Overview September 2009- March 2010

KORI Arts began the year, ignited with energy from their successful November 2008 trip to Tanzania. Our early 2009 activity involved a flurry of presentations to schools, and organisations, as well as waiting for the film of our trip to be edited and shown to families and friends.

The New Year brought many challenges: the most urgent being financial as the trip had drained the coffers! There was still much work to achieve: we had programmes planned for the Juniors (8-11yr olds) Seniors (11-16yr olds and the Mentors (16-25yr olds). Each programme involved bringing ideas, experts and resources together to create quality learning environments. The challenge of shoe string budgeting was a rewarding one as need prompted KORI to diversify its provision in the community: reaching out to more young people and parents and ultimately finding new ways to meet the costs. Some of that diverse work is outlined in the following:

KORI Academic Supplementary school

A new programme promoting academic excellence in the community: KORI Academic uses creative methods of teaching, employing the arts to help young people meet academic developmental targets. This programme is particularly aimed at supporting children and young people with learning challenges or those who need more imaginative, visual and interactive teaching styles. The teaching is delivered by KORI Mentors; Ebru Edgeworth, Kye Davies, Bayo Adebiyi, Dorette Lewin and Michael Ndebumadu who have high academic ability, supported by a teacher.

The subjects taught creatively are English (literacy); Maths (numeracy); and Geography with focused reading and writing and computer support. Our venue, a small hall, has been provided by the Moravian Church who has agreed to provide free space each week in support of the programmes aims. KORI Academic presently serves mainly 8- 11 year olds but the aim is for the provision to be for all the key stages in the primary and secondary sectors. The Paul Hamlyn Trust has provided funding support for the training of the mentors in provision of a creative academic curriculum.

Group Work

Juniors

The juniors are a growing group, consisting of mainly boys. At present they are a significant cohort represented in a number of the KORI projects that span each week. In September 2009 the group grew
in membership to 18 through the influx of some new boys from Campsbourne and Rokesly Primary schools in Hornsey. The needs in the group are focused around Learning challenges, self discipline and team work. The projects consequently, have been aimed at supporting those needs.

“My son’s confidence has developed beyond my own expectations. He is more outgoing and keen to talk about things that he has learnt whether at Kori or elsewhere. He is much more sociable and much easier in a crowded environment than he used to be.”

KORI Parent

Junior Projects
The KORI Multi’-arts classes take place every Wednesday and are the cornerstone session of the organisation. The Juniors’ section of the Multi arts have had an interesting year. They began with a seven month puppetry project involving making the puppets and performing for other children, teachers and parents. They were led by experienced puppeteer Anna Orson. Under her expert guidance, they performed their puppetry play ‘Ese’s Light’ at Swiss Cottage Special Needs School and for parents at KORI Arts. They then exhibited the puppets in a stunning display at Hornsey Library. This was followed by a five week basketball coaching class with mentor and level II coach, Josephine Maignomo.

Their summer project was based on language development, mental clarity and confidence building. This was achieved through the Juniors learning and competing in storytelling. This project was creatively directed and facilitated by the KORI Arts leaders Sola Adebiyi and Odiri Ighamre. It culminated in an impressive and rewarding gift of a performance for parents and invited guests.

In the autumn they began another language development project (perhaps we have an ulterior motive)! In this context they are currently working with Mentors Lydia Newman and Nadia Gasper using manga cartoons and the media of visual arts, storytelling and writing to develop range of their own comic characters heroes and stories for exhibition.

Seniors
The growth in the seniors has been slower. Three juniors moved into seniors at the start of this academic year and four have joined from Greig City and Highgate Wood Secondary Schools, making the group a steady seventeen members.

The seniors have also had a challenging year. It began with them exploring leadership through writing with the performance poet Shortman. To help them develop sharp presentation skills they work shopped with Alex Clifton from RADA and with writer, performer and Mentor Onome Edgeworth.
They performed their resulting poems magnificently at the Bernie Grant Arts Centre in Tottenham to an audience of youth. In their second term they had several mind opening visits from a rich range of guests to help them to explore the meaning of politics. This included being schooled in perception and self image by co-founder of 100 Black Men, Tony Warner and by international photographer Kofi Allen. The last part of the summer term was focused on designing costumes for involvement in the Thames Festival.

In the autumn their project ‘Hip Hop History was funded by the Haringey Youth Opportunity Fund leading to the young people creating music and clothes to represent their journey of identity in a grand final at a shared performance (with other young people) at the Mill Hill youth club at the end of March 2010.

**Mentors**

“I really enjoyed the training weekend, I took so much away about how to run a workshop, how to confidently plan and organise a workshop or series of workshops, what kind of techniques were most effective in different kinds of situations.

I believe Kori should continue to send mentors on workshops like this. Mentors are able to get a refresher course, build their confidence and meet like minded adults doing similar work.”

*Mentor - Nike Areola on training with the organisation Lifebeat*

The Mentors are a growing body of skills that feed each other. They are twenty three strong in number and this is growing. They support each other’s learning through sharing skills in training and outreach. They volunteer throughout the programme and also work as freelance young artists and coaches, delivering in schools and in the local community. The Mentors are the leaders who owing to their visibility and relationship with their young peers are very positive role models. As part of their role the mentors hosted a visiting group of youth from ‘Save the Children’ International children’s group.

**St Pauls Primary School**

KORI’s mentors; Ocean Bell Grey, Shak Meetoa, Lydia Newman, Nke Areola, Achai Biong, Simba Byer-Andrews and Warren Harrison-Weir provide a rich after school curriculum for St Pauls R.C primary school in Wood green, Haringey. They deliver quality arts and sports programmes through the week for the children and regularly share the achievements of the children with parents and the school through performances and tournaments and awards. Drama, Dance, swimming and football are delivered to up to seventy children per week.
Children are also picked up for the swimming club at Park road Pool and the multi-arts at the base in the Moravian hall to support working parents. The provision also enables the mentors to earn as freelance artists and coaches and to sharpen their delivery of arts and sports and be real role models to a diverse group of young people from across the community.

“The children have been provided with real role models, as young black leaders their presence is great for all the children in the school.”
Y1 Teacher - St Pauls.

A range of Mentors have worked with the Youth Offending Team from 2009 to 2010, providing drama and spoken word workshops for a targeted group of young people at risks. The work has been challenging and has raised the skill in KORI for working with young people that are disengaged.

As part of after school extended provision in Haringey, KORI has run after school clubs in Milton Road Community Centre in Turnpike Lane and Tower Gardens Community Centre in Tottenham. Both of the clubs began in early 2010 and are fully funded by Haringey Council. In Milton Road Mentors Ebru Edgeworth and Lydia Newman worked hard to engage children and young people from the local community in a homework and drama club. After a lot of door knocking and support by the leaders in the community, the council and the police, the classes have each steadily grown to accommodate eighteen 8-13 year olds. The community has begun to trust the stability, quality and safety of the provision.

The Tower Garden Provision was developed after tasters in Broadwater Farm and Risely Avenue primary Schools by Mentors Nike Areola, Nadia Gasper and Stephanie Turner. The club has started with providing Drama and Playwriting workshops to develop literacy and they engage thirteen 8-13 year olds each week. This project will sadly end in March 2010.

Ka-Zimba Martial Arts
This is a martial training programme that develops mental strength and of course physical prowess. The uses of animals as proxy’s or masks helps develop emotional literacy also. This is further enhanced by the dance like rhythmical forms and the use of percussion and other musical instruments in its practice. Ka-Zimba is fun, but it is also tough to learn. The teaching is discipline orientated and helps to educate calmness in young people, even those with behavioural and learning challenges. Ka-Zimba is taught at KORI every Wednesday by instructor Olusola Adebiyi and mentored by Asafo Gyata. It is regularly attended mainly by the Junior boys, although senior boys have recently expressed an interest.

The year past has been a nourishing one for Ka-Zimba students. They have learnt the value of diverse practice through instructors from other art forms who have come and led sessions. These have included Winchun, kick boxing and training from other Ka-Zimba instructors. The young people also benefited from periodic formal tests in preparation for a grading this year and from an amazing trip to the beautiful Virginia Water: involving plenty of outdoors practice!
The class is growing and a sister class is being developed at Broadwater Farm Primary school. An aim is to involve more girls and those girls who come to the Broadwater Farm class represent the seed of that intention. In all there are 15 children practicing Ka-Zimba at KORI Arts.

The Africa Band
The evolution of the drumming group into the ‘The Africa Band’ happened initially under the charismatic tutelage of Adesose Wallace. They performed at a number of events during 2009, most significantly for Prince Charles at the British Council’s 75th Year celebration of its work in the Commonwealth. For quite a while the group were settled at 12 members and then they were invited to move into the music room in Campsbourne for rehearsals.

The move meant the group was spared the cost of rent and was also open to a school audience. Consequently, its numbers have grown steadily to nineteen members, as even parents have joined to play with their children! Drummer Aaron Tanice from the Hackney based African performance group ‘Emashi’ took leadership of the group and the band has achieved recognition and been invited to perform with other Haringey groups at the Bernie Grant Centre in March 2010.

KORI Youth Theatre
Mentors Sagan Daniels and Lydia Newman made history in KORI when they became the first Mentors to develop their own project; The ‘KORI Youth Theatre’ and began working on their first play called ‘Gang Initiation Clinic’ written by Mentor Nadia Gaspar. They are currently rehearsing with a group of youth from all over London. They were given weekly rehearsal space in September 2009 by the Youth Service in Bruce Grove Haringey. The play is to be performed in different venues including Greenwich Theatre in spring 2010. It deals with the live and difficult issues facing youth today such as; belonging, choices, rape gang violence and relationships and is a multi-media project. The group has gained some funding from VCashpoint, and Keyfund.

Kori swimming club
In August 2009 KORI invited Haringey swimming coach Louise Redman to join the mentors and launched KORI Swimming. KORI was responding to need noticing that many children were not learning to swim as parents were struggling with work demands and often did not have the time or the money to afford swimming lessons. KORI developed a picking up service from St Pauls and Campsbourne primary schools, supported by parents and the group has grown to 18 strong. Already a group of children have earned their first swimming certificates.
“It is this longevity and structure in Kori that children see that will promote the sense of community within themselves.

Seeing a community that reaches from the infant and junior school children up through the teenagers and on to the Kori seniors and mentors, right up to the leaders that teaches children that they belong.”

KORI Parent

Holiday Projects 2009-2010

Holiday Projects have included:
• Juniors tree planting in Radford Mill in Bath
• Moors trip by seniors
• Whole group at Radford Mill Summer Camp in Bath led by KORI leaders and mentors
• Seniors at Life beat Camp with four mentors supporting camp leadership
• Swimming and Basketball Training led by two mentors
• Zoom Town music project taught by Artist Asafo Gyata and leader Olusola Adebiyi: including woods; park; London Zoo and roller skating day trips.
• Ka-Zimba day trip for trainees to Virginia Water
• Planet Plastic – recycling and trips for 8-13 year olds led by leader and three Mentors.

Training

The training needs are a continuous challenge at KORI and we find different ways of meeting them through partnerships. Training the mentors to lead quality projects is essential. Prevista Ltd a government Business Support Body has helped us meet some of those needs by providing self employment workshops and advice. Stonecroft Children’s centre has enabled access to its first aid and child protection training. The Life beat team has provided training in creativity and personal development for Leaders, Mentors and Seniors.

London Youth has provided Level one training in youth work for two Mentors and Level two training for one Mentor. Two more Mentors have just begun their level one through the youthworks programme.

IN 2009 Mentors Stephanie Turner, Max Ribeiro, Lydia Newman and Ocean Bell-Grey were chosen through their applications to the British Council to travel to china as part of a youth exchange for young artists. On their return KORI Arts hosted the Chinese Youth team for an afternoon of drama and presentations at the Haringey Youth centre in Bruce Grove.
The KORI leaders provided training and support in workshop and subject management and continue to look for new ways to support and develop the skills of the Mentors and help them to support the children and young people with increasing effectiveness.

**Funding**

The growth of the programme has exceeded all expectations as it responded to the needs of the community. The three days a week funding for management supported by the Halley Stewart Trust proved insufficient as the programme has demanded full time management.

The Key Fund is a fund supporting young people financially to develop their own ideas. The Manager at KORI and two Mentors, accessed the training and became facilitators of the Key fund through London Youth. It has led to the positive development of new project ideas from the seniors and Mentors at KORI, ideas not necessarily focused at the programme but very much about supporting and enabling their dreams whilst teaching them planning, budgeting and team work.

Youth opportunity fund administered by Haringey have supported the leadership and Hip Hop History projects for the seniors. The funding enables the seniors to be responsible for their choice of projects supported by their leaders.

KORI has moved to the Silver Award with the Jack Petchey Foundation. This enables KORI to gain more financial support from the scheme and give out more awards to deserving young people voted for by the group.

With the Youth Development Programme progressing so rapidly the funding strategy still needs time to catch up at KORI. The year has brought more demands in management and with only one part time manager in place the time needed to devote to fundraising has been challenging. There is real need for office space and a suitable space has been found in the Haringey Chocolate Factory Complex in Wood Green.

An office would enable the group to:

- Be visible and accessible to the community
- Have consistent training meetings
- Have computers available for use by mentors, volunteers, seniors, parents
- Leaders meetings with funders, partners and clients
- Meeting space for mentors preparing for workshops.

As the work has developed the need for the following posts has emerged:

- Full time manager (Over viewing and Managing the whole programme)
- Full time administrator (Administrate programmes, update website, etc)
- Part time fundraiser (Support Manager in developing fundraising strategies)
- Project Manager (Co-ordinate projects and mentors).
'Absolutely fantastic, really lovely inspirational people. If there were more groups like this the world would be a happier place! My face hurts from laughing and smiling so much. Thank you!'
Save The Children- visiting volunteer staff – Jo Abbot.

KORI Arts is thriving and has definitely taken huge steps towards becoming a sustainable programme which could not survive without the support of parents and volunteers week in and week out. Most of all the programme could not continue to serve the community if it was not supported by the Jack Petchey Foundation; the Sir Halley Stewart Trust; the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and Haringey’s extended provision in schools and the wider community. All which enables the programme to be continuously developed by the dynamic, talented and determined leadership of its young people.