

TRINITY LABAN



# *Public Engagement*

Impact Report 2024-25

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## Excellence *Beyond* Tradition



I am delighted to introduce Trinity Laban's Public Engagement Impact Report for 2024-25. This year's achievements reflect both the scale of our activity and the depth of our commitment to ensuring that music and dance enrich lives across London and the Southeast.

Over the past year, we delivered 2,614 activities, reaching 13,835 individual participants and generating more than 144,000 instances of engagement. Behind these figures are thousands of personal journeys: children discovering creativity for the first time, young artists progressing towards professional training, adults improving their health and wellbeing, and early-career practitioners building sustainable futures.

Our work in Lewisham and Greenwich remains at the heart of our mission, with 64% of participants drawn from these boroughs. Through sustained partnerships with schools, health providers and community organisations, we are embedding the arts where they can make the greatest difference, from SEND classrooms through projects

such as Moving Stories, to hospital-based dance interventions and creative programmes supporting people living with Parkinson's.

At the same time, we continue to nurture talent and strengthen the creative workforce. High proportions of our youth participants report increased confidence, wellbeing and ambition to pursue further study, while students and alumni gain vital paid experience through our engagement programmes, ensuring the next generation of artists and creative leaders is equipped to thrive.

As national conversations around creative health, education recovery and skills development continue to evolve, Trinity Laban demonstrates what long-term, place-based cultural investment can achieve. This report captures one year of activity, but it also reflects a sustained civic commitment: to artistic excellence, to equity of access, and to the transformative power of creativity.

**Thank you for your interest in our work and for supporting a vision in which the arts are central to healthier, more confident and more connected communities.**

# Headline Figures

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**2,614**  
activities delivered

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**157**  
performances  
(59% free to attend)

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**13,835**  
individual participants  
(64% from Lewisham and Greenwich)

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**144,751**  
times people engaged with us

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**370**  
artists employed

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**175**  
Trinity Laban students and

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**19**  
alumni employed

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**124**  
schools reached in London  
and the Southeast

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# Introduction

In 2024–25, Trinity Laban delivered a dynamic public engagement programme across London and the Southeast, creating opportunities for people to access, experience and progress in music, dance, and musical theatre through work in schools, creative health programmes and talent development pathways.

Our work is built on strong partnerships with education, health and community organisations, using the arts to address inequalities, support wellbeing, and open pathways for future creative talent.

## Mission & Approach



We believe creativity should be accessible to everyone. Our approach combines artistic quality with social impact, ensuring our work is inclusive, relevant and responsive to the communities we serve.

We focus on:

### Equity

expanding access regardless of income, background or ability

### Community impact

addressing current 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 strong presence in Lewisham and Greenwich enables us to build deep local relationships while contributing to wider sector leadership.

# Expanding access to the arts

**Widening access to high-quality music and dance remains central to our mission. From early years activity to pre-professional training, we build inclusive, sustained pathways that enable children and young people to participate, progress and thrive, particularly in areas where access to the arts is limited.**

In 2024-25, we continued to deepen partnerships with schools and community organisations across London, delivering long-term programmes alongside performances, intensives and progression opportunities. **Thousands of children and young people** engaged in regular creative activity - many at low or no cost - developing confidence, skills and a lasting connection to the arts.

## Case Study: Moving Stories

'Moving Stories' is an ambitious arts-education project integrating dance and drama to enhance communication, creativity and personal agency among children with special educational needs and disabilities in SEND settings.

Delivered from Autumn 2023 to Summer 2025 in partnership with six Lewisham SEND primary schools and resource bases, **Lewisham Education Arts Network** and **Peoplescape Theatre**, the project was one of six nationally funded through Round 6 of the **Paul Hamlyn Foundation Teacher Development Fund**.

