Alt - Making a career in the arts in and around Southend-on-Sea
One of the fastest growing sectors in the UK is the Creative Industries, holding a leading status in the world and contributing significantly to the British economy. Alt Art School sets out to give you the best opportunity to access the diverse range of opportunities that are on offer, providing the information and connections to artists, creative practitioners, businesses and organisations, which can help increase your skills, knowledge and experience of a wide range of artistic disciplines.

Creative pursuits can benefit all aspects of your personal and social development. Thinking creatively develops your conceptual and lateral thinking, allowing you to be a better problem solver, team worker, communicator and questioner. Engaging in creative activities can give you a broader understanding of the contemporary world. This guide can help you to discover career opportunities, expand your artistic skill set, try something new, meet new people or just satisfy a curious creative appetite. So look out for events, activities and informal groups alongside the listings of local courses, workshops and the chance to volunteer and gain work experience.

We have listed opportunities that will get you closer to the professionals in your area – those who can help you gain experience of working in the arts and those who can provide advice if a career in the arts is what you would like to do.

We have intervieweded people who have already been exploring the options and shared their stories as examples of different pathways into the arts and we have uncovered a wide range of extra-curricular learning opportunities (not listed or published elsewhere).

Alt Art School is intended to enable you to see at a glance the vast amount of creative activity on your doorstep, the spaces around the street corner that act as hubs, forums and creative communities. In short we want Alt Art School to help you find new creative skills, to find new connections into the art world in Southend, give you a head start in pursuing a creative career or broaden your thinking to enhance opportunities in other fields.

Good luck. We hope you find it of use.

Colette Bailey, Artistic Director, Metal
Joe Hill, Director, Focal Point Gallery
Focal Point Gallery offers residents of South Essex and visitors to the region opportunities to experience high quality contemporary art. Situated in the centre of the town, on the ground floor of the new library and learning facility, The Forum, it contributes to making Southend-on-Sea an increasingly attractive place to live, to visit, study and practice visual arts.

The organisation produces up to seven gallery exhibitions and offsite projects each year in which artists and curators are given a platform to make new work in response to FPG’s unique location. Each programme includes a series of educational activities by a range of artists, curators and writers, and aims to establish ongoing collaborations with international arts institutions, and engage with a wide range of local community groups, families, schools, children and young people.

The gallery is a centre for the nationally recognised Arts Awards and offers courses in all levels. It is also a member of Engage, the National Association for Gallery Education, and participates in national projects. Regular events include Family Arts Days, Young Artists’ Clubs, Children’s Art Week, Experimental Photography sessions, The Big Draw, screenings, tours, talks and bespoke workshops.

“It was brilliant working with Focal Point Gallery – the commitment and attention to detail was extraordinary. It is really inspiring to see an art organisation meet the expectations of an international art audience, whilst serving the needs of the local audiences in Southend so fully. It is a rare model which shows that effective ‘outreach’ does not depend upon compromise.”

Elizabeth Price, 2012 Turner Prize Winner.

The FPG Learning team

FPG’s team of workshop leaders comprises of artists from a variety of disciplines, bringing a distinct and varied method to learning. Professionals from the areas of film, photography, design, illustration, painting, printmaking and sculpture share a contemporary approach to making art.

Participants are encouraged to take part in critical debate referencing the exhibitions, gaining transferable skills and increased confidence to engage in the wider world of education and work. Different interests and skill levels are catered for, offering support in understanding processes and concepts of the artwork and in learning new approaches and techniques.

Supporting and developing artists and students

Focal Point Gallery also reaches out to individuals who have an interest in critical engagement with art through its informative series of discussion groups, Reading Salons, Film Club and artists’ talks. Utilising its close links with South Essex College and University of Essex, FPG encourages active participation from young people, students and graduates and to take advantage of the volunteers’ programme which provides a unique opportunity to gain experience of an exhibition environment.

Gallery tours

Informal gallery tours are available to individuals, families, schools and community groups as an introduction to current art practice.

www.focalpoint.org.uk
01702 534108

If you have time constraints, commit to a short-term project, like an event. Even a couple of days can be a great way to get started on some content for your portfolio – and some contacts for life.
Organisation Profile

Metal, Southend

Metal is an arts charity, founded in 2002. They work from three buildings around the UK in Liverpool, Peterborough and Southend-on-Sea. In each place, they work from buildings of historic significance that they have transformed from empty or derelict spaces into vibrant cultural community hubs.

Their home in Southend-on-Sea is Chalkwell Hall, set in the grounds of Chalkwell Park. They renovated the Hall in 2008/09 and it is now well-used, housing upwards of 40 international and UK artists-in-residence each year that live-in for short periods of time creating new projects and work for Southend. They host artist’s talks, exhibitions, residential Culture LABs for artistic professional development, as well as festivals and a wide range of educational activities with schools and HE and FE institutions. They currently work with around 8000 young people each year through their education work.

Metal’s regular programme of large-scale events includes:

- Village Green – a music and arts festival that attracts around 25,000 visitors each year
- Village Green: Next Generation – a schools festival for 6000 Southend school pupils
- NetPark – the world’s first digital art park in Chalkwell Park

Estuary – a biennial arts event in venues along both the Essex and Kent shorelines of the Thames

They have recently renovated and opened their new Metal Art School within Chalkwell Park, a dedicated art and education space that works with people of all ages, abilities and from all walks of life, offering courses for young people and adults. Within Metal Art School they have a fully equipped digital studio to enable art to be produced using different software, iPads, and computers as well as film, audio, composition and editing software.

Metal and Metal Art School offer a wide range of opportunities for getting involved – from taking part in their regular Arts Award courses (Discover through to Gold), adult evening classes, artist professional development seminars, workshops in schools, work experience, live brief experience and volunteering.

chalkwell@metalculture.com
www.metalculture.com
01702 470700

Organisation Profile

The Forum

The Forum Southend-on-Sea is a unique and exciting partnership project between Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, the University of Essex and South Essex College. Together they have created a brand new, state-of-the-art library and learning facilities in the heart of Southend Town Centre.

Completed in August 2013, The Forum offers Southend residents and students unprecedented access to the books, archives and records that the three partners each held separately before. This joint approach means each of the organisations benefits from being able to offer an upgraded and expanded library and increased learning opportunities.

Set within a new public square, The Forum is also the new home of Focal Point Gallery as well as a new café and lecture theatre. It acts as a major forum for community-based activities and has become an integral part of the town centre, assisting in its re-generation.
There is room for people of all ages, young and old, to read, study, research and take part in different activities at the new library. There are regular events, talks and book signings by writers, authors and other guest speakers in the lecture theatre, as well as other community literary and artistic activities. In addition, the four-storey building provides a modern new teaching facility for the College and a stimulating new research and learning environment for the University.

The Forum includes a Big Screen, allowing the display of digital artwork from local, national and international artists. It is also used for live relays of Opera and other cultural events, attracting new audiences to these art forms.

Through Southend Borough Council there are a number of both volunteering and work experience opportunities across all the libraries and museums in Southend – including at The Forum.

www.theforumsouthend.co.uk

Organisation Profile

Big Screen Southend

Big Screen Southend is a purpose-built display screen in the heart of Southend-on-Sea designed for the presentation of artist commissions, live transmissions and short or feature films relative to the cultural context of Southend, South Essex or further afield. The regular programme for the screen operates on a quarterly basis, with each quarter including one artist film commission, including additional films and community events which are all free to attend. In addition, Big Screen Southend welcomes proposals from artists, filmmakers, students and more.

Located at the centre of Elmer Square, the screen is a hundred yards from Southend Central Station. Big Screen Southend is a partnership project between Focal Point Gallery, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, University of Essex, South Essex College and The Forum.

jamesravinet@southend.gov.uk
01702 212918

Organisation Profile

Southend Central Library

Spanning two floors of the newly built Forum Southend-on-Sea, the library is a shared resource, integrating over 150,000 public, university and college books. Offering colourful and comfortable spaces in which to relax, read, meet and study, the Forum Library is an innovation with community in mind. Free computer access is available, with a wide range of inbuilt resources to make life and study that bit easier.

Southend Borough Council offer both volunteering and work experience opportunities across all the libraries and museums in Southend.

Anne Bonham
librarydevelopment@southend.gov.uk

Organisation Profile

The Old Waterworks

The Old Waterworks is an independent, artist-led space sited in a Victorian water works that has been converted into artist studios, project spaces, screening room, print room and dark room.

The aim of The Old Waterworks is to provide opportunities and space for education and professional development of the arts. The project is community focussed and strives to bring together local talent from a diverse range of creative interests in order to stimulate interest in the arts across Southend and surrounding areas. In particular,
The Old Waterworks encourages the integration of science and technology into artistic development due to its strong links with technology groups who use the building.

The Old Waterworks is working with local colleges to give higher and further education students their first taste of creating work for a professional gallery environment as well as providing tailored work experience opportunities for career development. Projects like this are bolstered by the community of studio artists and members. This gives a crucial base where they can produce new work amongst a critical and supportive peer network.

