Dream up
by FONDATION BNP PARIBAS

An international programme for education through the arts

BNP PARIBAS

The bank for a changing world
Dream up: 30 Charities Supported Worldwide

**EUROPE**
- **BELGIUM**
  - ReMuA
  - Music / Singing
- **BULGARIA**
  - B Cause Foundation
  - Plastic Arts / Music / Dance
- **FRANCE**
  - Klap Maison pour la Danse, Kelemenis & Cie
  - Dance
- **GERMANY**
  - Kinderschutzbund, Frankfurt
  - Theatre / Music
- **HUNGARY**
  - Mus-e Hungary,
  - Music / Singing / Graphic Arts / Photography
- **ITALY**
  - Sanitansamle Naples
  - Music
- **LUXEMBOURG**
  - Neumünster Abbey
  - Cultural Exchange Center
  - New Circus Arts
- **NETHERLANDS**
  - Youth Culture Fund
  - Dance
- **POLAND**
  - CePek (The Culture Promotion Center)
  - Music

**THE AMERICAS**
- **BRAZIL**
  - Monte Azul
  - Music
- **CANADA**
  - Montreal Museum of Fine Arts
  - Drawing / Painting
- **COLOMBIA**
  - Fundacion Nacional Batuta
  - Music / Singing
- **USA (NEW-YORK)**
  - DMF Youth
  - Dance
- **USA (SAN FRANCISCO)**
  - Alonzo King Lines Ballet
  - Dance

**ASIA PACIFIC**
- **AUSTRALIA**
  - Barnardos Australia
  - Visual Arts / Music / Dance
- **CHINA**
  - Taipei Ricci Institute
  - Music / Drawing / Painting

**AFRICA**
- **IVORY COAST**
  - Ivoire Développement Durable
  - Theatre / Music / Dance
- **MOROCCO**
  - Les Étoiles de Sidi Moumen
  - Music
- **SENEGAL**
  - Gnon – Dema (Ablaye Cissoko)
  - Music
- **SOUTH AFRICA**
  - Educape / SSF
  - Theatre
Once upon a time, **Dream up** was created and a great tale began: a programme of art and education for underprivileged children

Founded in 2015, Dream Up is the BNP Paribas Foundation’s international programme of education through art. It aims to give underprivileged children and teenagers the chance to practise one or more artistic activities. The scheme helps fulfil the objectives in BNP Paribas’ undertaking to support youth and the areas where the group is based.

**Culture and solidarity: two values on which Dream Up was founded**

Dream Up was founded on two key values of the BNP Paribas Foundation’s patronage policy: culture and solidarity. “Practising an artistic discipline is a great way to enjoy an enriching collective experience and become more self-confident,” says Jean-Jacques Goron, the managing director of the BNP Paribas Foundation. Dream Up therefore helps provide artistic and cultural education for children who are least likely to enjoy access to such disciplines.

**An emblematic ambassador**

Ever since it was first launched, the programme has enjoyed support from Abou Lagraa, a Franco-Algerian dancer and choreographer. Abou Lagraa says, “The path I’ve taken—which is similar to that of these youngsters—can be a springboard, giving them faith in the future. What I can impart to them is not just dance as a discipline, but a set of practices that help them tackle life, and with which they can equip themselves physically and intellectually to face society.”
Artistic practice: a tried-and-tested pedagogical springboard

The pedagogical benefits of Dream Up can be seen through accounts given by the programme’s stakeholders. They all share the same conviction: education is not just about learning the academic subjects with which most underprivileged children are struggling. “A little less maths and a bit more art or music,” demands the chairwoman of one of the charities supported by Dream Up.

Whether charity members, artists on the programme, teachers or accompanists, all those involved in the scheme underline the extent to which artistic practice is a powerful pedagogical springboard with a highly positive effect on children’s lives: artistic skills acquired, self-confidence regained, integration into collective life and respect for others, attention span improved, and even more regular attendance at school and better performance in class.