Combining innovative research with a dynamic model of continuing professional development, the project demonstrably improved pupil engagement, confidence and expressive skills—supporting both verbal and non-verbal communication. Its flexible approach enabled personalised learning pathways, while teachers and

teaching assistants reported increased confidence, expanded creative practice and stronger collaborative working.

Led by eight artists from Trinity Laban and Peoplescape Theatre, professional development included modelling, mentoring, co-creation and training, empowering teachers to embed arts-based approaches within their own curricula.

Moving Stories leaves a strong legacy of enhanced pupil outcomes, enriched pedagogy, new resources and a growing professional community, offering a scalable model for embedding the arts in SEND education.

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## Case Study: Summer Schools

Our Summer School programme includes four intensive courses in music, dance, musical theatre and movement, with around **250 students** attending annually.

**66 young people** aged 11-18 attended our Young Musicians' Summer School, with 32% of attendees hailing from Lewisham or Greenwich. Delivered by a world-class team of tutors and nine supporting Trinity Laban student musicians, the four-day intensive culminated in a spectacular gig on the Labyrinth On The Thames festival outdoor stage at King Charles Court.

Our Dance Summer School saw **90 people from 21 countries** experience what it's like to train at Trinity Laban while developing technique and practice across a range of dance forms. With guest companies **Boy Blue** and **Company Wayne McGregor**, participants could create a bespoke schedule that supported the exploration of their dance interests at a variety of levels. In 2025 we offered **fee bursaries** to students from **Artistry Youth Dance, BRIT School** and newly qualified dance teachers to attend our six-day dance summer school.



## Case Study: Music in Schools

Our music in schools activity in 2024–25 combined high-quality performance with meaningful, progression-focused engagement. Four Schools' Concerts at Blackheath Halls reached 761 students from 36 schools, including an expanded KS5 offer incorporating a composition session and prior work with A Level students at a nearby partner school. Jazz on Tour and other touring activity engaged over 500 students through in-school concerts, workshops, and side-by-side experiences, while student-led programmes such as Supersonics and The Sessions brought interactive workshops to a further 646 pupils.

Sustained pathways were a key focus, particularly in jazz. Year-long big band partnerships were established with six schools, with opportunities for progression into our Jazz Hang programme with Tomorrow's Warriors, and new Next Wave ensemble project, overall supporting nearly 200 young people through regular, inclusive activity. Elsewhere, targeted projects - including Sinfonia Strings tours, intensive school partnerships, and a growing musicians-in-residence scheme - demonstrated Trinity Laban's commitment to long-term impact, creating clear routes for young people to access, develop, and progress in music.

*“The quality of the performance was world class. We heard the future of jazz in the UK in our school hall. The concert was awe-inspiring and definitely created a long-lasting impact on our young musicians forever.”*

Teacher talking about Jazz on Tour



## Case Study: Dance in Bellingham



*“When I perform, I feel happy”*

Participant

Bellingham Dances is a **free**, weekly street dance class for young people ages 11-16. The fun and energetic class provides a safe space for participants of all abilities to learn new street dance skills, keep active and create their own choreography.

In summer 2024, light-touch evaluation activities sought qualitative insight into the importance of Trinity Laban's off-site work in the Bellingham area, focusing on Bellingham Dances.

The evaluation highlighted Bellingham Dances as a **safe environment free from**

**negative influences or pressures** from the outside world. The facilitators, who were described as kind, were identified as ensuring safe dance practice (e.g., supporting the young people to learn movements safely and avoiding injury). Other perceived benefits of attending Bellingham Dances included becoming healthier and developing coordination through movement, as well as meeting new people and being part of a community. That Bellingham Dances is free to attend is an important factor, making it possible for some young children to attend where it might not otherwise be financially feasible.

