

TRINITY LABAN

Public Engagement

Impact Report

2023-24



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Excellence *beyond* Tradition

I am pleased to present this summary of Trinity Laban’s public engagement work in 2023–24, highlighting the breadth and impact of our activity across London and the southeast.

Trinity Laban is uniquely positioned as both a world-leading conservatoire and a civic institution with deep local roots. For over 25 years, we have combined our core mission of training exceptional artists with a sustained commitment to opening up access to music and dance, ensuring that people of all backgrounds can experience and benefit from the arts.

This year’s report highlights our local and regional impact – particularly in the boroughs of Lewisham and Royal Greenwich – where long-standing partnerships with schools, health organisations, and community groups ensure our work responds directly to community needs.

Initiatives such as our school outreach, creative health programmes, and talent development pathways demonstrate how sustained, collaborative investment in people and place can deliver meaningful social, educational, and cultural outcomes.

We are especially encouraged to see national conversations around creative health gaining momentum, with the government increasingly recognising the role of the arts in prevention, wellbeing, and social prescription. This is not new territory for us: Trinity Laban has long embedded this work into our practice, championing a model of engagement that is person-centred, artistically ambitious, and rooted in evidence.

While this report focuses on one year’s activity, it is built on decades of commitment. Our enduring partnerships, such as our long-standing collaborations with Tomorrow’s Warriors, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, U.Dance and One Dance UK, demonstrate the power of continuity, shared values, and creative ambition in building change that lasts.

Thank you for taking the time to explore this report. I hope it gives you a sense of the reach, quality, and purpose of our work, and the passion with which we deliver it.



Headline Figures

2,189

activities delivered

124

performances
(78% free to attend)

13,933

individual participants

172,480

instances of
public engagement

233

artists employed

113

schools reached in
London & the southeast

158

Trinity Laban students &

16

alumni employed

Introduction

In 2023–24, Trinity Laban delivered a wide-reaching public engagement programme across London and the Southeast, focused on widening access to the arts, improving health outcomes, and supporting educational progression.

Through strategic partnerships with local authorities, schools, health organisations, and community groups, we provided high-quality, inclusive opportunities that placed music and dance at the heart of community life.

Our work supports regional and national policy priorities around health prevention, youth development, education recovery, levelling up, and creative skills for growth.

Mission & Approach

We believe access to creativity is a social right. Our engagement model integrates artistic excellence with civic responsibility.

We focus on:

Equity

expanding access regardless of income, background, or ability

Community impact

addressing real social, educational, and health needs

Collaboration

working with partners to increase scale and relevance

Progression

enabling talent to grow from first contact to professional careers

Our embedded presence in Lewisham and Greenwich enables us to respond to local priorities while acting as a regional and national centre of excellence.



Expanding access to the arts

From early years to pre-professional training, we create inclusive pathways into music and dance. We deliver work from our buildings, with schools, and in the community.

In 2023–24, our teams worked with **113 schools** and offered sustained programmes in some of London’s most underserved areas.



Case Study: My London

Youth-Led Social Action through Dance

A two-year initiative empowering young dancers to explore identity, activism, and place. Participants created performances, films, and peer-led workshops.

The project culminated in a “Super Summit” and a film screening at City Hall, amplifying youth voices in civic spaces.



“Young people learn in different ways. Dance facilitates a space for young people to feel comfortable in expressing themselves.”

My London participant



In partnership with: METRO Charity, Charlton Athletic Community Trust, Tramshed, and Lewisham Youth Theatre.

Case Study: Long-term Partnerships in Schools

In 2023–24, we developed many school-based residencies that placed students and professional artists directly into classrooms to inspire creativity and support progression.

St Alfege with St Peter’s Primary (Greenwich)

Three Trinity Laban music students helped establish a choir, led composition and improvisation sessions, and sparked pupil interest in jazz. The residency reshaped how music was experienced – moving from curriculum to lived artform.

“The inspiring partnership with Trinity Laban has certainly helped to shift the children’s perception of music from a lesson and something that is taught, to an art form.”

Senior Teacher

Barking Abbey School (Barking & Dagenham)

We supported 16–18-year-old dancers through technical training, creative workshops, and the creation of a new performance work with choreographer Nafisah Baba. Students also accessed specialist Dance Science sessions before performing at the Laban Theatre.