To support the running of facility, spaces are also available for hire to local filmmakers, photographers and musicians. The project is supported and made possible by the benefaction of the building by Essex & Suffolk Water.

www.theoldwaterworks.com
@old_waterworks
facebook.com/theoldwaterworks
oldwaterworks@gmail.com

Saturday and Sunday 12.00pm to 5.00pm
Other times by appointment

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**Craft**

**Pottery/Ceramics**
**Richard Baxter**
Richard can provide clay/pottery projects in schools, colleges and for groups. He provides materials and takes work produced away to fire in his studio. He works from Old Leigh Studios where he also runs a gallery space with work on show and for sale. He often gives talks and demonstrations to groups from here.
All ages and abilities
Fees apply
01702 470490 / 07929 607270
richard@richardbaxter.com
www.richardbaxter.com

**Sculpture/Ceramics**
**Madelaine Hanman Murphy**
Madelaine currently works in porcelain, and Raku, a Japanese method of open-air firing. She is an experienced teacher, workshop leader and also develops participatory projects with people of all ages. She currently runs classes from her studio in and also works peripatetically within a wide range of contexts. All ages and abilities.
Fees apply
07545 375246
plumbum@gmail.com
www.madelainemurphy.com
www.hanmanmurphy.com
www.waterloohouseporcelain.com

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**Patchwork & Quilting**
**Hilary Jane**
Hilary Jane teaches hand stitched patchwork and quilting using traditional methods. Class/Workshop details are provided on her website. Bespoke workshops, demonstrations and parties can be arranged for groups at a venue of their choice. Hilary Jane is a member of The Quilters Guild and has a number of City and Guilds qualifications.
Ages 12 upwards
Fees apply
07798 837601
mail@hilaryjanes.co.uk
www.hilaryjanes.co.uk

**Sewing**
**Tilly and the Machine**
Tilly and the Machine sew for a living, making and altering clothes as well as home furnishings. Sewing is a disappearing skill that Tilly and the Machine aim to keep alive by passing on their knowledge to future generations. Workshops and courses on all areas of sewing, offering beginner courses – dressmaking, curtains and homewares, or assistance with your own project.
All ages and abilities
Fees apply
www.tillyandthemachine.com

**Mosaics**
**Paul Siggins**
Paul offers three-day Mosaic Master Classes and evening classes for the first time. He delivers highly popular mosaic workshops to schools throughout the UK creating stunning mosaics with thousands of children of all ages and abilities. Apprenticeship programmes for ages 17 to 24 years are available through The Mosaic Studio, alongside work experience and internships.
All ages and abilities
Fees apply
01702 712111
fiona@themosaicstudio.com
paul@the mosaic studio.com
www.themosaicstudio.com
The Southend Spinners and Weavers Guild are a friendly, small group who meet once a month to share ideas and skills around spinning, weaving and other yarn related creations. Visitors are always welcome. Please contact to enquire about each month’s programme.

First Saturday of every month
11.00am to 3.00pm
£3 for visitors
Joanne Cliffe
01702 713105
joanne.cliffe@hotmail.co.uk

www.wsd.org.uk

Annabel Johnson
Miss Annabelle Dee Studios
153 Leigh Road
Leigh-on-Sea
Essex SS9 1IF
Annabel Johnson is a ceramic designer who uses a range of creative mediums combining surface, graphic design and photography along with ceramic qualities – relief and own recipe glazes which produce unique and thought provoking collectibles.

Workshops
Fees apply
07989 155473
www.missannabeldee.co.uk

Clarissa Debenham
Photography
Clarissa is a professional photographer specialising in photographing people. She has been teaching photography and photo editing at Southend Adult Community College since 2000. She also organises private one-to-one and group training through her company, Film Free Photography.

Ages 10 upwards
Fees apply
01702 343455
clarissa@filmfreephotography.co.uk
filmfree@blueyonder.co.uk
www.filmfreephotographygallery.co.uk
www.filmfreephotography.co.uk

FPG Film Club
Focal Point Gallery
The Forum
Elmer Square
Southend-on-Sea
Essex SS1 1NB
FPG Film Club presents a series of feature films, archive footage or internet videos, chosen by the exhibiting artist. The programme offers new approaches to the interests and influences of a particular artist or project. Screening events are free to attend and welcoming to all within the certification guidelines.

Free
focalpointgallery@southend.gov.uk
www.focalpoint.org.uk
01702 534108

FPG Project Space
Focal Point Gallery
The Forum
Elmer Square
Southend-on-Sea
Essex SS1 1NB
FPG’s Project Space is situated in the centre of the organisation and is equipped with an in-built projector and surround sound. Courses for children, young people and adults of all abilities offer the use of DSLR cameras, i-pads, macbook pros and high resolution scanner, along with a range of analogue equipment. FPG’s close proximity to the Big Screen

Keep an open mind.
Try something different to gain a new technique, skill or way of thinking about art.
Idea 13
C/o Metal
Chalkwell Hall
Chalkwell Avenue
Southend-on-Sea
Essex SS0 8NB
Idea13 is a network for culture and events across Southend-on-Sea, developed and managed by Metal. Work placements and volunteering can be offered across a broad range of venues, interests and skillsets, according to current projects. The Idea13 website requires digital creative and technical upkeep, and often features video interviews, reviews and graphics. It is an ideal opportunity to gain experience in interview techniques, filming, editing, content management systems and some basic coding.
chalkwell@metalculture.com
www.idea13.org
01702 470700

Photography by Ian James
The Estuary Gallery Co-operative
2 Belton Corner
Marine Parade
SS9 2HP
The Estuary Gallery is a Fine Art Photography and Painting Studio. Photographic workshops are offered by professional photographer Ian James, on a half-day basis. With a maximum of two students the attendee will learn camera techniques on location, in the studio and at a critique.
£60 per Student
ianjphoto@gmail.com
www.estuarygallery.com

Main Media Ltd
Ben Hole set up Main Media as a full service production company following many years of post-production experience as offline and online editor across a wide range of disciplines including broadcast, online, performance and promotion. Main Media is based in Essex but works nationally for an array of clients. Ben has taught editing to BBC journalists and run digital storytelling and film-making workshops with diverse groups in settings which include prisons, social care and community organisations. Ben is happy to support practitioners with advice and mentoring at agreed times and devise and run video training for organisations who want to support their participants to make films.
No age limits
Work experience possible
01702 58070
ben@main-media.co.uk
www.main-media.co.uk

Digital Studio
Metal Art School
Chalkwell Park
Chalkwell Avenue
Southend-on-Sea
Essex SS0 8NB
Metal have recently renovated and opened, Metal Art School, a dedicated art and education space that works with people of all ages, abilities and from all walks of life, offering courses for young people and adults. It has a fully equipped digital studio to enable art to be created using different software, iPads, and computers as well as film, audio, composition and editing software.
All ages and abilities
Fees may apply. Some funded projects
chalkwell@metalculture.com
www.metalculture.com
01702 470700

NetPark
The World’s First Digital Art Park
C/o Metal
Chalkwell Hall
Chalkwell Park
Southend-on-Sea
Essex SS0 8NB
NetPark is a new visitor attraction for Southend and presents a collection of specially commissioned, site-specific, digital artworks and stories for Chalkwell Park in Southend-on-Sea. It is the perfect place to experience how artists are using digital tools to create work and experiences. There are also site-specific stories to enjoy created by Southend schools. Just take your smart phone or tablet with a set of headphones along to the park and follow the instructions for downloading the APP artwork from www.netpark.zone. NetPark has been created and is run by Metal, there are both work experience and volunteering opportunities to work within the NetPark project through Metal.
netpark@metalculture.com
www.netpark.zone
www.metalculture.com
01702 470700

Damien Robinson
Digital Artist
Damien is a freelance visual artist working with digital and found media within a broad social context. She works directly with arts organisations, schools, charities, and community groups to develop creative events and workshops. Workshops and classes are developed collaboratively to ensure an outcome that engages all the participants. Examples of previous work can be seen on her website. She holds a current, enhanced level DBS check, and has £5 million public liability insurance.
All ages and abilities
Fees apply
07920 885447 (Text Only please)
damien@damienrobinson.co.uk
www.damienrobinson.co.uk

Southend-on-Sea Linux User Group (SoSLUG)
The Old Waterworks
North Road
Southend-on-Sea
Essex SS0 7AB
SoSLUG is a weekly inclusive family-friendly club that focuses on sharing computing knowledge and skills and hosts events throughout the year, supporting similar events in the Basildon, Chelmsford and London areas. They also run quarterly ‘Raspberry Jams’, which include workshops and talks covering many subjects and skill base levels. Raspberry Jams are free to attend.
Mondays 7.00pm until late
Full members who attend regularly are asked to pay £24 per annum, based on ability to pay.
Literature

Estuary Publishing
Estuary Publishing’s slogan is ‘Bridging the Thames with Words.’ They publish local Thameside authors and their range of forthcoming books adheres to the Thames Estuary’s historic heroism and tragedy, with many real-life stories and historically based novels. Their focus is to tap into the region’s writing talent. They organise many events to this effect throughout the year for local artists, authors, and the community. Those looking to gain experience would be very welcome, and there are opportunities for volunteering in a variety of positions such as events management, public relations, producing flyers, social media and networking. Event locations vary For up to date details check website Free unless otherwise specified Audrey Snee 01702 474686 www.estuarpublishing.co.uk

FPG Reading Salon
Focal Point Gallery
The Forum
Elmer Square
Southend-on-Sea
Essex SS1 1NB
The Reading Salon meets for informal discussion, encouraging both a critical engagement with contemporary art and an open space for debate and learning. A piece of critical theory, an idea, a poem or a piece of fiction is suggested and read, before meeting for a book club-type discussion. All ages and abilities Free focalpointgallery@southend.gov.uk www.focalpointgallery.org.uk 01702 534108

