

SMASHfestUK

WHY *The reason we exist*

SMASHfestUK aims to increase access to, and uptake in, STEM activities by delivering a programme of STEM activities for people living in a deprived area of London. SMASHfestUK use the creative arts to engage the public in STEM learning using a narrative-driven theme.

SMASHfestUK uses a programme of outreach activities and a major annual STEM festival to engage family groups, primary school-aged children and teenagers.

	WHAT <i>Theory of change</i>	HOW <i>Our Activities</i>
Young Explainers (teenagers)	<p>SMASHfestUK strengthens young peoples' science capital by:</p> <p>Providing opportunities for young people to develop and deepen their knowledge of STEM (particularly encouraging the development of their own interests - <i>becoming young innovators- 2018</i>)</p> <p>Providing experience and developing confidence in communicating STEM knowledge to others (strengthening their public engagement)</p> <p>Developing transferable life skills (teamwork, problem solving, leadership skills etc.)</p> <p>Providing opportunities for young explainers to network with STEM professionals, academics and other STEM organisations</p> <p>Encouraging and supporting longer-term engagement in STEM education, learning and employment.</p>	<p>Pre-festival training in STEM communication (and knowledge exchange opportunities)</p> <p>Experience of STEM careers: opportunities to meet, work alongside and network with STEM professionals.</p> <p>Post-festival skills exchange and additional training (2018).</p> <p>Supporting STEM initiative: encouraging and supporting the development of STEM communication activities (following their own interests)</p> <p>Providing opportunities for further engagement. i.e. SMASHfestUK mini-festivals, family science activities and STEM homework club (2018)</p>
Family visitors (festivals) (adults and children)	<p>SMASHfestUK strengthens the family groups' science capital by:</p> <p>Providing free access to STEM activities in locations that are popular and populated by the local community</p>	<p>An annual STEM festival that mediates STEM knowledge through comedy, performance, demonstrations, interactive exhibits and experiments using an overarching narrative as a framework for discussion and exploration.</p>

	<p>Increasing STEM literacy: by utilising different learning styles to engage family groups with STEM knowledge and understanding (theatre, comedy, interactive exhibits, demonstrations, experiments and more - using visual, aural, read/write and Kinaesthetic learning styles)</p> <p>Using a strong narrative framework to show how science and STEM relate to the real world</p> <p>Encouraging intergenerational learning and conversations about STEM between the generations.</p> <p>Providing key access points to STEM experts in the academic and professional field</p> <p>Developing knowledge about the transferability of science: linking activities with STEM careers.</p> <p>Encouraging further interest in STEM: Providing information about STEM opportunities in the local community, developing extension exercises (SMASHfestUK website - 2018). Enthusing the public to take an interest in STEM and providing follow-on deeper-engagement opportunities throughout the year (2018).</p>	<p>Delivering a varied package of STEM communication techniques that draw on key learning styles.</p> <p>Training/encouraging communicators to engage hard-to-reach groups using real-world application and encouraging families to work together.</p> <p>Working with local community groups and schools to integrate STEM practice and promote SMASHfestUK</p> <p>Making STEM visible in the community: By using young explainers from the local community to communicate STEM knowledge to others.</p>
<p>School Groups</p>	<p>SMASHfestUK aim to strengthen primary school pupil's science capital by...</p> <p>Enthusing and engaging primary school children in the SMASHfestUK topic</p> <p>Helping pupils to understand a phenomenon (how to use STEM to prepare, rebuild and benefit society). <i>To learn something new.</i></p> <p>Inspiring pupils to think creatively about how to use STEM to solve real-world problems.</p>	<p>Engaging learning: delivering narrative related STEM workshops and assemblies to schools in the local South London area</p> <p>Extended learning: On-line teacher resources (2018)</p> <p>Empowering schools: Linking with selected schools to provide deeper engagement and participation in the festivals (for the community <i>by the community</i>)</p> <p>Promoting festival and out of school STEM clubs (2018)</p>

	Encourage pupils to come to the festival and/or take part in out of school STEM clubs (2018)	
Contributors	<p>Work with a variety of academics, STEM professionals, educationalists, performers and artists to promote STEM in its broadest sense.</p> <p>Provide access to new audiences (often underrepresented in STEM)</p> <p>To help contributors to promote their programmes</p>	Engage new and varied partners

CORE BELIEFS

The beliefs that underpin our organisation and are demonstrated in what we do

STEM is of major importance in affective positive change in society and the environment.

We believe that young people have the potential to shape and define future STEM directions. By engaging them at a young age with exciting and accessible STEM activities we aim to contribute to developing and supporting science capital and increasing interest and uptake in STEM education and professions in the Deptford area.

We believe that the key to encouraging lifelong STEM participation and interest is in including and engaging the whole family.

CHARACTERISTICS

The qualities that define us as an organisation and as SMASHfesters,

STEM IS FOR ALL!

SMASHfestUK believe that all people, regardless of their age, gender, social or ethnic background, should have access to and experience of STEM learning outside of school

CREATIVITY & PLAY

SMASHfestUK use exploration, play and performance to engage people in STEM education

INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING

We encourage families to work together by providing group activities and promoting conversation between generations. We believe that family support in learning together is important.

NARRATIVE FRAMEWORK

An important way of engaging a broader public in STEM is through the use of narrative themes and performance elements that help locate STEM to everyday experiences.

COLLABORATION

We work together with academics, STEM professionals, artists, musicians and performers as well as teenagers from the local community because we know that many voices are better than one.

