

Thornton Education Trust Inspiring Future Generation Awards 2022

School Collaborations

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning & the Grove School Cambridge

'Let's Dance!' Child Engagement Project



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About the 'Let's Dance' Child Engagement Project

In August 2018, full planning permission for an office development and a Travel Hub building at Plot 1 – 21, Cambridge Science Park was granted. The location of the Travel Hub building – at the junction of Milton Road and the Guided Busway in Cambridge justified requirements for a planning obligation (Section 106 agreement) for the installation of public art to the building. In accordance with South Cambs District Council Local Plan Policies on Community Engagement in public art and Paragraphs 132 and 133 of the National Planning Policy Framework, in 2019, a Steering Group* was formed to guide the development of the public art feature. A procurement exercise was then carried out to select an artist and Jason Bruges Studio were chosen.

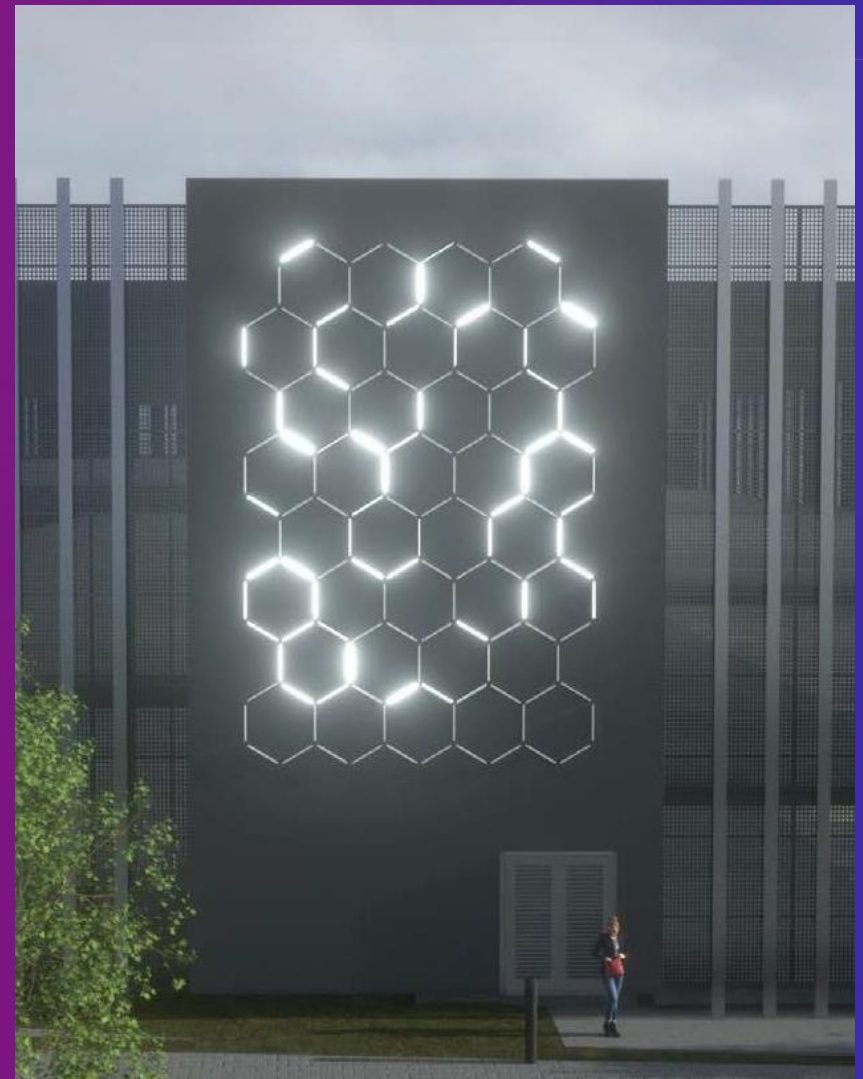
The brief for the artist was to create an artwork to celebrate the history of ground-breaking research developed at the Cambridge Science Park. This has resulted in the Latent Façade public art - the artwork is inspired by the work of Sir Neville Mott, who was instrumental in the foundation of Cambridge Science Park. It is an exploration of image processing techniques. Mott did pioneering research into the latent image, the process by which light transforms silver halide crystals within photographic film to create an 'invisible' image. The two pieces of artwork use motion detector cameras and computer vision information in order to generate dynamic patterns which are then displayed and relayed in real time through the mounted light bars on the south and east elevation of the Travel Hub building.