Richard Kurti
Richard Kurti is a screenwriter and novelist who has lived in Westcliff-on-Sea for 17 years. His film writing includes commissions for US studios (Universal, Warner Bros, Miramax and Fox Searchlight) and UK companies such as Working Title and Pathé. In television his writing has been for mainstream audiences, including BBC adaptations of Kidnapped and Sherlock Holmes, episodes of Robin Hood, Primeval (ITV), Sinbad (Sky), and a large-scale adaptation of Terry Pratchett’s Going Postal for Sky. Recently Richard branched out into new areas, with radio dramatizations for BBC Radio 4, and two YA novels – Monkey Wars and Maladapted. He regularly runs workshops in secondary schools. Some of these are designed to encourage aspiring writers, while others are aimed at jump-starting students who have become disengaged with English literature! Ages 11 upwards www.RichardKurti.com

Metal Art School
Chalkwell Park
Chalkwell Avenue
Southend-on-Sea
Essex SS0 8NB
Metal run a wide range of courses from their new Metal Art School space in Chalkwell Park. This includes writing courses, run by published writers. These opportunities vary from 10-week evening classes on Creative Writing and Non-Fiction, as well as intensive week-long LABS for writers with current projects on the go that could use some critical peer-to-peer input. Please note our literature courses

Be willing to try something out of your comfort zone.
southend writers and artists network (SWAN)
SWAN has an impressive collection of expertise including booksellers, authors and journalists. They meet in collaboration with arts initiatives such as Idea13, to discuss ideas, give advice and meet like-minded people. Authors and poets are invited to give readings. Their gatherings are not regular or hosted in one specific venue, so keep up to date with our LinkedIn page.
Event locations vary
Please get in contact for details
Fees apply
Audrey Sne
01702 474686
www.linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=4316946
sundown arts
spoken word and performance poetry
Sundown Arts is a non-profit mixed arts organisation run voluntarily by Jo Overfield and Ray Morgan. They produce events throughout the year at various venues locally and outside of Essex, featuring spoken word and performance poetry. As well as offering guidance and advice to aspiring writers and performers, Sundown run workshops in creative writing and performance poetry. There is also the chance to share your work at one of their open-mic poetry and words events. For latest events check the website or contact Artistic Director Jo Overfield.
www.sundownarts.org
jo@sundownarts.org
@sundownarts
U3A
Westcliff Free Church
635 London Road
Westcliff-on-Sea
Essex SS0 9PE
U3A stands for University of the Third Age, a self-help organisation for people no longer in full-time employment providing educational, creative and leisure opportunities in a friendly environment. Our groups and activities include Writers for Fun and guest speakers.

Music

Natrah Akib BA (Hons) CNAA Mus Dip
Piano and Violin Tuition
Natrah Akib is based in Leigh-on-Sea and offers private lessons to adults and children from beginners to grade 8. She has 24 years teaching experience including Ridley Studios, Westcliff High School for Girls, Basildon Adult Education, Piano Pavilion, Sacred Heart School and Saint Pierre School. Music Theory lessons are available as an accompanying service to Natrah’s pupils and those with other teachers. Natrah also facilitates entry into pupils’ concerts and the Southend and Leigh-On-Sea Musical Festivals. All ages, beginners to grade 8. ABRSM examinations Fees apply
01702 710675
07903 423917
mail@natrah.plus.com
Stuart Bowditch
Sound Recording, Arts & Music
Stuart is a self-taught freelance sound recordist, artist, musician and workshop leader. Please see website for current offers/events. All ages and abilities.
Fees apply
07983 453214
stuart@stuarbowditch.co.uk
www.stuarbowditch.co.uk
Richard Brett
Drum Tuition
Drum lessons for beginner to intermediate players in a friendly and relaxed environment. DBS checked.
Free 30 minute introductory lesson
Ages 8 upwards
Fees: £10 for 30 minutes or £18 for 60 minutes
07902 928836
richard.brett@drumsense.com
www.drumsense.com

Eve Buigues
Singing Lessons
While integrating elements of yoga and meditation with strong singing techniques, Eve has had the great pleasure of helping successful and developing artists alike take their singing to the next level. Drawing upon self-awareness, and proper use of the breath flow, singers are given the tools to reach their full potential.
All ages and abilities
Fees apply
07948 554412
www.evebuiguescoaching.com

Stuart Bowditch
Sound Recording, Arts & Music
Stuart is a self-taught freelance sound recordist, artist, musician and workshop leader. Please see website for current offers/events. All ages and abilities.
Fees apply
07983 453214
stuart@stuarbowditch.co.uk
www.stuarbowditch.co.uk

Richard Brett
Drum Tuition
Drum lessons for beginner to intermediate players in a friendly and relaxed environment. DBS checked.
Free 30 minute introductory lesson
Ages 8 upwards
Fees: £10 for 30 minutes or £18 for 60 minutes
07902 928836
richard.brett@drumsense.com
www.drumsense.com

David Crix
Teaching Guitar, Singing & Song writing
T/A Rhythm Shack
Dave Crix at Rhythm Shack teaches guitar, singing and songwriting. Rhythm Shack also offer various workshops and group rehearsals to build confidence and gain experience. Also on offer soon will be simple low cost solutions for YouTube videos.
Ages 10 upwards
£30 per hour for one-to-one tuition
Prices vary for workshops
07770 741894
info@rhythmshack.co.uk
www.rhythmshack.co.uk

Colette Meury
Singing Teacher/Vocal Coach
Private singing tuition, vocal & breathing technique, preparation for auditions, voice recordings/demo’s and songwriting. Teaching experience includes Lisa Stansfield, Billie Piper,
Jo Simmonds
Classical Guitar
Jo is an ISM & RGT Registered Tutor who has taught for a number of years. Lessons are offered at Jo’s studio in Leigh-on-Sea. Please see website for what’s on offer
All ages and abilities
Fees apply
07702 255899
www.beautiful-guitar-music.co.uk

Chas Sludden
Musical Instruments/Singing
Individual music service offering tuition in: voice/singing (all genres), trumpet, trombone (and all brass instruments), GCSE and A Level music, music theory, aural training, recorder and group workshops.
Workshops: school age to senior citizens
Individual lessons
Ages 6 upwards
Fees apply
Chas Sludden 07557 906560
sluddenchas@hotmail.com

Harry Stoneham
Guitar
SOS Guitar lessons and courses are specifically designed for those who are new to guitar playing or a bit stuck teaching themselves. The popular Beginners Course covers all the essential topics and will guide you through your first chord progressions, guitar riffs and basic theory. Dedicated classes with one to one assistance available.
Ages 16 upwards
6 Week Beginner Course £72
10 Week Course £95
1 hour individual tuition £20
3 hour Workshop £25
07877 483318
sosguitaruk@gmail.com
www.sosguitar.co.uk

Lucy Summers
Violin Tuition
Fully qualified, experienced violinist/teacher offering violin and theory lessons from beginner to advanced.
ABRSM examinations

AS Level practical coaching
Chamber music coaching
All ages and abilities
£16.50 per half hour lesson
07860 678805

Pauline Willoughby
Songwriting
Songwriter and qualified primary music specialist with successful YouTube channel. Pauline also has 1.5 million viewers on the TES Worldwide resources website Online.
She creates resources and songs for teachers to use in the classroom. On a one to one basis, she helps people to express their feelings by way of song writing and incorporates this with the use of technology to create an mp3 video of their work.
Ages 7 upwards
£25 per hour
Introductory 20 minutes free
01702 625191
Pwilloughby3@gmail.com

Chris Woolard BA (Hons)
Instrument & Vocal Training
Learn to Play Music provides fun music lessons as one to one or group sessions, which are great for absolute beginners young and old and can be taken in your own home. Guitar, Piano, Bass Guitar, Ukulele and Vocals are the classes that are on offer.
All ages and abilities
One to one sessions £25 per hour
Group sessions £10 per hour
Full DBS
07875 663186
chris1176@hotmail.co.uk
www.learn-to-play-guitar-online-tutor.com

Music Groups and Studios
Allegro Music Academy
252–254 London Road,
Westcliff-on-Sea
Essex SS0 7IG
Allegro Music Academy has a dedicated team of teachers available to help you with your musical journey, whether you are taking your first musical steps or looking to perfect your technique, they can help. Please visit website for more information or to book a lesson.
Open seven days
Fees apply
01702 348476
linda.westcliff@allegromusic.co.uk
www.allegromusicacademy.co.uk

Goldmasters Studios
2A Alexandra Road
Leigh-on-Sea
Essex SS9 1QD
Leigh’s premier recording facility Goldmaster Studios is a comfortable and accommodating little space in the heart of Leigh Broadway. We offer a wide range of musical services from voiceovers to album projects and with a decade of experience and a wealth of client releases, Goldmaster Studios is now full to bursting with high end audio equipment, instruments and amps and is more than capable to deliver the best results for any and all of your recording goals.
For up to date info check website
£25 per hour
Zachary Dorne
07906 331950
goldmasterstudios@gmail.com
www.goldmasterallstars.com

Maple Studios and Practice Rooms
Unit 35–45 Grainger Road Industrial Estate
Southend-on-Sea
Essex SS2 5DD
With over 25 years experience in the audio and lighting industry, Maple Studios have a wealth of knowledge covering all aspects of the business. Their site in Grainger Road offers rehearsal and recording opportunities to young and emerging bands. The also have an huge knowledge of delivering events, from corporate gigs to tours, small PA systems and dry hire equipment, with an impressive list of clients including BBC, Virgin, Sony and numerous artists.
info@mapleaudio.co.uk
www.mapleaudio.co.uk
01702 613066
**The Music Man Project**

Kingsdown School
Snakes Lane
Southend-on-Sea
Essex
SS2 6XT

The Music Man Project is the UK’s first full-time music education service specifically for children and adults with learning disabilities. Their core aim is to provide a high quality and enjoyable music education, which leads to unique and inspirational performance opportunities for students. They teach children and adults at weekday sessions and Saturday music schools, and provide comprehensive music services for special schools, colleges and care homes. They also run completely open sessions and anyone can come along to observe, perform or take part in a session, or join our team of permanent volunteers.