*“Making friends and being here with other people is important”*

Participant

# Embedding Creative Health

**Creativity is central to health and wellbeing. Through our creative health programmes, Trinity Laban delivers high-quality music and dance activity for local adults, enriching cultural life while supporting physical, emotional and social wellbeing.**

In 2024–25, we continued to grow this work in partnership with healthcare providers and community organisations, offering regular, co-created programmes that address social isolation, mental health and long-term health conditions including Parkinson's, brain injury and respiratory illness. Each programme combines artistic excellence with evidence-informed practice, demonstrating the vital role of the arts in preventative and rehabilitative care. We deliver **150 sessions** annually to around **2,500 participants** from our local community. Our creative health groups also perform throughout the year at venues such as **Kew Gardens, The Place**, and at local community events including **Bellingham Festival**.



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## Case Study: Dancing for Health at Lewisham Hospital

In Winter 2024, we were commissioned to deliver a pilot dance intervention in the outpatient neurophysiotherapy unit at University Hospital Lewisham. The programme was led by Trinity Laban Dance Artist Stella Howard, supported by a dance teaching assistant and members of the hospital's physiotherapy team. MSc Dance Science students conducted a study to measure the impact on patients' balance confidence, physical ability and social engagement.

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## Case Study: Singing for Parkinson's

Our Singing for Parkinson's programme is designed to improve the voice and help manage some of the symptoms of Parkinson's whilst taking part in a fun and social activity. Led by Nicola Wydenbach, a trained Singing for Parkinson's practitioner, supported by an occupational therapist, sessions include a vocal and physical warm up based in speech and language practice followed by singing well known songs to practice breathing techniques. In 2024 we supported Medising in the development of a new app uniquely co-created with and for people living with Parkinson's.

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# Nurturing Talent

Talent development at Trinity Laban is a connected journey - linking early access, high-quality training, mentoring and performance to clear progression routes into higher education and the creative industries. We are committed to ensuring that potential, not background, determines opportunity.

In 2024-25, young people across our programmes demonstrated strong artistic and technical progress alongside significant gains in confidence, wellbeing, and aspiration. From youth companies to intensive summer training and Centre for Advanced Training pathways, participants are building the skills, resilience and ambition needed to take their next steps in education and professional practice.

84%

of youth dance participants inspired to continue training and

91%

noticed a positive impact on their confidence

89%

felt prepared for next steps

61%

of Young Musicians' Summer School participants were more interested in studying performing arts at Higher Education level as a result of taking part

79%

of youth dance participants said they'd noticed psychological or well-being benefits from taking part, and

60%

of CAT graduates entered professional dance education

## Case Study: TLYDC x Animate



Animate - Trinity Laban's long-running strand of inclusive creative music-making projects - engaged **40 young musicians** across the year. This included a collaboration with Trinity Laban Youth Dance Company, BACD alum choreographer Roseann Dendy, and composer Aga Seguro-Lugo to create a new cross-artform work, performed at U.Dance London Regional Platform.

*"The collaboration was amazing - I loved the way we worked together rather than the dancers just doing choreography to music."*

Participant

## Case Study: CAT at U.Dance National

Trinity Laban's Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) continues to provide a vital pipeline for talented young dancers, combining access with professional-level experience. In 2024-25, **126 students** participated in the programme - **80% supported by bursaries** and **34% from global majority backgrounds**. Professional projects with leading artists and companies, including Akeim Toussaint Buck, Avant Garde Dance Company, Ceyda Tanc Dance, Faye Stoesser and Matt Harding, ensured students engaged directly with current industry practice.

This commitment to excellence was reflected nationally when a work by Faye Stoesser, created with our CAT students, was selected for performance at the U.Dance National Festival, presented alongside pieces by three National Youth Dance Companies.



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## Case Study: Battle of the Bands

Trinity Laban's second Battle of the Bands saw an explosion in entries from school and youth bands from across South East London. Over **50 young musicians** took part in the final event at Blackheath Halls, won by a band from Langley Park School in Bromley, who went on to receive mentorship and a professional recording session in the Trinity Laban studio. Four of the participating schools received prior mentoring visits from Trinity Laban musicians ahead of the event.