GCSP Officers advocated the idea of engaging local children in the designing of the public art with Jason Bruges Studio to the Steering Group. The idea was accepted, and the developer TusPark agreed to cover the costs of the Child Engagement project, design and led by GCSP. This was one of the most challenging part of the journey: convincing all key stakeholders that CYP engagement is beneficial to the planning process; as there were initial concerns that it might delay the process.

Based on the GCSP Youth Engagement Framework, Officers designed the 'Let's Dance!' Child Engagement project with input from Grove School students and teachers. The 'Let's Dance' project comprises 2 half-day workshops that aim to understand what elements the local children consider important in Cambridge Science Park, and incorporate them into the public art. 60 Year 5 and 6 students from the Grove School participated in the engagement project. The 1st Workshop (08.10.2020) included walkabout tours of Cambridge Science Park, a drawing competition, a presentation by the children to talk about their drawings. Children's drawings have been translated into patterns which are shown on the Latent Façade screens during night-time. In the 2nd Workshop (24.06.2021), the children attended an award ceremony in recognition of the outstanding drawings they produced, followed by a launch of the Latent Façade public art: children and key stakeholders danced in front of the camera of the Latent Façade to trigger its first LED pattern (the LED light patterns are triggered by movements during daytime).

This collaboration project between GCSP and the Grove School provides an excellent example showing how genuine child engagement can be achieved through partnership working, based on a comprehensive Youth Engagement Framework. An evaluation of the 'Let's Dance' project based on the GCSP Youth Engagement Framework shows that it meets all the 12 criteria. In terms of Lessons Learnt – for future engagement projects, some of the engagement activities can be extended to include parents, guardians and grandparents to deepen an understanding of the subject and importance of CYP engagement.

Latent Façade LED lights public art



Steering Group:

GCSP Officers: Dr. Bonnie Kwok, Tom Davies and Rebecca Ward

Developer: TusPark UK, Landowner: Cambridge Science Park

Artist: Jason Bruges – Jason Bruges Studio

Architect: Ed Hayden – Scott Brownrig Architects

Planning Agent: James Abraham - Bidwells

Project Management: Grace Thorn and David Wright - Commission Projects

GCSP Youth Engagement Framework

Area	Criterion
Impact on the plan- & decision-making process	1. Impact on the plan- and decision-making process (Did you report the results back to the LPA and developer?)
	2. Level of Representativeness (Number of youths involved?)
Process	3. Adequate opportunities for youths to express their views
	4. Fun level
Educational value	5. Capacity building opportunities – Did youths develop a better understanding of how to express their views to adults?
	6. Opportunity for youths to acquire new skills and knowledge (e.g. urban design, landscape, ecology, sustainability, etc.)
	7. Relevance to National Curriculum subjects such as Citizenship, Geography
	8. Effectiveness in building trust between youths and adult stakeholders
	9. Opportunity to evaluate the outcomes against the participants' own expectations
Practical factors	10. Level of Inclusiveness – was the engagement venue and timing convenient to youths?
	11. Resource requirement – Was sufficient resources provided to facilitate young engagement?

