



Case study

Hackney Quest Youth Project - The Geffrye Museum

The Geffrye Museum working in partnership with Hackney Quest.





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The Geffrye Museum – Youth Project.

Geffrye Museum Background Information: The Geffrye is one of London's most friendly and enjoyable museums. Its setting is in the former almshouses of the Ironmongers' Company, delightful 18th-century buildings with attractive gardens and mature trees.

The Geffrye Museum explores the home over the past 400 years, from around 1600 to the present day. Our focus is on the living rooms of the urban middle classes in England, particularly in London. We aim to show how such homes have been used and furnished over this period, reflecting changes in society and patterns of behaviour as well as style, fashion and taste.

There is a lively programme of special exhibitions. Events and activities are organised regularly at weekends and during half terms and holidays, for visitors of all ages.

Youth Project Background Information: In 2006 the Geffrye Museum received funding from Renaissance London to improve its provision for young people. In the first year the Geffrye Museum made contact with and set up one off art, design, craft and baking workshops relating to the Museum's collection and gardens for local youth groups. The workshops proved popular and led to the creation of several longer-term partnership projects usually lasting between 8 and 10 weeks.

The Group: One of the longer-term partnerships has been with Hackney Quest, a group of young people who are potentially at risk through social, economic or educational disadvantage.

The Project: In a 10 week project The Geffrye Museum worked in partnership with Hackney Quest and tutors from the London College of Fashion to design costumes for the Shoreditch Parade, as part of the 2007 Shoreditch Festival. The theme of the Parade was 'spaces.' The group used the Geffrye's period rooms and gardens as inspiration.

Having made close observations of the objects in the museum and plants in the garden, young people from Hackney Quest created vibrant costumes using a variety of different colourful and textured materials. Individuals used the theme of 'home and garden' to create their own unique accessories such as hats, bracelets, belts, wings and wands.

The materials were mostly recycled; with a few extra bits to jazz things up, making the project environmentally friendly as well as keeping the cost of the project down. This also encouraged the young people to think creatively and to be even more imaginative - it's amazing what you can do with a few scraps!



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It was great to have the end event of the Shoreditch Parade to aim towards. On the sunny day of the Parade, the young people looked dazzling in their colourful carnival attire. All the participants greatly enjoyed dancing along to the Parade music, the ribbons and tassels of their wings and wands rustling and flickering to the beat.

At the end of the parade prizes were given. Hackney Quest won two prizes: 'King and Queen of the Parade' and 'the Best Individual Costume.' The young people worked hard and enthusiastically on their costumes and the prizes were well deserved.





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Post Project: The project leaders and co-ordinators, youth workers and young people all discussed the project in order to evaluate it. Due to the success of the project the Geffrye Museum worked with Hackney Quest again the following year, this time with a set designer, to create a 40's style interior on Hoxton Street, as part of the 1948 Street Party for the 2008 Shoreditch Festival.

Now and the Future: The Geffrye Museum is working alongside the Shoreditch Trust to plan the next project with Hackney Quest for the 2009 Shoreditch Festival.

The young people from the various youth groups who have participated in the youth projects now have the opportunity to join in other events and activities at the museum: art, craft & baking activities at weekends and during school holidays and a volunteer programme where they can help run events, support the holiday activities, administer the quiz desk and even give tours of the museum.