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## Case Study: A Level Music

Our A Level course continues to go from strength to strength. With an examination entry of 38 students this year we were the **second largest provider** of A-Level Music for Pearson Edexcel. Trinity Laban results are consistently well above national averages, with a **100% pass rate** year on year, and in 2025 81.6% achieving Grade B or above (the national average for A-Level Music, Grade B or higher is 52.6%). Our reach in providing high-quality academic study for the 16-19 age group is truly global, with distance-learners joining from across the UK, as well as from Argentina, Thailand and China.



# Supporting the Creative Workforce

We support early-career artists to build sustainable portfolios through paid employment, professional development and mentoring embedded within our public engagement work.

In 2024-25, we employed students and alumni across our programmes - supporting music and dance classes, schools touring, technical delivery and community projects - while providing structured training to strengthen leadership, facilitation and enterprise skills. Alongside this, targeted initiatives for emerging artists created pathways into community practice, expanding confidence, employability and real-world experience while enriching the communities they worked with.

## Case Study: Community Composition



In 2025 we launched a new professional development initiative for emerging community music leaders. Led by artist Aga Serugo-Lugo in partnership with Hillview Community Centre, the programme supported four local trainee musicians - including two Trinity Laban graduates - to develop their community composition skills through an action-learning and mentoring process. Trainees shadowed and co-led eight songwriting workshops with a local older adults group of Jamaican heritage. The project culminated in a public performance at Kew Gardens as part of their Community Week in May, featuring an original group composition performed by over 25 participants supported by the trainee composers. Key outcomes included **increased confidence and employability for trainees** and for participants, a strong sense of pride and achievement.

## Case Study: Amadea Topalli & Emma Greene



**Amadea Topalli** (BMus, 2025) was actively involved in public engagement during her studies, assisting the Animate project, and training as a concert presenter, including co-presenting a Schools' Concert and compering Battle of the Bands. She is now President of Trinity Laban Students' Union, exemplifying the development of confident, audience-facing practitioners.

*"I definitely gained musical leadership skills and the ability to adapt on the spot to adjust to the musical landscape. These skills are invaluable to all musicians and members of the performing arts, and I think in working with youth they really can teach you more about yourself than you could ever learn from any teacher."*

Amadea, reflecting on Animate



**Emma Greene** (BA Contemporary Dance, 2022) has progressed from Graduate Intern (2023-24) to Programme Coordinator for Children and Young People's Dance. During her studies, she won the Innovation Award, receiving funding and mentorship to run her own community festival. She teaches a weekly contemporary class for 8-11 year olds and supports on Creative Health projects, reflecting a clear pathway from training into leadership in participation.

*"Ten years ago, I was one of the young people taking part in public engagement activities at Trinity Laban. I was inspired and went on to study my BA here. In my third year, I completed an Innovation Award project where I connected with members of the Public Engagement dance team. The support I received from the team allowed me to deepen my practice in community dance and helped me to build skills that later equipped me to join the team as a Graduate Intern. Since joining the team, I have received invaluable support in developing my skills. I am now confident in my practice and continuing to grow my skills and artistry in a nurturing environment. Most significantly, I now use what I have learned to help inspire other people on their dance journeys."*

Emma Greene

# Thank you to our partners

## Partners

999 Club, Charlton Athletic Community Trust, Creative Pulse, Future Talent, Goldsmiths University, Harris Federation, Headway, Horniman Museum and Gardens, In Harmony Lambeth, Kinetika Bloco, Labyrinth, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, Lewisham Council, Lewisham Education Arts Network, 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), Tomorrow's Warriors, U.Dance.

## Networks

Civic University Agreement, 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, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, City Bridge Foundation, The Wolfson Foundation, London Music Fund.