School students have volunteered at the Saturday music school for over a decade but since the full-time service started in 2012 this has extended to work experience and volunteering for year 11 and 12 students, right up to degree students and PhD candidates. There is something happening almost every day of the week. Check our website for further details about which activities you might most prefer.

David Stanley
07786 864853
davidstanley@yahoo.com
www.themusicmanproject.com

**Simply Strings**

**Amateur Adult String Group**

Westcliff-on-Sea and Ashington
A group of grade 4 to 5 standard musicians, playing mainly classical music, with rehearsals twice a month at various addresses Current offer of creative workshops/participatory events/classes. The also perform around four concerts/festivals per year. £25 a term

Lucy Summers
07860 678805
www.facebook.com/groups/680812052014350

**Musical Monday**

Tuneful Tuesday

**Southend Borough Council**

Southend Council promotes music workshops for children and young people during half term holidays, called Musical Monday and Tuneful Tuesday.

rosemarypennington@southend.gov.uk for more information

**Southend Boys’ and Girls’ Choirs**

Girls’ Choir rehearsals at Southend High School for Girls.
Southchurch Boulevard
Southend-on-Sea
Essex SS2 4UZ

Boys’ Choir rehearsals at Westcliff High School for Boys
Kenilworth Gardens,
Westcliff-on-Sea
SS0 0BP

Girls’ Choir rehearses Wednesdays during term-time, 4.15pm to 5.45pm.

Boys’ Choir rehearses Fridays during term-time, 4.00pm to 5.15pm for treble and alto voices; 4.45pm to 5.45pm for changing voices (tenor and bass).

The Southend Boys’ and Girls’ Choirs perform widely across the South East, London and overseas. The choirs welcome keen singers aged 7 into the training choir, and from 8/9 into the main choirs. They have weekly rehearsals, workshops with professional conductors, performances in Southend, Essex, London and overseas on choir tours. Free:

Ages 7 upwards.

Rosemary Pennington
07771 600009
info@westcliffmusicacademy.co.uk

**Southend Choral Society**

Prince Avenue Primary School
Hornby Avenue
Westcliff-on-Sea
Essex

Formed in 1943 at the request of Essex County Welfare Committee for the recreation of Service personnel. The Choir consists of about 100 Singers, mixed voices, with ages ranging from 16 to 90, and offers a warm welcome to all newcomers. The Choir usually presents four concerts each year, two with the Southend Concert Orchestra, a Summer Concert with soloists, and a Family Christmas Concert with a Children’s Choir and a Brass band, usually the Southend Band.

Rehearsals every Thursday during term-time 7.45pm to 9.45pm

Free

Alison Rollingson
07774 412736
hgrcrisp@googlemail.com

www.southendchoral.org

**South Essex Youth Symphony Orchestra**  (SEYSO) **incorporating South Essex Youth Training Orchestra** (SEYTO)

Coaching in all aspects of orchestral musicianship in two ensembles, for beginners to advanced players, incorporating an extensive range of musical genres. They offer advice on instrument care and maintenance, tuning and intonation, posture and deportment, practice techniques and careers in music. There is a friendly and relaxed social atmosphere. Annual provision includes 8 half-day orchestral workshops at assorted venues, three-day courses ending with public performances, one afternoon master class (typically incorporating a guest director and attendance of a professional performance) and a number of special events. Please see website for further details.

Registered Charity: 1057748

Ages 8 to 18

Annual Subscription

SEYSO £100
SEYTO £65
01702 207912
01268 755005
janet.blades@southendsymphony.com

www.southendsymphony.com

**Southend Symphony Orchestra**

St Margaret’s Church Hall
Lime Avenue
Leigh-on-Sea
Essex SS9 3PA

The aims of the orchestra were in 1921, and remain to this day ‘to perform, for the benefit of members and friends, the works of the Great Masters as created in Overtures, Symphonies and Concertos for Solo Instruments’. The orchestra looks for players with orchestral playing experience preferably at post grade 8 standard.

Annual Subscription
01268 755005
janet.blades@southendsymphony.com

www.southendsymphony.com

**Westcliff Music Academy**

797A London Road
Westcliff-on-Sea,
Essex
SS0 9SY

The Academy has been established since 2004 and has become one of the largest music education centres in Essex. Piano, keyboard, drums and guitar lessons are available 7 days a week. Two air-conditioned studios housing all the latest equipment and learning aids. Examinations can be taken or just learning for fun.

£14 per half hour

Group lessons £11.50 per hour

Introductory offer: Pay for 2, get 2 free

Mark Cadey
01702 712211
info@westcliffmusicacademy.co.uk

www.westcliffmusicacademy.co.uk

www.facebook.com/pages/Westcliff-Music-Academy/432793653496705

**Southend Music Education Hub**

The Southend Music Education Hub offers a variety of ensemble opportunities for all ages and abilities. The Hub also offers an instrumental hire scheme for Southend students. For more information please email or phone as below.

01702 215861
musciservices@southend.gov.uk
Music Events

Chinnery’s
21–22 Marine Parade
Southend-on-Sea
Essex SS1 2EJ
Southend’s Premier music venue, Chinnery’s offers the opportunity to perform to young and emerging bands, singers and musicians. If you want a gig, email and ask. Or maybe just go along and see how other musicians do it – for gig listings visit the website chinnerys@hotmail.com

Leigh Folk Festival
Leigh Folk Festival takes place annually over the last full weekend in June at Leigh-on-sea, in Essex and is the largest free folk festival in the UK, with hundreds of performers and thousands of spectators. Musicians and dancers entertain the crowds with events ranging from traditional and contemporary folk music, through to Americana, ‘world music’, electronica, and much more besides; alongside Celtic, English and Scottish dance groups, country dancing, morris sides, African dancers, international folk dance, jive and line-dancing. There is a full programme of music across stages at multiple venues in Leigh Old Town and the Broadway area, along with a mix of traditional and contemporary dance, plus story-telling, poetry, comedy, film, sing-arounds and instrumental sessions over four days.

Village Green
Village Green is the annual, one-day music and arts festival, run by Metal. There are numerous opportunities to volunteer and gain work experience as part of a structured production team, helping to put on the event. Roles include being part of the backstage crew, artist liaison, media team, sound and lighting, site crew and many others. For more information and to see other volunteering opportunities visit our website at www.metalculture.com/volunteering Chalkwell@metalculture.com 01702 470700

Village Green: Next Generation
Village Green: Next Generation is the annual, one-day music and arts festival run by Metal exclusively for the school pupils of Southend. VG:NG uses the staging infrastructure of the public Village Green festival the day before. There are a huge amount of performance opportunities, art and music workshops and masterclasses with professionals alongside digital projects, journalism, circus skills and much more. Participation is organised through the schools and colleges of Southend. For your chance to perform and take part let your school know and ask them to get in touch with Metal. There are also a range of work experience and volunteering opportunities. Event takes place in July each year. Free to participate and attend. Chalkwell@metalculture.com www.metalculture.com 01702 470700

Case Study
Lily Robins
Professional Event Manager

Lily was twelve when she started going to local gigs, two or three times weekly. Before long, she was volunteering at music events at her mum’s suggestion, meaning she could attend them for free. Finding she enjoyed the event production as much as the gigs themselves, soon enough Lily was spending her free time – after school, at the weekend, during school break – volunteering on any arts event she could.

That was eleven years ago. Now Lily is an event manager at Chelmsford City Council, and this summer managed The 3foot High Festival (the UK’s largest under-5 festival) and the adults-only Fling Festival. She also worked, as she does every year, at Metal’s Village Green 2015 festival as a production manager. In fact, Lily identifies her work with Village Green as a valuable learning curve in her career. Back in 2008, still a school pupil dedicating her free time to volunteering, Lily was a runner at Village Green, carrying equipment and messages backstage for the first ever Village Green. Enjoying herself, she returned the next year as an artist liaison, and then the next as a zone manager. Eventually, she was a member of the paid production staff.

