

## **Bath Spa University School of Education/ School of Music and Performing Arts**

### **Application for Strategic Funding of Research Centres: Centre for Research in Arts Education (CRAE)**

#### **Title of proposed activity**

*Life Stories*: an international interdisciplinary arts educational pilot project, to promote the profile, and develop the funding potential of collaborative arts educational research at BSU

#### **A summary of the proposed activity**

1. (by Dec 2009) prepare CRAE's application for an external grant award of approximately £200k over 3 years to extend the scope of the *Life Stories* project outlined below – this will be made through either Leverhulme Trust or through the National Teaching Fellowship Project awards
2. (by Spring 2010) organise a postgraduate Research Conference focusing on the *Life Stories* pilot project's theme of the role of the arts within a holistic, development approach within education. This will be targeted at practitioners, academics, postgraduates and will be linked with other arts-research based institutions and national arts educational organisations (5x5x5=Creativity, National Society of Education in Art & Design)
3. (May 2009) new links will be established with educational institutions in Ethiopia (The College of Education, Addis Ababa University and associate schools) through June Bianchi's conference and research visit to Ethiopia (funded partly through her National Teaching Fellowship).
4. (May-July 2009) CRAE members to work as an interdisciplinary team in conjunction with Steve Cook, Headteacher at the Grange School, South Gloucestershire and other staff involved to develop *Life Stories* project's themes and implementation for 2009-10
5. (Oct 2009) Project participants from within BSU and the partner school The Grange will work with IROKO Theatre Company, in an experiential African theatre in education residency during Black History Month. Initially IROKO will work in residency at BSU with PGCE Art, Music, English/Drama trainees and undergraduate Dance students. IROKO will then work at the Grange School during a day's residency, in conjunction with PGCE Art, Music, English/Drama trainees. Follow up events will be organised within the disciplines to generate ongoing arts educational research linking participants in generating further research outcomes (e.g. sculpture trail, creative writing, performances) which can be disseminated as outlined in 'outcomes' below.

#### **Detailed Rationale**

*Life Stories* is a pilot arts educational project based on the partnership model set out within Bath Spa University's application for 'Find Your Talent Bid' (Davies, Bianchi et al, May 2008), a model already successfully implemented by CRAE. *Life Stories* project, will address all of the SFRC's strategic objectives, in part within the period of this funding bid, and in full within its proposal to extend its scope through application for external funding over a period of 3 years.

*Life Stories* project will foster and extend existing partnerships currently in place within CRAE, further developing collaborative links between academic staff within the Schools of Education and Music and Performing Arts, and associate partners of CRAE based within educational institutions, cultural centres and the arts both nationally and internationally. *Life Stories* will be embedded within the arts components of the PGCE Secondary Course, with links across the undergraduate and Continued Professional Development programmes both within the Schools of Education and Music and Performing Arts. *Life Stories* focuses on widening understanding of, and celebrating cultural heterogeneity, addressing key arts educational imperatives to both widen access and inclusion within the arts, and enhance awareness and understanding of diversity through the arts.

CRAE's *Life Stories* pilot project model, embedded within BSU arts educational and arts course, and emerging from international and national institutional links and arts and performance residencies, will extensively contribute to the collaborative research community at BSU. *Life Stories* pilot project will:

- enrich the international status of BSU through increasing its links with international educational institutions and arts practitioners including educational institutions in Ethiopia and African Theatre Company IROKO (SFRC Strategic Objective a);
- act as a pilot model to increase the volume of financial bids made beyond BSU, acting as a focus for either a Leverhulme Research Project Grant application or National Teaching Fellowship Project Award, both within the region of £200k (SFRC Strategic Objective a);
- enrich the national and international status of BSU through contributing to the arts educational research community through developing an international arts educational project and disseminating the project outcomes by publications, performances and exhibitions (SFRC Strategic Objective a);
- enrich the national and international status of BSU through hosting a national postgraduate research conference in conjunction with other universities conducting arts-based research (e.g. Roehampton, Goldsmiths, London Institute) and national arts educational agencies (5x5x5=Creativity, National Society of Education in Art & Design), which will also disseminate the *Life Stories* project practitioner model process and its outcomes (SFRC Strategic Objectives b & c )
- increase the profile of research at BSU through a more extensive bid for external funding via a grant application to Leverhulme/NTFS. CRAE would then initiate a broader-based internationally linked research project exploring the role of the arts within a holistic, development approach to education, through a more extended partnership model which will build on existing partnerships established through the project. This will also involve bidding for funding to establish an international conference exploring the project's themes of arts and development, to involve practitioners, academics, postgraduate researchers. The application would include an agenda to work closely with national and international arts educational agencies (5x5x5=Creativity, National Society of Education in Art & Design, International Society of Education in Art & Design) in developing both the project and conference (SFRC Strategic Objectives b & c ).

*Life Stories* pilot project is based on a practitioner research model, providing opportunities for participants: trainee teachers, undergraduate and postgraduate students, members of CRAE and project associates to investigate the role of the arts in addressing key issues identified within CRAE's mission statement to ' *create new opportunities for wider participation in the arts as well as frequently challenging notions of cultural exclusion*' (CRAE website). *Life Stories* project also espouses the rationale for the Find Your Talent Bid (Davies, Bianchi et al, 2008), seeking to provide a pilot model for accessing further funding in order to:

' *enrich existing strengths as well as addressing cultural deprivation and limitations in cultural perceptions, through engagement with key issues such as:*

- *understanding and celebrating cultural diversity and cultural shifts within British life;*
- *recognising the role of culture in understanding links between local and global perceptions and practice within the environment'*

To date, CRAE has presented a number of successful smaller funding bids (e.g. Gulbenkian Foundation (£10K), Arts Council (£7.5k), Arts and Business (£2K), partner Galleries (£10K), Link European Union Social Fund, Esmee Fairburn etc.) which have generated project funding and *Life Stories* would enable the Centre to aim for more extensive collaborative funding.

*Life Stories* is informed by the notion, central to the British Council, Development Education Association (DEA) & DFID Global Schools Partnership, that development of a global dimension within education enables participants to examine and question their own perceptions and attitudes, extending understanding of their own and others' life experiences, and the relationship that people have to each other as global citizens within a changing world. CRAE has already initiated arts

educational practice around this theme through its existing international educational and arts collaborations - these have been widely disseminated through publications, conferences and exhibitions and *Life Stories* will further raise the profile of CRAE and BSU in generating interdisciplinary arts outcomes which will be presented within a national and international milieu.

*Life Stories* will extend the collaboration model to include members of the arts across the whole spectrum of CRAE's expertise, alongside external national and international partners. Working closely with British Council & DFID Global Schools Partnership school, The Grange School, Warmley, *Life Stories* will build on existing successful international links and models of practice. The 2007-8 collaborative arts connection between The Grange School; BSU; IB School, Rhotak, India; and Central Ocean Stream Kathakali Company, has facilitated an ongoing portfolio of partner events and outcomes linked with PGCE Secondary Art & Design at BSU, and this will be extended throughout the pilot project, with the aim being to extend this, through the external funding application, to include a range of partners as identified within the Find Your Talent Bid.

*Life Stories* aims to enhance collaborative links within BSU, with Schools of Education and Music and Performing Arts working in conjunction with The Grange School's Global School focus, fostering additional links with national arts organisations such as 5x5x5=Creativity, cultural centres, arts and performance professionals and international arts and educational partners. The Development Education strand within CRAE will be enhanced through the establishment of further international links with educational institutions in Ethiopia (The University of Addis Ababa and its partner schools), and through a residency by the IROKIO African Theatre Company linked with Black History Month during October 2009.

Deploying the full range of CRAE disciplines, the project will promote the role of the arts within a development approach to education, challenging a Euro-centred paradigm through enriching understanding of African arts and culture. This will be achieved through the following programme :

#### **A list of the staff involved in the proposed activity and their roles**

**June Bianchi** (Leader of CRAE) : project co-ordinator liaising with colleagues from within BSU, and local and international participants; establishing links with The College of Education, University of Addis Ababa and schools in Addis Ababa and UK; arranging programme of workshops and research events in conjunction with Iroko Theatre Company; arranging postgraduate research symposia; co-ordinating writing Leverhulme Research Project Grant application

**Dylan Gwyer-Roberts** (member of CRAE): co-ordinating PGCE Secondary Music trainees' project participation; contributing to postgraduate Research symposium and the Leverhulme Research Project Grant application

**Penny Hay** (member of CRAE): generating project links with wider agencies (e.g. 5x5x5=Creativity, artists and cultural centres) particularly in relation to the postgraduate Research symposium and the Leverhulme Research Project Grant application

**Chris Lewis Smith** (member of CRAE – School of Music and Performing Arts): participating in dance aspect of the project in conjunction with undergraduate students of Dance at BSU; participating in the postgraduate Research symposium and the Leverhulme Research Project Grant application

**Nick Mayfield** (member of CRAE): contributing to the musical aspect of the project; contributing to the postgraduate Research symposium.

**Lorna Smith** (new member of CRAE): co-ordinating PGCE Secondary English trainees' project participation; contributing to postgraduate Research symposium and the Leverhulme Research Project Grant application

**Steve Cook**, Head of the Grange School (associate of CRAE): The Grange will be participating as the hub school, focal to the partnership aspects of the pilot project acting as host to the Iroko Theatre performance and workshops in conjunction with the ‘Thinking To Learn’ and the Global School initiatives; contributing to postgraduate Research symposium and the Leverhulme Research Project Grant application.

**Carol Cooke**, writer and collaborator on a number of previous BSU arts education projects (associate of CRAE): contributing to writing workshops based on the project’s theme; contributing to postgraduate Research symposium

**The College of Education, University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia & schools in Addis Ababa:** establish link between Ethiopian institutions, BSU, The Grange School in conjunction with the British Council & DFID Global Schools Partnerships

#### **A breakdown of resources required and their cost**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
June Bianchi to establish links with University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia & schools in Addis Ababa in conjunction with attendance at International Development Educational Research Conference	<b>£500</b>
Contribution towards transport (further travel costs to be met by NTFS):	
Accommodation in Addis Ababa for research period to establish links - visit University of Addis Ababa & schools (4 days) (further accommodation costs to be met by NTFS):	<b>£240</b>
Subsistence for research period (4 days & travel period) (further accommodation costs to be met by NTFS):	<b>£160</b>
IROKO Theatre Company 2 days residency : Day 1 presentation and workshops - based at BSU with PGCE trainees & Dance undergraduates	<b>£1000</b>
Day 2 performance and workshops - based at The Grange School with Year 7 cohort and PGCE trainees	<b>£1400</b>
Administrative support for postgraduate conference x 4 days @£150	<b>£600</b>
Administrative support to complete NTFS/Leverhulme bid x 4 days @£150	<b>£600</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4500</b>

#### **Statement of expected outcomes from the activity**

The expected outcomes from this activity are as follows:

1. A substantial research project proposal to Leverhulme Trust or National Teaching Fellowship Project Award (up to £250K) submitted by Summer term 2010.
2. Dissemination of pilot project findings via a postgraduate student conference, papers at other conferences and an article in *International Journal of Art & Design Education*.
3. Increased profile for CRAE and BSU within the international arts educational community through forging closer academic and arts-based research links between educational institutions in Africa and African performance company in UK.
4. Increased profile for CRAE and BSU within the national and international arts educational community through successful implementation and dissemination of the *Life Stories* project, including production of publications, performances, exhibitions and conferences

4. Enhanced understanding within the members of CRAE and our external partners, on the scope for implementation of CRAE's ethos, aims and objectives through implementation of a pilot project and development of a more extended research plan, building confidence in our practitioner research process and practice and our potential to disseminate it.

5. Development of closer relationships with national and international arts educational agencies (5x5x5, NSEAD, INSEA) to open up potential for further research funding, recruitment of teacher participants in research activity and opportunities for dissemination.

**A statement on how the activity will promote future activities of the centre(s) and enhance the reputation of research at the university.**

The proposed activity will promote the future activities of the centre in the following ways:

1. If the Leverhulme Trust/NTFS application is successful, the centre will expand its research focus, enabling it to take on paid research staff and will be fully engaged in a major collaborative research project likely to generate considerable publicity and several academic publications.
2. It will strengthen CRAEs links with other arts educational research centres and agencies enabling us to participate in more extensive future research and consultancy work.

The activity will enhance the reputation of CRAE as follows:

1. Implementing and disseminating an international arts educational research project will raise awareness of the research potential of BSU within the international arts educational community. This will reflect well upon the status of research at BSU.
2. If the Leverhulme Trust application is successful, the publicity generated will benefit CRAE and BSU both locally and nationally.

**A statement of support from the Head of the Centre indicating how the bid will contribute to the aims and aspirations of the centre.**

As head of centre I wholeheartedly support this initiative, which builds upon our existing body of research in the field of practitioner research, addressing key foci identified as central to CRAE's ethos, in relation to inclusion and diversity issues. *Life Stories* pilot project would enable CRAE to forge stronger links within the international arts educational community and specifically within arts educational agencies and other institutions supporting arts education based research.