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# **AiERG** **Events Series** **Programme**

The Arts in Education Recovery Group (AiERG) was formed in July-20 by Creative Scotland to steer a response to the Scottish Government on the role of arts in education recovery. After this the group formalised creating a cross-sector, multi-artform network of specialist organisations acting to collectively influence and advocate for the right of children and young people in Scotland to access inclusive, diverse, and transformative arts opportunities.



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

# Event 1 – Positive Childhood Experiences and the Arts

**10:00–12:15,  
Wednesday 15 September 2021**

We have heard about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), but how can the arts contribute to Positive Childhood Experiences and build resilience?

This event is for anyone from the arts, early years, education, health, social work, youth work, community development and other sectors with an interest in how the arts can benefit children and young people. The event will share case studies and approaches and create space for discussion with other participants.

Register now at: **Positive Childhood Experiences & the Arts (AiERG/CS) ([theworldsbest.events](http://theworldsbest.events))**

**Heather Armstrong  
(Starcatchers) and Linzi  
McLagan (YDance)**

**Starcatchers | YDance**

At a population level, higher numbers of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are associated with a higher risk of adverse outcomes in adulthood. But what about the positive, protective factors in young lives, and how can the arts support Positive

Childhood Experiences? In 2019, researchers at John Hopkins university published results of the first large scale study into Positive Childhood Experiences and identified seven categories of childhood experiences that help protect from the negative effects of traumatic experiences.

By drawing on real life examples from their own arts practice, Heather Armstrong (Starcatchers) and Linzi McLagan (YDance) will discuss the ways this research can give us a shared language across sectors, so we can all understand how the expressive arts support the wellbeing of children and young people.

Across sectors, there is a shared understanding that generally the arts are a “good thing” for children and young people – this introduction to Positive Childhood Experiences will give us a shared lens through which we can understand why the arts have such a positive impact on wellbeing.

## North Ayrshire Music Service

**North Ayrshire Music Service**

During COVID restrictions, what opportunities did Music Services provide to continue to create positive experiences for pupils? To provide opportunities, staff had to upskill themselves in new technical areas. How can these new skills continue to find a place within music delivery and enhance the opportunities provide to young people?

Many skills developed and used in this process will be relevant and interchangeable across sectors. Through collaboration and discussion, more opportunities can be created for music to play a part in young people’s development.

## Edinburgh Children’s Hospital Charity (ECHC)

**Arts & Activities | ECHC**

ECHC’s Arts Programme team have been exploring ideas to find a positive way for children to look at clinical isolation and for them to have something to do on a daily basis during their stay in hospital. We have developed a three week “Space Academy” project, following the daily timetable of an astronaut which is very similar to a child’s day.

This programme will take children on a journey of space exploration, life on the International Space Station and a mission to Mars before returning to Earth. The children’s isolation room will become their spaceship, of which they are the Captain, and the NHS staff are their crew. This gives the children a level of control over a situation where they normally have none. The children will be invited to complete two experiments per day, which have been devised by astrophysicist’s and education leaders and which involve lots of fun and creativity.

Our role is to provide a positive hospital experience for the children and young people, we aim to make their hospital journey less scary, to distract them so they are open to their treatment, and so they are happy to return for future appointments. We do this through arts and creativity, linking with external partner organisations and directly with hospital departments and clinics. The children and young people are at the heart of everything we do, our projects are child led and as a result are more meaningful and impactful.

## Event 2 – Children and Young People as Collaborators and Co-researchers

10:00–12:15,  
Thursday 7 October 2021

### How can you create arts activities with not for young people?

This event is for anyone from the arts, early years, education, health, social work, youth work, community development and other sectors with an interest in how to collaborate with children and young people and work with them as co-researchers. The event will share case studies and approaches and create space for discussion with other participants.

Register now at: [Young People as Collaborators & Co-researchers \(theworldsbest.events\)](#)

## Articulate Cultural Trust

Articulate Cultural Trust | [articulatehub](#)

### How can you create arts activities with not for young people?

Articulate is joined by an amazing group of young researchers, all with experience of care, who have been collaborating with Central School of Speech and Drama, Queen Mary University, London and the University of Strathclyde to

explore the barriers to success in higher education using creative and inclusive tools and techniques, including The Verbatim Formula approach. The young people will be joined by their support team of UK-wide academics to share more about the point, process and purpose of ‘The Cradle of Learning’. They will share a film and manifesto that evolved from this first-step collaboration and pose some provocations for future developments as they inspire others to ensure that young people with trauma, disadvantage or poverty in their background can get in, stay in and succeed at university.

The session will underscore the joy and power of authentic co-development, design and delivery. It will spotlight and amplify the voice of young people with a myriad of challenges and mixed views of further and higher education. It will ask what agency we all have to make changes that result in positive outcomes and destinations for care experienced young Scots in The Promise and post-COVID landscapes.

## Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival: Stage iT

DG Arts Festival | Stage iT -

### “For young people by young people”

The youth branch of Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival will discuss the ways in which our organisation works alongside young people to both programme and create performance art works.

Some of the key questions we will explore will include:

1. How our structure works and the projects we deliver.
2. The challenges of delivering work in a rural environment. Dumfries and Galloway is one of the largest regions in Scotland and this does present some obstacles. We will then look at the ways in which we combat these issues and the impact that collaborating with young people during a pandemic has had.
3. Why is it important to have a young person/people taking the lead in a project such as Stage iT and how this can spark creativity within a group setting.