Still, despite being paid for what she always thought of as a fun hobby, Lily didn’t realise event production was a career option. It wasn’t until she skimmed through a degree prospectus, en route to studying engineering at university with the science and maths A-Levels to match, that Lily realised an Events Management degree existed. As a graduate, she has managed teams for the Southbank Centre’s Festival of Britain, and now works full-time on events in Chelmsford. She attributes the longevity of her relationship with Metal to the skillsets she developed at such a young age. Going full circle, the last few years Lily has opted to return from paid production staff to a volunteer at Village Green so that money may be spent elsewhere, and taking a week off work to do so ... after all, it started out as a bit of fun for the holidays.
Absolute Arts Performing Arts School
188–192 Station Road
Westcliff-on-Sea
SS0 7SB
Absolute Arts is a friendly and welcoming community in the heart of Westcliff. They pride themselves in providing a high standard of dance, singing and acting in a fun and relaxed environment. They welcome pupils of all ages and abilities and with their specialist guidance help each student to reach their full potential. Ballet, tap, modern, street dance, contemporary, gymnastics, singing, acting, fitness and stretch classes. Studio hire is also available throughout the daytime and evening. For up to date details please see the website. Fees apply
Aisha Hodges
01702 831220
info@absolutearts.co.uk
www.absolutearts.co.uk

BrazilArte
Kensington Road
Southend-on-Sea
Essex
SS1 2UL
BrazilArte is an academy devoted to maintaining cultural Brazilian traditions and the preservation of Brazilian art. They can offer work experience and volunteering places in areas of media creation including film, photography, marketing and promotion. With an emphasis on community enrichment, it is important to us that those wishing to volunteer feel free to get involved. We offer many opportunities across a range of skillsets so don’t hesitate to get in touch.
Emma Gibbs De Oliveira
07894 716833
info@brazilarte.org
www.brazilarteacademy.co.uk
www.brazilarte.org

Cally Davis Drama
St. Margaret’s Hall
Lime Avenue
Leigh-on-Sea
Essex SS9 3PA
Cally Davis Drama is a specialist acting school for three to 21 year olds. Students develop communication skills and gain self-confidence while having creative fun. Regular performance opportunities include professional acting engagements, theatre productions, community and charity events and film work. Students achieve outstanding results in public drama examinations. Drama workshops cover all aspects of acting including production work, examinations, voice work, mime, improvisation and filming. For up to date details visit our website and Facebook page. Fees apply
Cally Davis
07963 240111
01702 474683
cally@callydavisdrama.co.uk
www.callydavisdrama.co.uk
www.facebook.com/CallyDavisDrama

JADA Theatre School
83 Brunswick Road
Southend-on-Sea
Essex
SS1 2UL
Josephine’s Academy of Drama and Arts, is an all round performance-based school catering for all ages from three years upwards, with classes in all areas of performance. The JADA family also includes: JADA Creative Education, JADA Corporate Events, and JADA Management Agency. JADA is registered with the following Organisations: National Association of Youth Theatres, Arts Council UK. SOSAC, Creative Partnerships, LAMDA, ISTD and is a Validated Learning Destination of the Children’s University. For up to date details check website Fees apply
Josephine Parsad
07961 916292 / 01702 464446
jadaoffice2012@gmail.com
www.jadaschool.co.uk

Little Theatre Company
Southend Palace Theatre
430 London Road
Westcliff-on-Sea
SS0 9LA
The Little Theatre Company was formed in 1948 and caters for all interests including performance and backstage. Visit their website for further information or to join.
Monday and Thursday Evenings
8.00pm to 10.00pm
Annual Subscription £60
Show Fee £20
Rehearsal Fee £1
membership@littletheatrecompany.co.uk
www.littletheatrecompany.co.uk

Louise Manders
Speech and Drama
Louise Manders offers tutoring for LAMDA examinations. She can also devise with young people, direct plays and musicals. She also runs regular early evening sessions in term time through Phoenix Youth Theatre.
0753 1090212
louise@louisemanders.co.uk

Masters Performing Arts College
Dance, Drama, Singing and Acting
Arterial Road
Rayleigh
SS6 7UQ
A professional three year full time performing arts college which is accredited by The Council for Dance Education and Training and covers dance, singing, acting and musical theatre. Extra-curricular activities also available including DDI teachers training and ISTD syllabus. Monday to Friday Fees apply
Some scholarships awarded
01268 777351
info@mastersperformingarts.co.uk
www.mastersperformingarts.co.uk

Merlin Productions
Drama
Badgers End
Crown Road
Hockley, Essex
SS5 4RS
Merlin Productions was formed by Paul Newman in 2001: a drama group that stages shows to a professional standard and in the process raises money for charity. To date Merlin has produced 18 shows raising over £45,000 for Great Ormond Street Children’s Hospital, Havens Hospices and the Scout Association. For up to date details check website Fees apply
01702 208059
contact@merlin-productions.co.uk
www.merlinproductions.co.uk

Phoenix Youth Theatre
Crowstone Christian Centre
91 Crowstone Road
Westcliff-on-Sea
Essex SS0 8LH
Phoenix Youth Theatre specialise in all aspects of theatre – techniques, skills, festivals, and productions. Tuesdays during term-time. Juniors: 5.30pm to 6.30pm Seniors: 6.30pm to 8.30pm
0753 1090212
louise@louisemanders.co.uk

Pinpoint Create
80 Southchurch Boulevard
Southend-on-Sea
Essex SS2 4UZ
Pinpoint Create are a site-specific theatre and arts organisation based in Southend. They like to re-invent tradition in many different ways from opera to outdoor theatre, in historic locations, telling stories from across the world. They commission new writing and music, and education and participation is always a key
element in every project. Just tell them your interest and they will fulfill your brief.
Pinpoint Create also offer bespoke workshops for schools, FE colleges and community groups and CPD for teachers in theatre, storytelling, music, and creative writing, as well as opportunities for working with professional artists in our site specific productions. For up to date details check website Fees apply
Mary-ann@pinpointcreate.com
info@pinpointcreate.com
www.pinpointcreate.com

Purple Goat Theatre
Drama and Acting
Purple Goat Theatre was formed in 2008 and strives to make theatre and film accessible to all. The company frequently run holiday projects for young people in Southend. They also create bespoke theatre projects for other companies. Join their mailing list or visit the website for more details.
Fees apply – varying from project to project
www.purplegoattheatre.com
info@purplegoattheatre.com

Southend Flamenco
Southend Flamenco is a group dedicated to promoting Flamenco music and dance in the Southend-on-Sea area. They run from various venues. Please see their website for details.
Michael Smith
01702 465244
southendflamenco@gmail.com
www.southendflamenco.co.uk

Southend Theatres
Cliffs Pavilion
Station Road
Westcliff-on-Sea
Essex SS0 7RA
and
Palace Theatre
430 London Road
Westcliff-on-Sea
Essex SS0 9LA
The Cliffs Pavilion is the largest purpose-built performing arts venue in Essex and presents in excess of 300 performances each year across a wide range of live entertainment and the largest pantomime in the South East. Opened in 1912, The Palace Theatre retains all of the charm of its music hall origins. Work experience takes place within all of the two theatres departments, offering an overview of how a theatre works as a whole. As a result the majority of the placement will be admin-based, and will not be involved in productions. Instead, our work placements range from office-based duties within our Operations, Box Office and Marketing departments, to some technical work with the stage crew. To apply, please send a CV and cover letter to Kelly Reynolds, Community and Education Manager. If you are shortlisted, you will be invited to an interview.
Monday to Sunday
Fees apply
Kelly Reynolds
01702 390472
kellyr@southendtheatres.org.uk
www.southendtheatres.org.uk

Starlight Productions Amateur Dramatic Company
United Reform Church Hall
Northumberland Avenue
Southend-on-Sea
Essex
An amateur dramatic company that produces an annual pantomime and summer show, as well as fundraising revue shows and murder mysteries. A fun group with mixed ages. For up to date details check website.
£3.00 per week, payable quarterly
Irene Volke
01702 612351
starlightproductions@blueyonder.co.uk
www.starlightproductions.co.uk

The Amanda Restell Academy of Dance
Elmworks Studios
7 Glendale Gardens
Leigh-on-Sea
Essex
SS9 2AP
The Academy teaches IDTA dance syllabi. The IDTA are world leaders in dance education and are at the forefront of dance for both performers and teachers. They are also CDET accredited, which is only awarded to professionally and responsibly run dancing schools. As well as dance, the Academy also teaches singing and musical theatre so the pupils have the ability to learn a broad range of performing arts.
Monday to Saturday (see website for timetable).
From £3.00 – £5.85
Lisa Wates (Office Manager)
01702 712000
admin@amandarestellacademy.com
www.amandarestellacademy.com/

Theater Arts
Expressions
969–973 London Road
Leigh-on-Sea
SS9 3LB
Expressions offer lessons in Tap, Ballet and Modern where all children are given the opportunity to take ISTD examinations. They also offer lessons in Street Dance, Musical Theatre, Jazz Technique, Singing, Contemporary and Toddler Dance Classes. For up to date details check website.
Fees apply.
Emma: 07708 699201
Rebecca: 07824 886506
www.expressionstheatrearts.com

Paul Alcock
Painting and Drawing
Paul runs regular art classes throughout the year at various venues. He covers all of the popular painting and drawing mediums including oils, pastels, acrylics and watercolours. He will often start the session with a quick demonstration of a particular approach to drawing or painting and his demos reflect the needs and interests of his students. He then works one to one with students.
All ages
£7.00 to £8.00, depending on class.
Tea & Coffee Included.
01702 615475 / 07951 931476
paulalcock43@yahoo.co.uk
www.paulalcock.co.uk

Marie Antoniou
Painting
Marie Antoniou explores ways of looking and interpreting the subject with an element in every project. Just tell them your interest and they will fulfill your brief.
Marie runs regular art classes throughout the year at various venues. She covers all of the popular painting and drawing mediums including oils, pastels, acrylics and watercolours. She will often start the session with a quick demonstration of a particular approach to drawing or painting and her demos reflect the needs and interests of her students. She then works one to one with students.
All ages
£7.00 to £8.00, depending on class.
Tea & Coffee Included.
01702 615475 / 07951 931476
paulalcock43@yahoo.co.uk
www.paulalcock.co.uk

