



NETWORK AMBASSADORS
PROGRAMME 2019 - 2022

Starting a Local Family Arts Network



Family Arts
Campaign

What are Family Arts Networks?

Family Arts Networks are a way for local organisations to work together to share learnings, provide a wide range of quality family arts experiences, reach more family audiences, engage with more diverse families and better understand their needs. The Family Arts Campaign has fostered the creation of Local Family Arts Networks with a place-based and collaborative emphasis, focussing on specific regional knowledge and sharing insights, resources and skills.

You can find out more about Networks at familyarts.co.uk/networks and discover the areas where Family Arts Networks already exist by visiting familyarts.co.uk/local-networks

Who can be part of a Network?

Each Network is made up of six or more 'local' organisations, you define what 'local' means in your context – it could be down the road or the other side of the county! Networks can include both arts and non-arts organisations, of all sizes. All art forms are welcome, but we ask that at least two different art forms are represented in each Network.

We understand that partnerships between arts and non-arts organisations* can be an important step towards reaching families of all backgrounds. We've also found that being part of an official group of organisations can strengthen existing relationships with local arts and non-arts organisations.

**By 'arts' organisations we mean cultural organisations whose work focuses on art forms, which includes museums and libraries. By 'non-arts', we mean organisations that do not solely focus on creative activities. These partners can include local councils, schools, community and faith groups, social clubs etc.*

Practical Tips for Establishing and Leading a Network

The following points have been developed by Family Arts Campaign Local Network Ambassadors, detailing some of the practical learning they would share with other network leaders or those wishing to set up a network.

- **Personal approaches are more effective than general call-outs to recruit new members.**
- **Being adaptable and flexible to different members' needs is essential as they are working with different goals, capacities and focuses.**
- **Being approachable and open is crucial to building a network and fostering a collaborative culture.**
- **Think about the ask and what members are required to commit to.**
- **Champion and celebrate the work.**
- **Be creative with communications and consider accessibility.**

- A broad range of organisations, both from within and outside of the arts sector, can enhance the range of knowledge and expertise within a network.
- Adapt your communication to suit different network members.
- Make meetings fun and engaging.
- Read and share relevant and up to date best practice for inspiration.
- Seek and then respond to feedback and suggestions from members.
- Plan things in collaboration to bring members together.
- Draw on a pot of seed funding to cultivate group working. It goes a long way.
- Create a strategy with a shared set of values and objectives.
- Develop a six-monthly to annual plan to plot activities and goals as a network – but allow for flexibility.
- Build a terms of reference for who is in the network and establish roles and responsibilities.
- Encourage discussion into inclusivity and accessibility.



**Thank you to Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for funding the Network
Ambassador Programme from 2019-2022.**

If you would like to find out more about the programme and future
opportunities, visit familyarts.co.uk/networks or email Anna Dever,
Executive Director at Family Arts Campaign on
anna.dever@thealbany.org.uk