We at Stage iT believe that although our project is currently operating at a relatively small scale, the quality of the work we deliver and the experience we provide for young people is second to none. Our model can be applied to both arts and non-arts organisations, and we aim to inspire the next generation of creatives through our work.

## Lyra

Lyra | Edinburgh

Since 2012 Lyra has been building a community of children and artists who create and produce world-class live performance in Greater Craigmillar, Edinburgh. Lyra is unique because all the company’s work, from workshops to productions, is focussed on working side by side with the youngest members of one of Scotland’s most disadvantaged, diverse and exciting communities,

and introducing these young people to some of the very best artists and practitioners from around the world. The relationship between the artists and children is always one of equality, with children taking a leading and empowered role. Artistic Director Jo Timmins will discuss the different ways that Lyra collaborates with young people to create artworks, commission artists and produce cultural events.

Lyra aims to foster a truly collaborative relationship between artists and children to achieve a process that is equally child and artist led.

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## Starcatchers

### Starcatchers

Join Starcatchers' Chief Executive, Rhona Matheson, for an in-depth look at the question: *How can we listen to what the very youngest pre- and non-verbal children are telling us through their creative exploration?* In this session Rhona will share artist-led methods that give a deeper understanding of what we can do to truly listen to children who do not yet have the words to tell us what they need.

This session will be useful for anyone taking a rights-based approach to their work with children and young people and wants to centre the voice of the child in more creative ways.

## Event 3 – The Arts as an Essential Service

10:00–12:15,  
Wednesday 3 November 2021

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### Are the Arts essential? Should the arts be considered an essential service?

This event is for anyone from the arts, early years, education, health, social work, youth work, community development and other sectors with an interest in whether the arts could be viewed as essential or should be an 'essential service'. The event will share case studies and approaches and create space for discussion with other participants.

Register now at: [The Arts as an Essential Service \(theworldsbest.events\)](#)

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## Eden Court

### Home | Eden Court

Eden Court has always placed children, young people and the community at the heart of our organisation. We run one of the most expansive engagement programmes of any building-based arts venue in the country with a large team of staff who manage and directly deliver projects from our home base in Inverness and across the entire Highland region.

The pandemic has been a transformational time for us. As the emergency descended, we jumped feet-first into supporting the Highland Council's

humanitarian response. Our box office telephony system became the emergency helpline for Highland residents and Engagement team staff supported the delivery of teaching and learning in key worker childcare hubs.

Our work has been nationally and internationally praised and it's further embedded us into the lives of the region and made us think deeply about the role we play in the civic life of our city, and the Highlands more broadly.

Our session will explore this thinking more deeply.

As the sector emerges from the pandemic the arts will need to justify itself in new ways and advocate for the role that the arts play in people's lives and in communities.

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## Jack Stancliffe, freelance artist

[Jack Stancliffe \(sharedgradients.co.uk\)](#)

**“You're not essential”,  
“I'm not essential?”  
“no you're not essential”  
.....  
“right what am I here for then?”**

The contribution will consider how art making or creative practices may provide a space for children and teachers to develop the capacities and skills to respond and prepare for future situations of uncertainty. It will consider how art and artists may be in a unique position to hold and introduce the uncomfortable, the confusing and the unpredictable. It will reflect on events that

occurred during a project titled “Is Art Essential” run by The National Galleries of Scotland and Hidden Giants in partnership with Blackburn Primary, as well as drawing on ideas from Rebekah Tauritz paper “A Pedagogy For Uncertain Times”.

This contribution may be of interest to organisations or freelancers wishing to consider the possibilities or potentials that may emerge when working to support artists in a more “agile” way within school or educational settings.

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## **NHS Tayside, Early Years and Young People Team**

### **NHS Tayside (scot.nhs.uk)**

For many years the Early Years and Young People Team (EYYPT) within Public Health, NHS Tayside, have worked in partnership with education colleagues in the three local authority areas in Tayside to deliver health and wellbeing messages to children and young people using the creative arts as a conduit. The creative arts allow our work, some of it tackling very sensitive topics, to be accessible to many children and young people in a non-threatening, informal way. The impact of COVID-19 has prevented our usual delivery of three significant pieces of work, and we have had to re-think and re-design these.

Do the creative arts command the most impact in delivering health messages to children and young people or are the re-designed pieces of work as effective in delivering health messages in their new format? Is it essential for us to work in partnership with the creative arts to deliver health messages and information?

Our contribution provides an opportunity for others to consider whether they are using the most effective and accessible medium to communicate messages to children and young people whilst also including them in delivery and giving them ownership of the health messages whilst also providing an insight into the world of work through the lens of the creative arts.

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## **Village Storytelling Centre**

### **The Village Storytelling Centre The Centre for Civic Innovation**

Helen Mill from the Village Storytelling Centre will talk about their ongoing work as a key organisation in Greater Pollok and their partnership with Glasgow City Council’s Centre for Civic Innovation. She will explore how storytelling, alongside design led approaches, can support sustainable community development while ensuring the voices of even the youngest members of the community are heard; and ask whether storytelling can be used to provide better understanding of complex societal problems such as child poverty.

This is a valuable insight into an applied storytelling approach which can be used across sectors to ensure that people with lived experience are at the heart of decision making and change. It will also address the ethical implications of this approach, raising awareness of ownership within storytelling.

## **Contact**

For any enquiries about the event series, please contact:

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Events & Engagement

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August 2021



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