Wildlife Acrylic Painting Workshops led by Marie Antoniou exploring ways of looking and interpreting the subject with an element in every project. Just tell them your interest and they will fulfill your brief.
Marie runs regular art classes throughout the year at various venues. She covers all of the popular painting and drawing mediums including oils, pastels, acrylics and watercolours. She will often start the session with a quick demonstration of a particular approach to drawing or painting and her demos reflect the needs and interests of her students. She then works one to one with students.
All ages
£7.00 to £8.00, depending on class.
Tea & Coffee Included.
01702 615475 / 07951 931476
paulalcock43@yahoo.co.uk
www.paulalcock.co.uk

Form your own creative group – review and critique each other’s work. This improves your discussion and presentation skills as well as your work.
Free Family Arts Days offer children of all ages and abilities ways to create a shared artwork with an adult. Hands on activities regularly take on a digital presence by displaying workshop activity on the public screen situated just outside the gallery. A fun, collaborative and drop-in activity. FAD can accommodate young children who are not old enough to join other regular activities. Children of all ages are welcome at these events when accompanied by an adult. Free All ages, SEND inclusive Ground floor, accessible to wheelchairs School holidays Booking on the day 01702 534148 focalpointgallery@southend.gov.uk www.focalpoint.org.uk Instagram and Twitter @FPG_Create

HOFs
Hadleigh Old Fire Station
High Street
Hadleigh
Essex SS7 2PA
Hadleigh Old Fire Station is home to fifteen artists and several local community groups. The light and spacious studios provide locally based artists space to develop their practice and facilitate a range of arts activities based in the community. Community groups using the offices and hall facilities benefit from a central location in the town well-known to local people. The ‘appliance hall’ – where fire engines once kept – has been converted into a large, multi-use space which is available to hire for community activities, exhibitions and events. HOFs House, adjacent to the Fire Station, has also been converted for use as artist’ studios and groups working in the community. www.hofs.org.uk

Leigh Art Trail
Various Venues
Leigh Art Trail is a range of creative activities and exhibitions that showcase the creative talent of Southend, centreing on a week-long exhibition with 30+ artists showing work in shops, cafes and studios, which is by selection or invitation. It offers family creative workshops and a schools exhibition. Please see website for more details. Tricia North 07773 190820leightrail@hotmail.co.uk www.leightrail.com Annual Event in June

Southend Arts Council:
Southend Arts Council is a voluntary body dedicated to promoting and fostering amateur arts activities. They utilise an active web site and social media Facebook and Twitter to promote and advertise amateur arts activity in the Borough of Southend-on-Sea. A quarterly newsletter is emailed to all relevant media outlets which contains information in four sections Written Word, Visual Arts, Music and Drama/Dance. They hold an annual networking Open Day at the Cliffs Pavilion and an autumn Visual Arts exhibition. Small grants are also available to member groups on specified criteria in association with Southend Borough Council Department of Place and we regularly act as a conduit into the amateur arts community. www.sosac.co.uk Facebook: Southend Arts Council @sosactweets secretary@sosac.co.uk

Art Clubs
FPG Children’s Art Club
Focal Point Gallery
The Forum
Elmer Square
Southend-on-Sea SS1 1NB
Both playful and critically engaging, workshops respond to Focal Point Gallery’s exhibition and offsite programme. Group numbers are small and led by two artists from different disciplines. They provide a varied approach, opening possibilities to creating artwork and developing skills using hands on materials combined with the use of FPG’s wide range of digital equipment.

Leigh Independent Art School
Leigh Community Centre
67 Elm Road
Leigh-on-Sea
Essex SS9 1SP
Passionate about art and committed to passing on that passion, the classes are about experimenting and experiencing with materials, mediums and techniques. Sculpture including clay, carving and found objects, painting with acrylics, water colour, oil pastels, chalks, charcoal, pencil studies, weaving, installation, photography, printing, collage, pen & ink, mixed media, pencil charcoal and text art. The classes encourage and nurture an open and creative mind. Tuesday 3.30pm to 4.45pm – Juniors Term Time Wednesday 3.30pm to 4.45pm – Infants Term Time See Website for Adult Classes Infants term time £7.00 to £15.00 Gemma Shaw 07719 735626leighindependentartschool@hotmail.co.uk www.leighindependentart.wix.com/lias

Mary Lister
Contemporary Art
3 Leigh Community Centre
73 Elm Road
Leigh-on-Sea
Essex SS9 7SP
The class aims to encourage people’s interest and individuality in art through a contemporary understanding and it explores a multitude of
media and disciplines to widen participants’ knowledge of materials as well as giving everyone equal opportunity to try various art practices they may not have tried before. Discussion about current artists and movements also helps develop knowledge of the progression of art.

All materials supplied (unless specified)

Saturdays 2.00pm to 4.00pm, booking required
£5.00 per session or £25.00 for 6
Children free but must be accompanied by adult.

The Secret Art Club
Michelle Goldman
Michelle is an artist, art teacher and founder of the Secret Art Club, which is a welcoming group that gets together once a month to explore new mediums and subject matter. Ages 16 upwards
Fees apply
07840 144042
mgoldman84@hotmail.com
www.michellegoldman.co.uk

Elsa James – TIME Projects

TIME Projects collaborate with a diverse range of partners and create participatory art projects and interventions that respond to social issues and community concerns. They work with children, young people, adults and older people in a variety of settings and contexts and are committed to working with marginalised and vulnerable communities. The Art Workshop offers Key Stage 2 children a unique opportunity to engage in a sustainable after-school arts programme through a broad range of high quality artistic activity with a professional visual artist.
Ages 5 upwards
Fees apply
07595 971053
elsa@timeprojects.org.uk
www.timeprojects.org.uk

Made By You Pottery
872 London Road
Leigh-On-Sea
Essex SS9 3NQ

Made By You is a professional pottery painting studio based in Leigh-On-Sea. You can choose any item from our vast range and paint glaze at Made By You.

Groups and ladies nights.

Heidi Wigmore
Drawing
Heidi is a freelance visual artist and art educator. She is artist workshop leader for English National Ballet, Metal and a visiting lecturer at City Lit, Anglia Ruskin University. She runs a variety of artist workshops at Metal, Chalkwell Hall, e.g. Dynamic Life Drawing and Creative Journal. ‘Live’ drawing workshops and courses in London for English National Ballet, also in association with City Lit. She also runs children’s art events at Village Green: Next Generation.
Fees apply
heidwigmore1@tiscali.co.uk
www.heidwigmore.com

Creative Courses

FPG Young Artists Group
Focal Point Gallery
The Forum
Elmer Square
Southend-on-Sea
Essex SS1 1NB

FPG’s Young Artists Group meets weekly after school during term time. Informal sessions take place at Focal Point Gallery, forming an introduction to the artists and exhibitions in the organisation’s rolling programme. In practical workshops, participants can try out new skills, explore materials, and develop their critical abilities and transferable skills. The groups are small and led by artists who will encourage individual interests and advise on appropriate progression routes.
Funded Places for ages 11 to 18
Ground floor, accessible to wheelchairs
Free, SEND inclusive
Wednesdays and Thursdays
4.00pm to 6.00pm
01702 534148
focalpointgallery@southend.gov.uk
www.focalpoint.org.uk
Instagram and Twitter @FPG_Create

Open Arts

Run from various community venues across South Essex. Open Arts is a community arts project run as one of the charities managed within the South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT). Offering creative courses in community venues across south Essex. Open Arts promotes positive mental health and wellbeing through participation in the arts. For up to date course details please contact us or visit our website.
Fees apply but some places are free due to funding
Jo Keay 07580 982462
07903 188673
jo.keay@sept.nhs.uk
Open.arts@sept.nhs.uk
www.openartsessex.com

The Estuary Gallery Co-operative

The Estuary Gallery is a Fine Art Photography and Painting Studio.

For up to date details check website.
The Estuary Gallery is a Fine Art Photography and Painting Studio.

Dates of workshops on website and by arrangement
£60 per Student
ianjphoto@gmail.com
www.estuarygallery.com

Metal Art School
Creative Thinking, Digital Art, Drawing
Chalkwell Park
Chalkwell Avenue
Southend-on-Sea
SS9 8NB

For up to date details please call us or visit our website.
Metal run a wide range of courses – in various disciplines from creative thinking, drawing from life to learning digital tools from their new Metal Art School space in Chalkwell Park. This includes evening and daytime classes, run by professional artists and practitioners. We also work with schools that are interested in pupils taking part in workshops outside of school.
Courses are not all year round, but run intermittently.
Fees apply. Some schools projects are free through funded projects.
Chalkwell@metalculture.com
01702 470700
www.metalculture.com

The Other MA (TOMA)
The Other MA (TOMA) is a 12-month alternative art education model based at Metal Art School in Southend. A space for artists to work and develop their practice within a critical framework for postgraduate level TOMA is unaccredited in the traditional sense but provides a responsive student directed programme of learning that benefits the practice of artists in the same way including: crits, visiting artists, workshops, a personal tutor, offsite projects and exhibitions.