Plans showing route of children's walkabout tours and public art location



Children drew elements they considered important during the Walkabout Tours



Photos of the 'Let's Dance!' Child Engagement Workshop



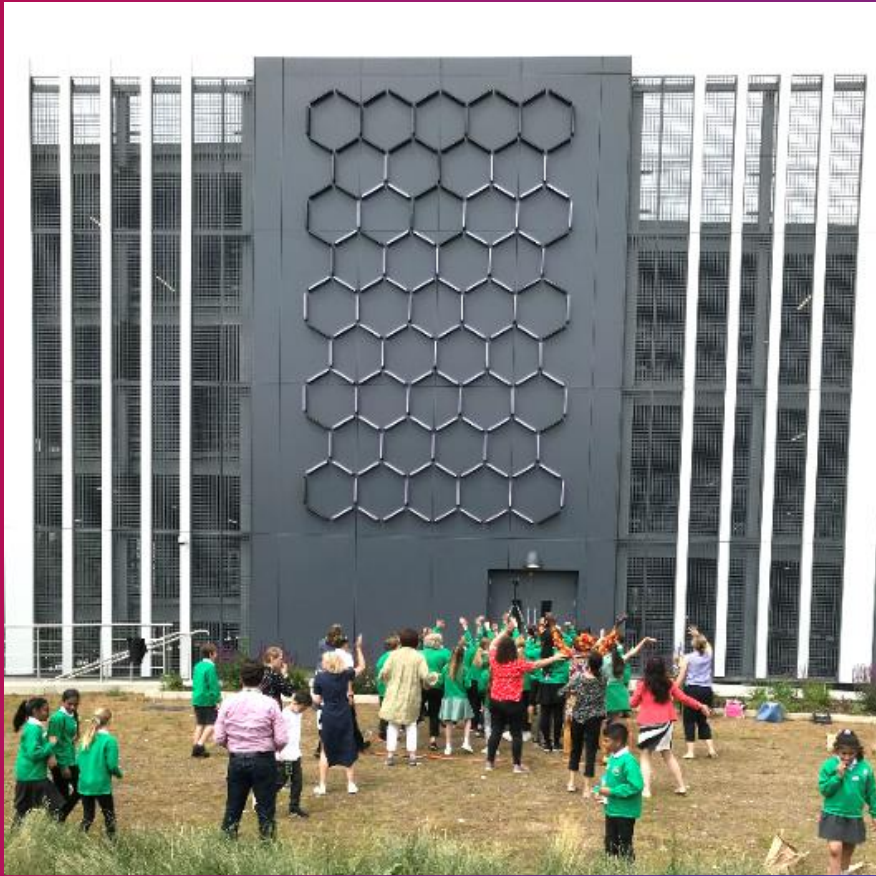
Awards were given by Cllr. Dr. Tumi Hawkins, Jeanette Walker (CSP) and Helen Harwood (Grove School) to winners of the drawing competition following an exhibition of the children's design work.



The Walkabout Tours were designed and led by GCSP Youth Engagement Lead Dr. Bonnie Kwok and supported by GCSP Officers Tom Davies, Dr. Ammar Al Asaad and Maxine Ross. In the Walkabout Tours, children were encouraged to explore the landscape features and architecture in Cambridge Science Park.



Children were shown the locations of the Latent Façade public art on the Travel Hub building - elevations facing the Guided Busway and Milton Road in Cambridge.



Greater Cambridge Shared Planning's 'Let's Dance' Child Engagement Workshop was featured in South Cambs Residents' Magazine Autumn 2021

Youth engagement

Testimonials

"I am very pleased to see that the 'Let's Dance!' Child Engagement project concluded so successfully. It is important that public art has input from the local community. Well done to the GCSP team!" Cllr. Dr. Tumi Hawkins, Lead Cabinet Member for Planning in South Cambridgeshire District Council.

"I had so much fun taking part in the 'Let's Dance!' project. I got to do fun things outside the classroom and learn something new." Child participant from the Grove School.

"I am glad that the child engagement workshop concluded successfully. The GCSP youth engagement process has been invaluable in helping us to understand children's ideas for the public art. Thank you to all GCSP Officers for the excellent work!" Developer - TusPark UK.

Public art comes to the Science Park

In June, a new piece of public art was unveiled at Cambridge Science Park.

Latent Façade covers two sides of one of the new Science Park buildings, and was created by internationally renowned artist Jason Burges. The installation was a condition attached to the planning consent for two new buildings at the Milton Road entrance.

The artwork is made up of two large LED screens; one screen faces Milton Road and the other screen faces the Guided Busway. The LED screen responds, in real time, to physical motion at the Science Park. Latent Façade was inspired by Cambridge

Science Park's pioneering research into image capture and computer vision.

58 school children from the Grove Primary School, who contributed to the images the screens capture by giving their views to the artist about the proposals, were able to attend the launch event. The children's own drawings were also exhibited at the event.

Teacher Helen Harwood said: **"The Grove children loved it! Projects such as this are vital to give children in our community a voice, opening their eyes and minds to opportunities beyond everyday school and home life, and raising aspirations for their future."**



On 24.06.2021, GCSP Officers led 60 children from the Grove School in Cambridge to launch the Latent Façade public art in Cambridge Science Park. Children and key stakeholders danced in front of the camera attached to the façade of the Travel Hub building to trigger the first LED pattern.

Statistics of the 'Let's Dance!' Child Engagement Project

- Total number of child participants: 60
- Total number of key stakeholders (Steering Group): 22
- Number of days that Latent Façade has been in operation since launch in June 2021: 520 (till 1 November 2022)
- 100% of child participants would recommend GCSP Child Engagement Workshops to other children
- 100% of child participants value the opportunity to learn about Architecture and Public Art through the 'Let's Dance!' Workshops
- 100% of child participants have said that the 'Let's Dance!' Workshops have helped develop their confidence and skills to take part in community projects.