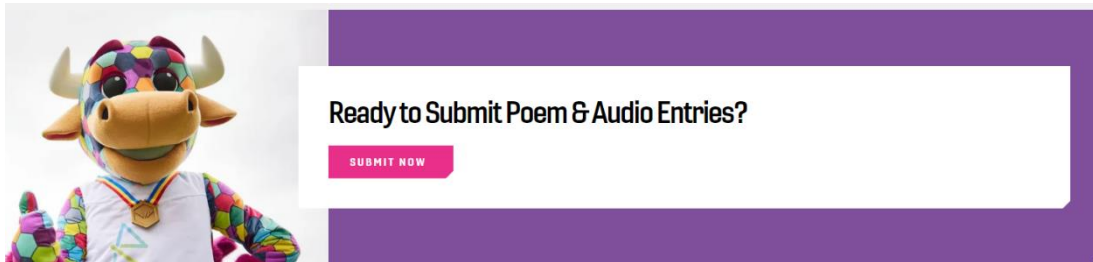


BRING THE POWER UPDATE

YOUTH VOICE COMPETITION

The Bring the Power youth programme has opened its 'Our Voice' competition. Our Voice is a poetry writing competition, inviting young people aged 6 to 14 to write poetry on the theme of 'finding common ground'. Poems will highlight how the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games are bringing together nations and territories, athletes and communities across the Commonwealth and settings have the chance to win some amazing prizes, including:

- Your poetry showcased on screen at Birmingham2022 Neighbourhood Festival Sites
- Workshop with a professional poet
- Printed versions of your poems
- Personalised certificates.



This competition is live on our website and the deadline to enter is **24 June**, [check it out now](#) including a special video created by our very own Youth Voice Panel!

ARTIST EDUCATOR TALKS

On 26 May we held our second artist talk at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. **Fierce** talked about their exhibition '**Healing Gardens of Bab**' and facilitated an informal chat about how they have co-created their exhibition with a young person's steering group, touching on LGBTQI+ histories across the Commonwealth and how to make joyful work that celebrates different identities and finding positivity in our differences. As one teacher remarked,

"...that was fantastic; extremely interesting. We are a school that values the inclusivity of LGBT! ... And our children recognise how valuable our differences are..."

Our next talk on the **22 June** will look at the **intersection of art and sport** that Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games has sparked, and we will hear from a few of the commissioned artists who have made art in response to sport. These events are **FREE** and are curated to show our appreciation of the amazing teachers, educators, and youth workers in our region. Book your place [here](#).

SCHOOLS PROGRAMME – LATEST FIGURES

So far, we have delivered **over 200 workshops** in schools and community youth settings across the West Midlands – with approximately **8,000 young people** participating in these workshops.

Over 500 schools have accessed and downloaded our educational resources across Key Stages 1, 2 and 3. The majority of downloads have been from schools based in the West Midlands, others nationally across England and also as far as Australia and New Zealand!



110 schools and groups took part in our Good Luck Challenge, with a total of **11,628 young people writing letters and creating artwork for athletes**. Our team have been identifying the winners from this challenge and those winners will be informed soon!

12 School Festival Days spanning across the West Midlands Combined Authority are scheduled to take place during June and July. These days will bring pupils from local schools together to participate in **cultural** and **sports activities** in a local arts-based venue.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We have been working alongside **Birmingham Children's Trust** and 2muchpassion to deliver cooking workshops for children and young carers. The workshops are geared towards **Jamaican cuisine**, as a Commonwealth country, and teaches how to make healthy meals, food hygiene and how to safely use kitchen utensils. The Bring the Power team, visited one of the workshops last week and learnt how to make saltfish fritters, patties, and rice, it tasted amazing! The skills taught are valuable for young adults moving into independence and Birmingham Children's Trust hope to embed these opportunities into a sustainable offer, continuing throughout summer and after the Games.



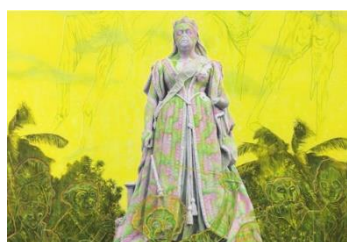
YOUTH VOICE PANEL - UPCOMING

Bring the Power's Youth Voice Panel are travelling to Hackney, London this month to collaborate with award-winning social action youth group, Rise365. The weekend will consist of presenting and sharing good practice, preparing, and serving food at Rise365's successful Food Bank, and planning a celebratory event in July where the young people of London and Liverpool will join the Youth Voice Panel in Birmingham for the Games Opening Ceremony Dress Rehearsal.



July will also see a **flagship moment** for our Youth Voice Panel where they will deliver their own mass-participation event in Longbridge, supported by Bring the Power, with a key focus on **mental health and wellbeing** for young people, post-pandemic.

CULTURAL EDUCATION – UPCOMING



Hew Locke, Foreign Exchange. Birmingham's city-centre sculpture of Queen Victoria is reimagined by Guyanese-British artist Hew Locke for the Birmingham 2022 Festival. Locke's vision is to create an "object of veneration, leading a battalion of other statues to represent the home nation throughout the Empire."

Locke's interest in the power of statues originates from his childhood in Guyana where he passed a sculpture of Queen Victoria every day on the way to school. He has been reimagining historical statues for twenty years.

Schools can book onto guided **tours and workshops**, download free **activity packs**, and attend the **School Showcase** (20 -31 July), where there will be a celebration of artworks made by pupils from primary and secondary schools, responding to Hew Locke's work and themes of humanity, interconnectedness, and common ground. Find out more [here!](#)

If you have been sent on this newsletter and aren't already down to receive updates from us, please [register your interest here.](#)