“Our partnership with Trinity Laban has enabled young people from one of the most deprived areas in the country to feel valued and understand that they too can achieve a career in Dance.”

Director of Vocational Learning,
Barking Abbey School



Case Study: Jazz Hang

Run in partnership with Tomorrow's Warriors and Lewisham Music, our Jazz Hang programme engaged with 113 young people aged 10–16 in 2023–24, introducing them to jazz through hands-on weekly sessions and occasional masterclasses with professional musicians.

Trinity Laban undergraduate jazz students played a key role in delivering the work, gaining valuable experience as mentors and facilitators.



“What was most inspiring were little things like a young person opting to lead the dynamics of the group. That kind of activity was very empowering. The young people were leading at the front.”

Trinity Laban student

“This has been really important in developing my practice.”

Trinity Laban student

Case Study: Classes & Summer Schools

We deliver an extensive weekly programme of dance classes for both young people and adults, and intensive summer schools in dance, music and musical theatre.

Each week, 30 dance classes for young people take place in Bellingham and Deptford. Sessions in a range of styles develop creativity, physicality and performance skills in an inclusive environment, with specialist provision for disabled young dancers. In 2023/24, 2,019 children and young people took part, many at low or no cost.

Our adult dance programme reflects the same commitment to inclusivity. With 396 sessions across ballet, contemporary, hip hop, yoga and Pilates, over 1,000 adults attended in 2023/24 – finding community, wellbeing and joy through movement.

Trinity Laban's summer schools give young people and adults a taste of conservatoire life, offering intensive dance, music and musical theatre training with professional artists. In 2023/24, 206 participants took part across four programmes. The Young Musician's Summer School, open to 11–18-year-olds, continues to grow as a distinctive pathway for emerging talent – with 31% of participants from Lewisham and Greenwich and half of those aged 16+ later attending our undergraduate Open Days.



“The high quality and exceptional team that deliver are just brilliant. This is a creative learning space missing from mainstream education and we value it so much.”

Parent/carer of participant

Embedding Creative Health

Our creative health programmes offer high-quality music and dance activities for local adults, enriching cultural life, and supporting health and wellbeing.

In 2023–24, we delivered over **750 sessions**, reaching **100+ participants** each week. Co-created with partners and participants, the programmes address key health issues such as social isolation, mental health, chronic pain, Parkinson's, brain injury, and respiratory conditions.

A distinctive feature of our model is the integration of professional artists with healthcare practitioners, such as occupational therapists and physiotherapists, who work collaboratively to deliver targeted support. This interdisciplinary approach enables creative, person-centred solutions to therapeutic goals.

We partner with NHS services, social prescribing teams, and local charities like the **999 Club** and **Sydenham Garden** to complement outpatient care and offer continued support beyond clinical settings. All creative health programmes are accessible through a pay what you can system.



Case Study: The Language of Pain

A three-month participatory research project involving 36 people living with chronic pain.

Sessions explored visual arts, music, writing, and reflection. Participants reported reduced focus on symptoms, stronger identity, and increased social connection.



“Each week the sessions have brought some unique experiences through art which has helped to take the focus off the daily pain.”

Participant



Full report here

Case Study: Dancing Ahead

Supporting Mental Health through Movement

In partnership with **Sydenham Garden** and **Goldsmiths University**, this pilot introduced weekly creative dance for adults in recovery. Co-designed with participants, sessions focused on hip hop and improvisation.

The findings from this research will be used to support the feasibility of establishing a weekly dance group at Trinity Laban for adults receiving mental health treatment.

“This is the first time I have actually been in the moment for a long time.”

Participant

Nurturing Talent

We support learners all the way from first encounters onto higher education and careers. Our model integrates outreach, training, mentoring, and performance.

Across our programmes in 2023/24, participants reported not only artistic and technical development, but also transformative personal growth:

98%

of youth dance participants inspired to continue training &

96% felt prepared for next steps

87%

of Junior Trinity graduates progressed to music study at university or conservatoire

100%

of music summer school students felt more committed to further musical goals after taking part

Case Study: Centre for Advanced Training (CAT)

CAT offers professional dance training outside school hours, allowing students to study while living at home and attending mainstream school, complementing their wider education.

