

**The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Art, Craft and Design in Education**

**Meeting online (Zoom platform) Tuesday 2nd March 2021. 5-7 pm**

**Minutes**

Our main session focus was the benefit of art education, within both prison settings, and beyond, in recovery/rehabilitation.

1. **Sharon Hodgson MP** and Chair began the meeting by asking participants to introduce themselves in the chat area. This will serve as a register of attendance.

2. Minutes from last meeting to be approved. The minutes of the previous meeting (sent with the agenda) were approved and will go into the records.

3. Updates from around the UK, Art Craft Design education; **Michele Gregson**, General Secretary NSEAD. Michele updated the meeting with the more recent activity of NSEAD.

4. Unlock the Talent Inside; **Sally Taylor CEO of Koestler Arts** https://www.koestlerarts.org.uk/ talked extensively about the work that the organisation does promoting engagement with art in prisons and as part of prisoners rehabilitation. Sally's visual and detailed slideshow was illustrated with the rich and diverse range of art forms created by those in prison and those in rehabilitation. The presentation can be seen in the papers supporting the meeting. There was a great deal of discussion around how the pandemic had changed prisoner access to the arts and the long term on the short term impact that this may have. However the organisation has worked very hard two still showcase and share visual art and craft work.

5. From the inside; **Professor Samantha Broadhead** (University of the Arts Leeds) shared her own experiences from teaching art in prisons. Sam's presentation included first hand knowledge of the situation that many prisoners find themselves in within the penal system, the physical and the emotional. Writer **Mim** Skinner and author of the book ‘Jailbirds’ https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B07GYM1JNM/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?\_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1 Mim taught therapeutic and self-expressive arts in one women's and two men's prisons. She shared the story of how she used art, music, and writing to engage those at the edge of the prison system with the aim of connecting people into further education, training and rehabilitation. This experience also inspired her as a writer to share this in book form. Sadly, funding for this is no longer available and the work has been discontinued.

6. **Ruth Williams**, Watts Art Gallery talked about the ongoing work between the Watts Gallery Trust Museum Outreach to Vulnerable, at risk and Young Offenders in the Criminal Justice System through onsite, virtual and prison delivery. Many benefits ensued, including; Bronze Arts Award, Social Enterprise, self esteem, transferable life skills, communication, participation, sustained engagement, and personal creative exploration. Advice for next steps in Education/Art Education is given. Support to enter Koestler Awards and learn about future support is part of the programme. Communication with family and friends to view Exhibition and visit the Gallery on release is also developed.

7. Ten years of the NSEAD AD Magazine: a whirlwind tour of the first decade of NSEAD’s flagship publication on visual art education. **Sophie Leach**, Assistant General Secretary of NSEAD gave an exciting visually rich packed timeline presentation of AD magazine over the last decade linking this to political activity which has had impact on visual art education, particularly in England. The consensus of participants was that this curated collation should be shared more widely then just this meeting. Such a lot has happened over 11 years and the magazine strives to both promote and defend visual art education including news, stories and evidence from this APPG group.

8. Brief report on progress of APPG Research group. **Research group team.** Susan Coles and Pat Thompson reported briefly on the work of the small research group who are attempting to follow up the evidence session of November 2020 with a cohesive report. A meeting of the steering group was held prior to this meeting today.

9. AOB and date of next meeting. **Tuesday June 22nd 5-7 p.m.**