Unfailing action for yet another three years

The BNP Paribas Foundation is prolonging its Dream Up programme from 2018 to 2021, in line with the BNP Paribas group’s undertaking to support the social inclusion of youngsters. The investment of BNP Paribas’ local teams, whose knowledge of areas is vital in selecting charities and projects, will again be one of the keys to success in the scheme’s extension.

30,000 children supported
1,500+ workshops, shows, artistic creations and suchlike

2nd edition: 2018-2020
€1.8 m budget for the second edition
20,000 new children supported over the next three years
Find out about eight of the thirty projects supported worldwide.

Montreal Museum of Fine Arts
CANADA – P10
Drawing – Painting

Orquestra Gueraçao
PORTUGAL – P8
Music

ADOLeDANSE
FRANCE – P6
Dance

Neumünster Abbey Cultural Exchange Center
LUXEMBOURG – P12
New Circus Arts

HeART with Lines
UNITED STATES – P7
Dance

Gnon-Dema
SENEGAL – P9
Dance

Educape
SOUTH AFRICA – P13
Theatre

Taipei Ricci Institute
CHINA – P14
Music – Drawing – Painting
ADOleDANSE: enlarging the field of possibilities

In 2011, Michel Kelemenis, a choreographer and dancer, founded ‘KLAP, Maison pour la danse’. With support from Dream Up, he created ADOleDANSE in 2018, a dance programme for youngsters from underprivileged backgrounds in Marseille.

Discovering the dance professions

Supported by their secondary school’s teaching team, these teenagers get the chance to discover all professions in dancing through encounters with artistic teams, as well as technical and administrative employees.

During the school holidays, the group is joined by around one hundred other youngsters, aged ten to fourteen years, who are invited to take part in dance workshops.

Performance of their work is scheduled at the end of the academic year, inspired by the choreographer’s creations.

Learning, but conveying too

For Michel Kelemenis, “learning isn’t an end in itself, but a platform that boosts a dynamic of openness to others and acceptance of differences, during a period when radical transformation of bodies and interpersonal relations gives rise either to break-ups or to a scope reaching all possibilities.” By choosing to enlarge the field of possibilities, Michel Kelemenis pursues a goal beyond initiation in a technique: he seeks to make these teenagers true cultural ambassadors to those older than them.
Long supported by the BNP Paribas Foundation in his artistic career, the American choreographer Alonzo King offers San Francisco’s underprivileged children the chance to get into the groove with help from Dream Up.

All the world’s movements

“Movement provides a more expressive vision of the world than words do,” explains Alonzo King. At a very young age, he discovered this innate confidence in the movement of bodies and nature that gave his imagination endless scope and never left him. He therefore kept an indissoluble piece of his childhood within him. And this led him to take an interest in children’s relationship with art and, of course, dance in particular.

Art as a vehicle for revealing talents

“Expressive and communicative, dance is in each of us. By releasing its energy, lives can be changed,” adds Alonzo King.

With voluntary help from the professional artists of his ‘LINES Ballet Company’, he launched the ‘HeART with LINES’ scheme in 2015. His aim was to share the fundamentals of choreography and dance with San Francisco’s underprivileged youngsters.

“With artistic practice, everything improves in children’s lives: regular attendance at school, learning capacity, self-confidence, solidarity and even joy, which is so often lacking in these children from socially difficult backgrounds,” Alonzo King goes on to say. “Children overcome their doubts and flourish. They bloom,” he concludes.
Created in 2007 based on Venezuela’s ‘El Sistema’ model, Orquestra Geração is a programme of social inclusion through music for socially and educationally vulnerable children in Portugal. Since 2015, the BNP Paribas Foundation has supported it.

