November

Set up from 10am, sessions taking place between 1 - 4pm.

Fees and budget

Total fee for sessions: **£1500** (£250/day)

Materials budget for sessions: **£300**

In addition to the materials budget, we also have a range of materials & equipment available such as paper, scissors, glue, scrap/recycled model making materials etc.

Process

The commissioned artist will work with OOTB children during the 4 days of activity during half term to devise and develop creative responses to the idea of breathing better air. We anticipate an attendance of between 20-25 children per day during the holiday activity days. Some children will attend once or twice and others will attend every day.

During the four onsite workshops, the lead artist will work with the children to co-devise activities that will be delivered during the Family Weekend. The chosen artist will encourage children to think about their relationship with air quality and challenge them to develop activities that inspire positive environmental changes in Liverpool, harness their ability and interest to be young air quality champions and promote the benefits of alternative travel.

The work created in these workshops will inform the public programme of our Family Weekend mid-November 2023. These family workshops will be open to the public, raising air quality awareness and providing a creative space for families to explore.

Aims of the project:

- To platform for and improve the overall health and wellbeing of our audiences, including those in our local community, through better air quality;
- To effect creative agency and provide a platform to underrepresented members of our community who are disproportionately affected by health inequality;
- To further reduce Bluecoat's environmental impact.

Please send a short expression of interest (no more than 1 side of A4) and links to supporting images to Betty.r@thebluecoat.org.uk by midnight on Friday 25th August.

Some background to Out of the Blue after-school art clubs.

OOTB art clubs have taken place weekly during term-time across 8 schools in Liverpool and Halton (currently in 3 schools) since 2014. The schools are situated in areas of high deprivation in which there are few or no cultural organisations and populations with low art and cultural engagement levels. We utilise the five creative habits of mind (using our imagination, investigation, team work, keep trying and never give up, and growing as artists) to embed creativity and the capacity to think and make through art. These are based on Thomas Tallis's work here: <https://www.creativityexchange.org.uk/ideas-hub/tallis-habits>



Each week a facilitator introduces contemporary artists and their work based on the exhibition programme at Bluecoat and more widely in Liverpool. Children then undertake an activity inspired by the artist's work and designed by the facilitation team. In line with the creative habits of mind, such activities are designed to be process-led, open-ended and allow for children to make their own artistic decisions.

Further information about the Breathe Better Air Community Fund:

The Breathe Better Air Community Fund is provided as a partnership between Community Foundation for Merseyside, UK Community Foundation and the Clean Air Fund (CAF). CAF is a global philanthropic organisation working with governments, funders, business and campaigners to create a

future where everyone breathes clean air. Its aim is to promote air quality data, build public demand for clean air and drive policy change.