Cost: £40 per month over 12 months
Suitable for: Artists with at least 3 years strong practice
www.toma-art.com
Emma Edmondson
toma@metalculture.com

Roche Art Group (R.A.G)
Painting and Drawing
St Teresa’s Catholic Primary School
Hawkwell
Ashingdon Road
Rochford SS4 1RF
Running 25 years, R.A.G is as much a social group as it is an art club, with an exhibition once a year. Relocating to various out-door locations, it is an art class without a teacher. Occasionally a demonstrator comes in for demonstration. 7.30pm to 9.30pm every Wednesday £35.00 Annual Membership debs.rocheartgroup@gmail.com www.rocheartgroup.wix.com/roche-art-group

Southend Youth and Community Arts
Laurence Mathews
1 Queens Road
Southend-on-Sea
Essex SS1 1LT
And other venues in and around Southend.
Local registered charity providing quality arts opportunities for all ages; watercolour workshops under the tuition of a professional artist; and a Summer Art Club. There are a variety of arts and skillsets involved, from painting and decorating kites, to painting sessions. Check our website for detailed schedules.
Ages 7 to 15
Fees apply
Claire Bartlett
01702 306742
sitnfidget@blueyonder.co.uk
www.southendyoutharts.weebly.com

Volunteer and Work Experience opportunities List

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Focal Point Gallery
The Forum
Elmer Square
Southend-on-Sea
SS1 1NB
Focal Point Gallery can offer a variety of ways for young people to engage with the gallery via its volunteer programme and to gain an insight into the Creative Industries. Volunteers can benefit from a series of dedicated talks and workshops with gallery staff, artists and creative professionals. The FPG Internship Programme enables people at a critical stage in their career to gain experience of working in a publicly funded contemporary art space. Each internship lasts six months, and participants gain a wide range of new skills relating to gallery work, including training in programming, marketing, fundraising, editing, publishing, learning and general arts administration. For more information please contact us by email focalpointgallery@southend.gov.uk

Furtherfield
McKenzie Pavilion
Finsbury Park
London N4 2NQ
Furtherfield can offer work placements in community game building and moderation through Play Your Place, for HE students or self-educated artists, this would involve a half day intro at Metal Art School and then work from home with regular reviews. We also offer placements in gallery hosting and digital archiving. These could be at our London based gallery in the heart of Finsbury Park, or students might work remotely with Furtherfield directors on research projects.

Leigh Folk Festival
Volunteer in the #folkfestarmy
The #FolkFestArmy was launched in 2014 with an unprecedented number of volunteers coming on board to undertake a range of roles at last year’s festival. The growing festival offers increasing opportunities to volunteer. If you would like to apply to volunteer please fill out the form at www.bit.do/vntr

Leigh Art Trail
Leigh Art Trail is a range of creative activities and exhibitions that showcase the creative talent of Southend, centreing on a week-long exhibition with 30+ artists showing work in shops, cafes and studios, which is by selection or invitation. It offers short-term volunteering opportunities, family creative workshops, and a schools exhibition. Please see website for more details.
Tricia North
07773 190820
leigharttrail@hotmail.co.uk
www.leigharttrail.com

Metal
Metal can offer a variety of ways for young people to engage with our activities and programme via its all year round work experience and volunteer programme. The programme provides participants with hands on, useful insights into a career working with a wide range of artistic disciplines. From administrative office duties, pastoral care for artists-in-residence, marketing, production and a wide range of essential large and small-scale event delivery tasks. For more information please contact us on chalkwell@metalculture.com or visit www.metalculture.com/volunteering/
The Old Waterworks
The Old Waterworks
North Road
Southend-on-Sea
SS0 7AB
At The Old Waterworks we have a variety of opportunities for artists and Higher Education/Further Education students. Our open door policy aims to support and help artists at any stage of their practice and we are dedicated in the support of professional development; this includes our residencies, workshops with universities and colleges, print room and darkroom facilities, digital editing suite and space to research and develop work. Our artists' studio events, artist talks and all can join crits. Check our website for current opportunities.
www.theoldwaterworks.com
@old_waterworks
facebook.com/theoldwaterworks
oldwaterworks@gmail.com

Village Green
Village Green is the large scale, one day music and arts festival run by Metal each year in Chalkwell Park. The event takes place in July. There are a wide range of opportunities to get involved as a volunteer in all kinds of essential jobs that help deliver a successful festival each year. Job descriptions and application forms are online throughout the year at www.villagegreenfestival.com
Or for more information please contact us on chalkwell@metalculture.com or visit www.metalculture.com/volunteering

Case Study
Liam Cosford
Aged 19
Student / Volunteer

As an invigilator, it is Liam's role to be the face of community engagement at FPG. He is the first point of contact for anyone who walks through the door. It is his responsibility to inform them about shows and answer their questions; to gauge their needs according to the gallery’s events and pique their interests. It involves a skilled combination of one-to-one approachability, and public relations.

He got involved with Focal Point Gallery when he visited the Elizabeth Price’s ‘SUNLIGHT’ exhibition in 2013, having just started his art foundation course at South Essex College. He spoke to the FPG team and managed to secure the role as volunteer invigilator. It was a case of having the confidence to ask, and being in the right place at the right time.

Aside from useful insight into the inner workings of the gallery, Liam considers being an invigilator at Focal Point Gallery to have been invaluable for its networking opportunities. He has learnt a great deal in the curatorial and administrative aspects of assembling an exhibition, having worked on shows including Hannah Sawtell’s ‘#STANDARDISER.’ In the near future he will be working with artists Fiona Banner and Paul Johnson, having come into contact with them through the gallery.

Liam is positive that his experience with Focal Point Gallery has helped pave his career path. Without it, he believes he would be going into the industry ‘blind.’ As it stands, Liam is now undertaking a BA qualification at Goldsmith’s College of Art, and is confident that wherever his degree takes him — whether into the fields of a practicing artist, a curator or an art writer — FPG has helped provide broad understanding of the industry at a professional level.
Arts Award Profile

Arts Award is a nationally recognised qualification. Anyone up to the age of 25 can get involved through the five different levels; Discover; Explore; Bronze; Silver; Gold. Each helps those taking part to grow as artists and arts leaders through taking challenges in any art form. To gain each certificate, students work with a trained Arts Award adviser. There are no entry requirements, no time limit for completing the award, and no set rules on how to present final work. Southend has two Arts Awards Centres at Focal Point Gallery and Metal. Both offer exciting courses at all the Arts Awards levels.

Arts Awards at Focal Point Gallery

Focal Point Gallery is south Essex’s gallery for contemporary visual art. It is a great resource and a stimulating atmosphere for Arts Award students. After school sessions are led by artists from the field of visual arts including ceramics, design, digital arts, film, photography, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. Sessions are informal and participants of senior school age are encouraged in their individual Arts Award challenge in Bronze, Silver or Gold. Younger children can gain awards in Discover and Explore by attending FPG’s Children’s Art Club. All courses offer the chance to develop skills, try new ways of working, and to learn about different artistic practices in an exhibition environment.

Arts Award at Metal

Metal are now entering their fifth year of successful Arts Award provision. Their programme is designed to stimulate and encourage curiosity and creativity amongst enthusiastic young people surrounded by a vibrant mixture of creative practitioners. Students feel completely free and confident to explore their creativity and artistic talents within an exciting and informal learning environment at Metal Art School. The students encounter a rich variety of arts with experiences both on and off-site enriching their project work. From dance to digital filmmaking, architecture, fashion, portrait painting, Arts Award at Metal will encourage and help to develop passions.

Case Study

Joanna Gaudini
Aged 13
School Pupil

Joanna Gaudini thought she wasn’t too good at ‘art’, although she had some great ideas. She found it hard to put them down on paper in her school art classes, where more traditional ways of ‘making art’ like drawing and painting are the focus.

Some of Joanna’s friends had been on an Arts Award course and when she found out there was an opportunity to do photography as part of it, she was over the moon and decided to give the Award a go. Now, having achieved her Bronze Award and on the way to earning Silver, she remembers the various projects she took part in which gave her the chance to try a range of arts from bookbinding and film to papier mâché. In particular, she felt the award benefitted her love of photography. Thrilled to be using a DSLR camera, Joanna developed her understanding of macro photography at Focal Point Gallery, and on a trip with the Award experimented with the imposing ironwork of the pier against the landscape. Now she has a camera of her own and is considering photography as a profession.

For Joanna, Arts Award has been a learning curve in how to think about art as well as how to lend her hand to artistic projects. An absence of rubbers in the workshops helped her decide that art is a way of seeing things. Rather than deleting or erasing what she has made, she looks at it differently: “that mistake could be something. You might learn something from your mistakes...”
Case Study

Mark Couzens
Practising Artist

Some years ago, Mark Couzens knocked on the door of Focal Point Gallery as a newly graduated arts student, looking for the local library. He hasn’t left yet. Starting out as a volunteer invigilator, Mark worked hard and took great interest in the job that, he says, the Gallery repaid tenfold. Soon, they were paying him for his work, quick to recognise his strengths as a handy man with an artist’s eye.

From this volunteering starting-point, Mark went on to become one of the technicians for Focal Point Gallery – all of whom, he says, are artists – and eventually also an education leader. He has worked on most of the tech for exhibitions at the gallery since, as well as running some of its education programmes with fellow artist Calvin Laing, including the Arts Award courses. Focal Point Gallery have also been pivotal in allowing the two leaders to run workshops for arts foundation students and soon BA students as extra-curricular support during their degrees.