In 2023-24:

126

students enrolled,

69% with full or partial bursaries

83%

of new students joined via school outreach in

46 schools

“CAT has been a formative part of our children’s development as young people who dance. It has facilitated their potential to progress to further dance training if desired. The impartial, expert, and generous advice as well as the emotional support that our elder daughter received at the point when decisions needed to be made helped her to make very difficult choices which seem to be working out. Without the bursaries it would have been impossible to provide this brilliant opportunity for both of them.”

Parent of two CAT students



Case Study: Junior Trinity

Junior Trinity is one of the UK's largest junior conservatoires, welcoming 450 students aged 3–19 weekly. Students perform regularly at major London venues and gain access to world-class tuition.

We also deliver GCSE and A-level music to over 50 students, many of whom lack access to music teaching in their local schools. In 2023–24:

92%

of A-level students
achieved A*–C

100%

of GCSE students
achieved grades 7–9

“These past five years have been nothing short of magical; despite my struggles, I have never been happier. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.”

Junior Trinity 2024 graduate



Supporting the Creative Workforce

The creative sector relies heavily on freelancers and microbusinesses. Our professional development and mentoring programmes help early-career artists build sustainable careers.

In 2023–24, we employed **158 Trinity Laban students** and **16 alumni** to support our public engagement activities, including: assisting in weekly music and dance classes for children and young people, bringing Jazz into primary schools across London, providing tech support, and much more.

We also run training programmes for our Trinity Laban students to ensure they're equipped with the skills and confidence they need to work within the community.

Case Study: Trinity Laban Students



Ebony Robinson & Alex Polack

Ebony Robinson graduated from Trinity Laban with a BA in Contemporary Dance in 2022. During her studies here, she took part in training with the Public Engagement team and assisted with classes and projects, such as *Hope 4 Justice*. Ebony is now lead teaching artist for Bellingham Dances, our free creative street dance class for young people aged 12–18 and delivers workshops and projects for schools and community groups.

Alex Polack is a trumpet player from Birmingham; he graduated from Trinity Laban with a BMus in Jazz in 2024. He was a musician-in-residence at St Alfege with St Peter's Primary School, and participated in Jazz on Tour, a project that brings Jazz to local primary schools. Since September 2024, he has been co-leading Next Wave Big Band, our after-school youth band project.

Case Study: Thrive 2024

Thrive supported **29 early-career artists** with training in business planning, fundraising, self-employment, marketing, and networking.

Participants reported:

Stronger business confidence

Expanded professional networks

Greater ability to deliver their own projects

“Participating in Thrive 2024 was a turning point for me in my career as a dancer and choreographer. It gave me the confidence and tools I needed to pursue the creative projects I was dreaming of, and the generosity and kindness of the group continues to inspire me today.”

Thrive participant



Thank you to our partners

Partners

999 Club, Charlton Athletic Community Trust, Emergency Exit Arts, Future Talent, Goldsmiths University, Headway, Horniman Museum and Gardens, Kinetika Bloco, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, Lewisham Council, Lewisham Education Arts Network, Lewisham Youth Theatre, METRO Charity, Music in Secondary Schools Trust, One Dance UK, Peoplescape Theatre, Restore The Music, Royal Borough of Greenwich Council, the South East London Music Hub (in particular Lewisham Music and Royal Greenwich Music Service), Sydenham Garden, Tomorrow's Warriors, Tramshed, U.Dance, and Youth First.

Networks

Civic University Agreement, Cultural Learning Alliance, Lewisham Strategic Partnership, Lewisham Cultural Partnership Board, Lewisham Cultural Education Partnership, and National Dance Centre for Advanced Training Network.

Funders

Department for Education, Leverhulme Trust, Greater London Authority, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, City Bridge Foundation, The Wolfson Foundation, London Music Fund.

