



# Green Gown Awards 2014

## Finalist's case study



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## University of the Arts London Social Responsibility London College of Fashion: Crafting partnership with St Joseph's Hospice

### Section 1 About the project

#### Summary

The Widening Participation Unit at London College of Fashion (LCF) has set up a partnership with St Joseph's Hospice. LCF staff, students and alumni lead crafting workshops with patients, carers, staff, local residents and schools. Activities include making bags, scarves and jewellery and pieces made during the workshops have been exhibited at multiple events. These items are sold to raise money for the hospice.

#### Project partners

Hospice partner: St Joseph's Hospice

School partners: Bridge Academy, City Academy, The Urswick School

### Section 2 The results

#### The starting point

The project brings together very diverse groups – those with physical illnesses, learning difficulties and from different ethnic backgrounds with a common interest in creating. The participants come together to form a supportive community and share knowledge. They did not know one another at the beginning and have now formed a bond over their shared interest and achievements.

#### The approach

We have developed a partnership between our Widening Participation Unit, St Joseph's Hospice and three local Hackney schools over three years through a process of co-creation by all partners. LCF staff, students and alumni run crafting sessions at the hospice, in schools and on the college campus, engaging participants in upcycling garments and objects to produce pieces that are sold to raise funds for the hospice.

#### Our goals

The work within the Widening Participation Unit is mainly focused on student progression onto courses and the work within the community with a project such as this is an opportunity for our students and alumni to engage with local communities and share their creative skills with a wider group. The Hospice is committed to working with the local community to encourage a better understanding of the work the institution does.

**ual:** university  
of the arts  
london  
london college  
of fashion

#### Profile

- HEI
- 18,799 students
- 2,333 staff
- Urban

## Obstacles and solutions

Breaking down barriers to participation	In school preparation sessions discussing the project, the role of the hospice in the community and asking for ideas on how to raise funds to support the Hospice
Breaking down barriers for patients to participate	Create a series of fortnightly, drop in sessions and monitor attendance and feedback.
Working with negative perceptions of secondhand clothing	Introducing sustainability workshops looking at global issues and local issues including upcycling, vintage brands and high street sustainable fashion initiatives.

## Performance and results

There has been a steady increase in interest from schools in the project. Young people have given very positive feedback on what they have learnt including new skills and improved understanding of sustainability issues - as well as learning about the work of a hospice and contributing to meaningful activity to help the local community. Working with the Hospice is a collaboration that is of mutual benefit. The learning from each year's activity feeds into ensuring that the programme continues to improve from year to year. LCF is committed to continuing the partnership and has discussed a number of new projects to be explored in 2015.

## Section 3 The future

### Lessons learned

1. This has inspired us to consider how to integrate this type of activity elsewhere in our teaching through a shared module around social responsibility. It has also inspired our school partners to include sustainable fashion in the curriculum.
2. Through openness to evolution and co-creation, a mutually beneficial, ongoing relationship can be built between diverse partners. This provides an excellent model of how universities can work with a wider range of organisations.
3. Practical sessions offer opportunities for discussion and reflection on global issues whilst encouraging discussion and skill sharing between diverse groups.

### Sharing our project

We have publicised this project through our website and blogs:

<http://blogs.arts.ac.uk/fashion/2014/09/29/bags-life-lcf-collaborates-st-josephs-hospice-sustainability-project/>  
<http://blogs.arts.ac.uk/sustainability/inspire/sustainability-award/sustainability-award-winners-2013/>  
<http://blogs.arts.ac.uk/fashion/2014/08/05/london-college-fashion-centre-sustainable-fashion-nominated-six-green-gown-awards/>

### What has it meant to your institution to be a Green Gown Award finalist?

"We are delighted that six London College of Fashion projects are Green Gown Award Finalists in 2014. This recognition, of our dedication to sustainability in all that we do and our achievements to date, will help us to celebrate our success and engage even more students, staff and others in using fashion, as a discipline, to drive change, build a sustainable future and improve the way we live."

- Professor Frances Corner OBE, Head of London College of Fashion

### Further information

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LCF Widening Participation Unit: <http://www.arts.ac.uk/fashion/about/better-lives/widening-participation/>

St Joseph's Hospice: <http://www.stjh.org.uk/>

Bridge Academy: [www.bridgeacademy.hackney.sch.uk](http://www.bridgeacademy.hackney.sch.uk)

City Academy: [www.city-academy.com](http://www.city-academy.com)

The Urswick School: [www.theurswickschool.co.uk](http://www.theurswickschool.co.uk)

Better Lives is a term we use here at London College of Fashion to describe the work we do that uses fashion, as a discipline, to drive change, build a sustainable future and improve the way we live:

<http://www.arts.ac.uk/fashion/about/better-lives/>