Now, Mark is a practising artist based in London, as well as Head Technician at Chisenhale Gallery. Yet for three and a half years he has commuted back to Southend to run tech for every show Focal Point Gallery has exhibited. This is not exceptional; Mark says the whole tech team does the same. The gallery is not just a cultural space, but also an environment that cultivates loyalty and community in the arts enthusiasts who walk through its doors.

Case Study

Nancy Harper
Aged 15
Arts Award Student (Silver)
School Pupil

Nancy has always engaged in lots of extra-curricular activities involving the arts. Now that she is doing Art and Textiles GCSEs and thinking about what kind of artistic career she might like to pursue, she decided it would be useful to have an additional qualification that recognises her creative skills.

At school, where she first found out about Metal’s Arts Award, Nancy discovered that GCSE art classes are fairly structured, and the emphasis on homework-based learning can be quite labour intensive. She believes the Arts Award is so great to do alongside school classes because it caters to her specific interests, keeping art fun and engaging.

Some of her friends did their Bronze Arts Awards in disciplines as varied as breakdancing, drama and writing, Nancy focused on fashion and illustration. Not only does she think this has enhanced her understanding of proportion and perspective for her Textiles GCSE, but she was given the chance to meet a pattern cutter from Central Saint Martins, who gave her some contact details and book recommendations. Now Nancy is completing her Silver Arts Award, and building on her previous work to improve her portraiture skills.

This, Nancy says, is the keystone of the Arts Award. Participants connect with different people as well as different arts, and whilst there is one eye towards the future as they meet people making careers out of artistic interests, there is still an emphasis on having fun and making new friends. Not to mention the biscuits and jaffa cakes at each meeting!
What About Starting Your Own Business?

One of the great things about the arts is that it’s full of creative people with great talent, finely honed skills and fantastic ideas. Many businesses in the creative world are one-man bands or small companies that specialise in a particular service or product. Starting your own business is probably easier than you think — and there’s lots of help out there for you, if you need it. What’s more, the creative industries are the fastest growing sector, forming a substantial element of the UK’s exports, making it a very viable career choice.

Future Network

Future Network is a regular, quarterly evening event hosted by Metal at Chalkwell Hall for artists, practitioners and creative businesses working across any artistic discipline. Each evening includes a practical seminar on useful skills like marketing, fundraising or audience development, followed by 3 Minute Wonders, an open mic session for anyone to talk about their project or business. After that, there is a drink and a chance to chat. For more information: chalkwell@metalculture.com 01702 470700 www.metalculture.com/projects/future-networks

60 Minute Mentor

60 Minute Mentor is a programme aimed at connecting local businesses and young people. It is a great way to find out a bit more about different career choices, helping you decide on the skills and training you may need to get there. In each 60 minute session a local business leader will speak to a class or group of young people about their work. These sessions are engaging and inspiring.

Did you know that over 13,000 people in Southend are self-employed?

and designed to share information about career paths you may not have considered or insight into how to achieve your goals.

The Hive

The Hive is Southend-on-Sea’s newest business enterprise centre, based above the Beecroft Art Gallery, on Victoria Avenue. It opened in Spring 2015 and has a large amount of business and meeting space to offer individuals or small companies who may not yet have their own office space.

There are a range of flexible offers to suit all budgets and businesses. And best yet, they offer a wide range of business training, support and networking events that you can attend even if you are not based there.

The building is managed by Enterprise4good.

www.thehive.org.uk @theHiveSouthend Facebook: theHiveSouthend

Your Creative Network!

Your Creative Network is a growing network of cultural, creative and digital businesses from across Southend. It meets quarterly at a variety of arts venues around the town to share ideas, best practice, opportunities and support.

For more information contact nicolamason@southend.gov.uk

Some of Southend’s largest businesses – Keymed, Ventrica and Ipeco were all started by individual entrepreneurs.

20 Top Tips on Starting Your Own Business

• A business plan is essential
• Develop and test your idea
• Set yourself short, medium and long term goals
• Choose the right business structure
• Set up and register your business
• Choose the right name for your business
• Create a logo that properly represents your business
• Set up and register your business
• Develop a network of like-minded people
• Be flexible and look for new opportunities
• Be patient
• Provide outstanding customer service
• Be sure your website functions
• Find the right employees
• Recognise that you will be the final person who is paid
• Know that honesty is the best policy
Organisations Near to Southend

Acme Studios
High House Artists’ Studios is one of Acme Studios’ 16 buildings, the majority of which are located in East and South East London. The 39 studios range from 1,654 square feet, suitable for large-scale sculpture production, down to 129 square feet which cost as little as £20 a week to rent. There are four work/live, which combine a studio with ancillary living space.

Acme Studios manages the Stephen Cripps Studio Award at High House Production Park, a three-year creative development opportunity that provides a resource and support structure from which artists can develop their practice and realise and present planned or new projects. The Award is funded by Acme Studios, The Henry Moore Foundation, High House Production Park Ltd and Stephen Cripps’s family.

www.acme.org.uk

Backstage Centre
The Backstage Centre offers a dedicated meeting point for technicians, producers, creative teams and learners of all ages. They offer space to train and learn at every stage of your career, whether you’re a world-renowned international artist or a young person taking your first career steps.

www.thebackstagecentre.com

Creative & Cultural Skills (CCS)
The National College for the Creative and Cultural Industries, managed by CCS, will be a consortium of employers and industry organisations including Live Nation, Royal Opera House, White Light and the Association of British Theatre Technicians. It will open at HHPP in September 2016, and provide specialist training in the technical skills needed by the creative and cultural industries.

Furtherfield
McKenzie Pavilion
Finsbury Park
London
N4 2NQ

Furtherfield in London have strong links in Southend. They offer work placements in community game building and moderation through Play Your Place, for HE students or self-educated artists, this would involve a half day intro at Metal Art School in Southend and then work either from Metal or at home with regular reviews. Furtherfield also offer placements in their gallery hosting and digital archiving. These could be at their London based gallery in the heart of Finsbury Park, or students might work remotely with Furtherfield directors on research projects. Please see website for further details and opportunities.

Ruth Catlow
Ruth.catlow@furtherfield.org
www.furtherfield.org

There is an acknowledged shortage of highly qualified technical workers with hands-on industry experience, and there are rapid changes in the technology that technicians use to do their work. A National College, where people can train in these skills, and where apprenticeships and industry experience are provided, is absolutely vital – and it’s right on Southend’s doorstep.

www.ccskills.org.uk
High House Production Park

Just 30 minutes away from Southend-on-Sea, High House Production Park (HHPP) is the result of long-term collaboration between the Royal Opera House, Creative & Cultural Skills, Acme Studios, Thurrock Council, Arts Council England, Business Innovation and Skills, Communities and Local Government and their agencies. Sitting within a fourteen-acre site, with stunning views over the Thames at the point where the Dartford Crossing intersects with the river, HHPP has a number of creative organisations that work regionally with young people, providing learning and skills opportunities. There is an exciting and diverse learning programme offered both on and off the site. Each partner has distinct learning opportunities that children and young people, adults and professionals can access whilst also providing joint offers specific to the site.

www.hhpp.org.uk

Royal Opera House

Royal Opera House Learning and Participation in Thurrock offers a variety of ways in which you can get involved with projects in your school, college or in the local community. They encourage participants to discover and develop new skills through the art forms of ballet, dance, opera and music, with an additional particular focus on the production, craft and technical elements of theatre making.

In a unique partnership with South Essex College and University of the Arts London, the Royal Opera House has established a new BA(Hons.) degree course in Costume Construction to be delivered from the Centre’s bespoke workrooms. The proximity to the costume archive will provide a wealth and depth of material for the students to study. The students will also be provided with opportunities for specialist placements with the Royal Opera House Costume department, providing a springboard for ensuring the specialist skills are passed on to the next generation of costumiers. Tours of the amazing production workshops at ROH in Thurrock are available.

www.roh.org.uk/about/thurrock

Studio 3

The organisation was established in 1987 by a group of young people from Barking and Dagenham. Their vision is to make outstanding art that is accessible, exciting and transformative. Their mission is that Studio 3 Arts remains at the forefront of socially-engaged, co-created artistic practice. They run a creative venue for artists, communities and individuals in all art forms, that creates real change, both in terms of art and society. They work in collaboration with communities of west Essex and prioritise developing artists. Their physical home is an established arts venue that is locally-driven, curated and produced combining their own artistic programme with a selection of received works by artists and companies who are interested in the region and our community.

www.studio3arts.org.uk

Sign up to mailing lists of arts organisations in this booklet to find out about events. Go along to as many as you can to discover more and make contacts.
Alt Art School has been arranged so that it is easy to navigate. Each chapter covers a different artistic discipline and lists all practitioners and institutions that can offer workshops, lessons or volunteering opportunities.

A browse through may inform you of an artistic opportunity you never knew you were missing. Each section lists practitioners experienced in running courses and workshops, alongside institutions that run talks, events, as well as volunteering or work experience opportunities to develop your CV.

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Case studies interviews: Hannah Oliver
Editing: Sophie Sleigh-Johnson, Michael Sullivan, Learning and Engagement Intern, Focal Point Gallery
Design: Fraser Muggeridge studio

Disclaimers: Alt Art School cannot take any responsibility for the quality of experience or any safeguarding issues relating to the individual listings within this book. All information was correct at the time of publishing. Alt Art School is not an exhaustive list of all creative industries in Southend.