## Schools

Archer Academy, Ardingly College, Ark Acton, Ark Bolingbroke Academy, Ark Globe, Ark Walworth Academy, Athelney Primary School, Athelney Resource Base, Bacons College, Bancroft Prep, Baring School, Barking Abbey, Beecroft Garden Primary School, Blackfen School, Blackheath High School, Bow School, Brent Knoll School, Brindishe Green, Brindishe Lee, Brindishe Manor, Brit School, Bromley High School GDST, Canary Wharf College, Central Foundation Boys School, Charles Darwin, Cheam High School, Cherry Orchard, Cherwell, Childeric Primary School, Christ Church, Dagenham Park, Dalmain Primary School, Deer Park, Deptford Green School, Devos Drumbeat, Dunraven School, Eastern School, Eltham College, Eltham Hill, Forest Hill, Fossdene Primary School, Friern Barnet, George Green School, Good Shepherd School, Gordonbrock Primary School, Greatfields, Haberdashers Aske, Haberdashers' Boys School, Haberdashers' Hatcham, Halstow Primary School, Harris Academy Greenwich, Harris Beulah Hill, Harris Invictus Academy, Holy Trinity Primary School, Homewood School, Hoptall, Horniman, Ilfield, Invicta Primary School, JFS Brent, John Stainer Primary School, Kidbrooke Park Primary School, Kingsdale Foundation School, Kingsford, Langley Park School for Boys, Leigh Academy, Leighton Park School, Leventhorpe School, Lucas Vale, Mill Hill, Mulberry Academy Shoreditch, Mulberry School for Girls, NCC Havering 6th Form College, New Woodlands, Nightingale Primary School, Norwood, Notre Dame Primary School, Oasis Shirley Park, One Sixth Form College, Parliament Hill, Prendergast School, Prendergast Vale School, Priory School, Rathfern Primary School, Raynes Park High, Riverston School School, 21 Sedgehill, Sedgehill Academy, Sherfield School, Sial, Southwark College, St Mary Magdalene School, St Matthew, St Patrick RC Primary School, St Richards, St Stephens, St Ursula's Convent School, St. George's Primary School, Stoke Newington School & Sixth Form, Sydenham School, The Archbishop Lanfranc Academy, The Gateway Academy, The Highfield School, The Marist School Ascot, The Park College, Thomas Tallis, Thorntree Primary School, Tidemill Resource Base, Torrison Towers, Twyford CE High School, Watergate, Welling, Windmill

# How are we funded

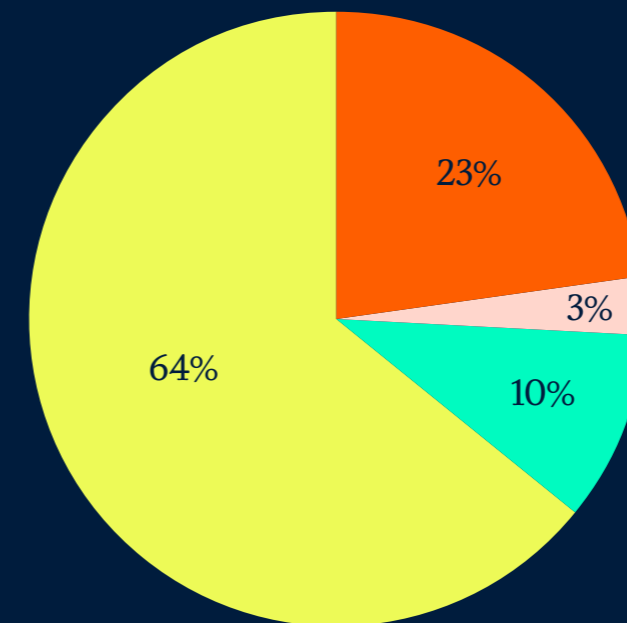
We deliver impact through a mixed funding model that includes:

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

TRINITY LABAN

Support  
*our*   
work

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

To partner, fund, or collaborate with  
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