GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON YOUTH ARTS PROGRAMS
How and Why the Arts Can Make a Difference
Frances Howard
For Danny, Sid and Ella
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List of abbreviations

AI       Arts programs as intervention
BERA    British Educational Research Association
CAMP    Chicago Arts and Music Project
CAYW    Creative arts youth work
CCIs    Cultural and creative industries
EHV     Education in human values
EVS     European Voluntary Service
JKPeV   Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V. (Youth & Culture Project)
NEET    Not in education, employment or training
NYCI    National Youth Council of Ireland
PYD     Positive youth development
SEL     Social emotional learning
WA      Western Australia
YPC     Youth Planning Committee (Propel Youth Arts WA)
About the author

Frances Howard is Senior Lecturer in Youth Studies at Nottingham Trent University. She has previously worked in local authorities, arts education and youth work. Alongside her academic role, Frances continues to volunteer with local youth organisations, often contributing to the evaluation of arts programs. She is still involved as a Moderator with Arts Award.
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The contribution of COVID-19

Parts of this book have been written from my PhD thesis, which was well before the COVID-19 timeline. However, the data generated from the international case study programs was gathered between October 2020 and March 2021 – the time of the ‘second peak’ of COVID-19 in the UK. All interviews with youth workers, program leaders and managers, and young people were conducted via Zoom video conferencing. Online fieldwork, despite the time differences and late-night video calls, was actually an easier endeavour in terms of reaching and connecting with programs and their
participants. Talking to people about the status of COVID-19 in their area of the world and the different stages of lockdown people were experiencing assuaged the feelings of isolation during the pandemic. Although many programs were disrupted, on hold or operating digitally with young people, youth arts practitioners enjoyed reflecting on their experiences and the highlights of their work. Together we felt connected through the time afforded by the pandemic to reconsider what was important in our lives and in our work and to champion the good work that these programs were continuing to try to achieve despite restrictions.

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