Schools

Acland Burghley School, Ark Globe Academy, Ark Walworth Academy, Athelney Primary School, Bannockburn Primary School, Baring Primary School, Barking Abbey School, Barnsley Academy, Ben Jonson Primary, Beverly Marks Stage School, Brampton Manor School, Brent Knoll School, Brindishe Green Primary School, Brindishe Lee Primary School, The BRIT School, Camden School for Girls, Canary Wharf College, Castle View School, Central Foundation School for Boys, Charles Darwin School, Cheam High School, East Dulwich Charter School, Cherry Orchard Primary School, Cherwell School, City and Islington College, Clapton Girls Academy, Colfe's School, Conisborough College, Dagenham Park CE School, Dalmain Primary School, Darrick Wood School, Deptford Green School, Drumbeat School, Dulwich College, Dunraven School, Eastlea Community School, The Elmgreen School, Eltham Hill School, Farrington's School, Forest Hill School, Fossdene Primary School, George Green's School, Greatfields School, Greenslade Primary School, Grinling Gibbons Primary School, Haberdashers' Aske's School, Hatcham College, Harris Academy Bermondsey, Harris Academy Falconwood, Harris Academy Greenwich, Harris Academy Peckham, Hawksmoor Primary School, Hillview School, Impington Village College, James Wolfe Primary School, John Roan School, John Stainer Primary School, Kidbrooke Park Primary School, Kingsdale Foundation School, Lansbury Lawrence Primary School, Leigh Academy Blackheath, Lilian Baylis Technology School, Lucas Vale Primary School, Manorfield Primary School, Marjorie McClure School, Marvels Lane Primary School, Mill Hill County High, Montbelle Primary School, Morpeth School, Mulberry School, New Woodlands School, Nightingale Primary School, The Norwood School, Oasis Academy Silvertown, Old Palace School, Parliament Hill School, Perrymount Primary, Platanos College, Plumstead Manor School, Prendergast Ladywell School, Prendergast Primary School, Prendergast School, Rathfern Primary School, Rhyl Primary School, Royal Greenwich Schools Trust, Royal Wharf Primary School, Rushey Green Primary School, Sacred Heart School, Sandhurst Primary School, Sarah Bonnell School, Sedgehill Academy, South Bank University Academy, St Alfege's Primary School, St Angelas Ursuline School, St Edmund's School, St Luke's Primary School, St Margaret's Primary School, St Marylebone School, St Matthew Academy Primary, St Matthew Secondary, St Paul's Way Trust, St Richards Catholic College, St Stephen's CE Primary School, St Ursula's Convent School, Sydenham School, The Towers School and Sixth Form, Thomas Tallis School, Tidemill Academy, Torridon Primary School, Twin Oaks Primary, Wallington High School For Girls, Watergate School, Welling School, William Edwards School.

How are we funded

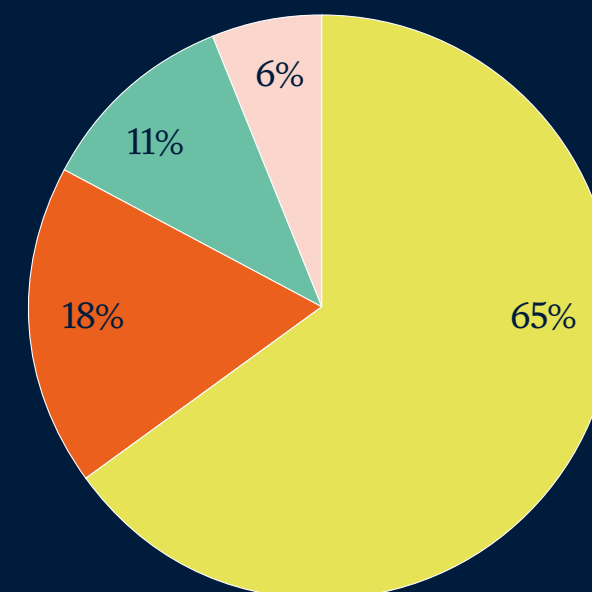
We deliver impact through a mixed funding model that includes:

Public investment
(Arts Council England, DfE, local authorities)

Charitable funding from
trusts, foundations, and donors

Institutional investment
from Trinity Laban

Earned income from fees,
performances, and events



Earned income from fees,
performances & events

Public investment

Institutional investment

Charitable funding from
trusts, foundations & donors

Support *our* work

Your support helps us reach
more people with transformative
creative experiences.

To partner, fund, or collaborate
with Trinity Laban, contact:

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TRINITY LABAN

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