Thousands of musicians in the making

The children of Orquestra Geração study all types of music, including classical music, jazz and world music, the latter being particularly relevant to these children who have often experienced the migration that has punctuated Portugal’s history. The charity welcomes around one thousand children from schools where rates of absenteeism and dropping out are especially high. They form several orchestras that give performances in concerts each year in the large theatres of Lisbon and Porto. Over the past few years, some of these young musicians have joined the Gulbenkian Orchestra for an annual concert conducted by great maestros.

Art combined with civil values

Through musical education, the Orquestra Geração charity seeks to relieve children from poverty, fight underachievement and dropout rates in schools, stop children falling into delinquency, and give them the self-confidence they need to pursue true projects in their lives. “We want to train upstanding citizens, not just musicians,” says Antonio Diniz, the charity’s chairman.
Ablaye Cissoko and the kora kids

An author, composer and kora-player, Ablaye Cissoko is one of the artists the BNP Paribas Foundation has supported for several years. Support for his kora school is part of this ongoing relationship.

Protecting the kora from the risk of being forgotten

The kora is a string instrument traditionally taught in large families in Senegal, families of folk storytellers known as griots. Ablaye Cissoko comes from a family of griots and is fortunate to have been taught the kora by his father and grandfather. “A heritage has been passed down to us. We don’t own this instrument, but look after it,” he says, seeing himself as a bridge between elders and modern-day people.

In an increasingly urbanised Senegal, the kora is an instrument played less and less. Three factors are behind the instrument’s decline: a lack of space, a neglect of tradition and fewer music lessons.

Making underprivileged children the stewards of a tradition

So that the kora can keep its place in the lives of young Senegalese children, especially those who do not have the chance to learn the instrument through their families, Ablaye Cissoko founded a kora school for children in the city of Saint-Louis.

Free of charge for the very poor, the school offers other pupils lessons that have to be paid for. By mixing social backgrounds, Ablaye Cissoko hopes to root kora teaching widely and keep the tradition alive in all layers of Senegalese society. His idea is to inspire the opening of other schools in Dakar, in the Casamance area and throughout the country.

Senegal
The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts is training young ambassadors of world culture.
The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts has chosen to make culture accessible to as many people as possible through educational projects for youngsters so that these children can then become cultural ambassadors themselves.

Art as a thread binding diversity

Montreal—an intercultural, mixed-race, diverse city—is home to 1.6 million inhabitants, 56% of whom were born outside of Quebec. 200 languages are spoken there and the new arrivals come from around 120 cultural communities from all over the world. Cultivating a critical spirit, revealing to Canada and the world the diversity of peoples and cultures, and furthering creative capacities: these are the aims of the educational programmes put forward by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Offered to youngsters from culturally diverse backgrounds who are often in precarious situations, these programmes make up a true declaration of commitment.

From exhibition curating to artistic creation

With help from the children’s school, the team at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts entrusts the youngsters with the task of producing a new display of works from the world cultures collection. In the programme’s second phase, the children discover all the museum’s collections and create their own works based on the theme of world cultures and living together. They display their own selection to their class and in private viewings for the public.

At the end of the programme, an open day at the museum welcomes pupils, their parents and their friends for an end-of-year private viewing in which the most significant works are exhibited.
Bock Op Zirkus breathes new life into children with Dream Up

In 2016, the Neumünster Abbey Cultural Exchange Center in Luxembourg organised the show ‘Secret Story’ by Carole Laurent. In this performance, teenagers who had been uprooted from their countries of origin shared the difficulties of their daily lives. Inspired by what she saw and heard, Karine Bouton decided to help these youngsters with support from Dream Up.

Personal reconstruction and openness to others

The project’s purpose is to give children – via artistic practice – escapist moments and tools for personal construction. The new circus, which combines several artistic disciplines with theatre, forms the project’s basis. Three artists are chosen—a dancer, a musician and a playwright—and the Zaltimbanq group helps with physical training.

A true theatre company is formed, made up of children aged six to twelve years, recruited from different population groups: children from public care centres, young people seeking international asylum and youngsters who come freely from the general public together form a closely knit group while avoiding the pitfall of creating a ghetto within a ghetto.

Support that gets all the teams closely involved

First of all, and alongside many artists partnering with the centre, the children familiarise themselves with the different disciplines taught, before choosing the one that best suits them. They then create a theatrical performance inspired by their personal experience, before rehearsing it to perform a show at the end of the year.

Beyond the programme, considerable work from the teams at the centre is carried out for the children, who are truly taken care of, both in terms of artistic production and logistics.
EDUCAPE: Shakespeare in love with Africa

Ever since Dream Up began in 2015, the Shakespeare School Festival – Educape’s leading scheme – has enjoyed support from the BNP Paribas Foundation. Given the outstanding benefits of this initiative in terms of self-confidence gained among youngsters, the foundation decided to continue its support in 2018.

A Shakespearean challenge

The Shakespeare School Festival mainly takes place in schools in Johannesburg townships. 350 pupils aged twelve to seventeen years, most of whom are from difficult social and family backgrounds without access to culture, create abridged versions of Shakespeare’s works alongside their teachers.

Most of them discover the English playwright for the first time and work towards performing his plays in public. They very quickly develop a taste for the activity, showing surprising enthusiasm.

Making their voice heard to overcome their difficulties

Throughout the school year, these youngsters receive training from their teachers and the Shakespeare School Festival team, as they imagine the stage production of their abridged versions of Othello, Macbeth, The Merchant of Venice, Romeo and Juliet or A Midsummer Night’s Dream. They work on their body language and voice, learning to make themselves noticed and heard.

The process is a win-win situation: it gives children immense confidence in their abilities and prompts teachers to try out new pedagogical approaches based on acting.

South Africa
Since 2015 in Qingshen County, Dream Up has supported the Taipei Ricci Institute and its cross-disciplinary project helping children separated from their families for economic reasons to overcome their feeling of having been neglected.

Art as a ray of sunshine in a solitary life

These children aged seven to twelve years live with host families, far from their parents who have had to leave them to go and work in big cities like Shanghai and in the Sichuan province. In their everyday lives—often a long way from anything—they have no possibility of practising an artistic discipline. Through an artistic discipline that they freely choose—music, drawing or painting—the Taipei Ricci Institute puts a bit of sunshine back in the lives of these children, who struggle with a feeling of having been neglected.

Visible effects on their faces

The first positive effect comes from valuing them and enabling them to overcome their sense of having been neglected, which causes
their brooding introspection. The practice of an artistic discipline raises their awareness of skills they never realised they had, heals their social fragility and takes them out of isolation. After a few encounters with their teachers, these children gain self-confidence and gradually become budding artists.

**Each discipline brings its own benefits**

For those who choose dance, rising to the discipline’s demands is challenging at first. But after a few months of effort, they confide the sense of pride they feel in having reached a level of practice they thought was reserved for an elite.

As for the young singers, they learn all the virtues of singing in choirs: listening, solidarity and openness to others. For them, singing becomes a fresh opening to the world.

Regarding those who choose painting to add colour to their lives, they show great joy in being able to produce—for their classmates to see—true works of art they never thought they could paint.
ABOUT THE BNP PARIBAS FOUNDATION

Under the auspices of the Fondation de France, the BNP Paribas Foundation has been a major player in corporate philanthropy for thirty-five years. It also coordinates the international development of the BNP Paribas group’s patronage, wherever the Bank is present. The BNP Paribas Foundation’s actions form part of a multidisciplinary approach to patronage, supporting innovative projects in culture, solidarity and the environment. Attentive to the quality of its commitment to its partners, the BNP Paribas Foundation seeks to support their projects in the long term. Since 1984, over 350 cultural projects, 40 research programmes and around a thousand social and educational initiatives have enjoyed the foundation’s support in France and throughout the world.

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS: