



‘London’s vision is to reach young people all around the world; to connect them with the inspirational power of the Games.’

Lord Coe, Chair, LOCOG.

‘The British Council is proud to be playing its part in achieving this vision. We are helping to make the London 2012 Games a truly international and inclusive experience. Working in partnership and drawing on our international network, our expertise in the arts, education and English language, we will help ensure that the London 2012 Games touch the lives of people all over the world.’

Sir Vernon Ellis, Chair, British Council.

In the Summer of 2012, the world comes to the UK. The London 2012 Games will inspire and capture the imagination of millions of people worldwide.

At the same time as the UK welcomes the world’s greatest athletes, leading UK and international artists will be participating in collaborative cultural events. In addition, young people, inspired by the Games, will make lasting connections and learn from each other. The British Council is working closely with the London 2012 Culture and Education teams to make this happen.

THE PROGRAMME

Poetry Parnassus is an ambitious project that celebrates international poetry and the spoken word.

POETRY PARNASSUS

The Southbank Centre, together with artist in residence, Simon Armitage, will invite poets from all participating Olympic nations to take part in a festival of readings, performance, and debate during the London 2012 Festival. The week-long festival will take place from 27 June to 1 July 2012 and will be based at the Southbank Centre in London, with opportunities for poets to participate in a range of events across the UK. The British Council is working with the Southbank Centre to identify the poets who will be invited to take part and will support the festival through a related education programme.

Poetry Parnassus will feature in the London 2012 Festival.



Simon Armitage © Jonty Wilde

RIVER OF MUSIC

River of Music will welcome the world to London with a spectacular weekend of free music from across the 205 Olympic and Paralympic nations, presented at iconic sites along the River Thames on 21 and 22 July 2012. The British Council is currently working with UK and overseas musicians from the five continents on projects which will culminate, in partnership with the producers Serious, in performances at the River of Music in the summer of 2012. These projects involve musicians from the Gulf Region, Nigeria, Australia, Russia, Venezuela, Mexico and Colombia as well as the UK.

River of Music is produced by Serious, and supported by the Olympic Lottery Distributor and Arts Council England.

River of Music is part of the Cultural Olympiad and will feature in the London 2012 Festival.

A spectacular weekend of free music from across the 205 Olympic and Paralympic nations.



INTERNATIONAL INSPIRATION

The aim of International Inspiration is to enrich the lives of 12 million children and young people in 20 countries across the world through the power of high quality and inclusive physical education, sport, and play. The British Council works closely with UK Sport and UNICEF, as well as the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), to deliver this ambitious project. The British Council and the UK government are the principle funders of the programme, with additional support from the Premier League and a range of trusts and individuals, under the auspices of the I1 Foundation. The British Council's area of work sits at the heart of International Inspiration; it builds international partnerships between education and sport reformers, teachers and young people.



© UNICEF, South Africa 2010

International Inspiration is the London 2012 official sports legacy programme.

www.london2012.com/internationalinspiration

ENGLISH FOR 2012

The British Council is developing a range of English language materials to satisfy the huge global interest in the English language inspired by the Olympic and Paralympic Games. These materials will be aimed at learners and teachers of English worldwide as well as those visiting the UK for the Games.

The British Council will create a series of lesson plans at different language proficiency levels on the themes of sport and the Olympic values, which will be distributed to a international audience through our global networks and on our English websites. We will also create English materials in the form of a visitors' guidebook and mobile application that will help visitors with the English they need to engage with each other and the UK public.

English For 2012 will be a partner programme of the London 2012 International Education Programme.

© British Council





Big Dance event in Beirut © British Council

BIG DANCE 2012

Big Dance is the world's largest dance programme. Founded in 2006 by the Mayor of London in partnership with Arts Council England, Big Dance is London's Legacy Trust UK programme. More than two million people have taken part in the project since it began. Big Dance 2012 will celebrate the diversity of dance styles across the country. Taking place from 7–15 July 2012, the programme will feature an array of events including the creation of a new piece for 2,000 dancers in Trafalgar Square. The Big Dance Schools Pledge, a major dance event choreographed by Wayne McGregor, is targeted at UK schools. The British Council will involve schools from countries around the world through the Connecting Classrooms programme and make dance the focus of international school partnerships, culminating in an international Big Dance schools event on 18 May 2012.

Big Dance is part of the Cultural Olympiad and will feature in the London 2012 Festival.

The Big Dance Schools Pledge is a partner programme of the London 2012 Education Programme.

INTERNATIONAL VOICES

Youth Music Voices is a major new project providing 16–21 year olds with the opportunity to join in and celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games through singing. 120 young people from the broadest cultural mix across the UK will be working together as the Youth Music Voices Ensemble – a youth vocal ensemble unlike any other in the UK. The young singers will produce vibrant and exciting music throughout the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad. Working closely with Youth Music, Sing Up and other partners, the British Council, through the Connecting Classrooms programme, has developed an international component of this project.

International Voices brings schools and artists in the UK together with schools and artists from around the world to write, learn, and perform specially commissioned songs and will invite some of the most talented international performers to the UK for the London 2012 Festival.

Youth Music Voices is part of the Cultural Olympiad and will feature in the London 2012 Festival.

The schools element of Youth Music Voices is a partner programme of the London 2012 Education Programme.



Choir performing as part of International Voices project in Nairobi, Kenya at a British Embassy event.

UNLIMITED

Unlimited is the UK's largest programme celebrating arts, culture and sport by disabled and Deaf people. The project is a series of major commissions which is funded by the National Lottery through the Olympic Lottery Distributor and managed by Arts Council England, together with the other UK Arts Councils and British Council. As part of the programme, the British Council is supporting a series of creative collaborations between UK and international artists, which will be showcased across the UK during 2012. The British Council is providing funding for the international collaborations and will identify touring opportunities for the finished work.

Unlimited is part of the Cultural Olympiad and works will feature in the London 2012 Festival.



Second Time Broken
© Remix Dance Company

One of the collaborations will involve UK artists David Toole and Lucy Hind in partnership with South African dance company Remix.



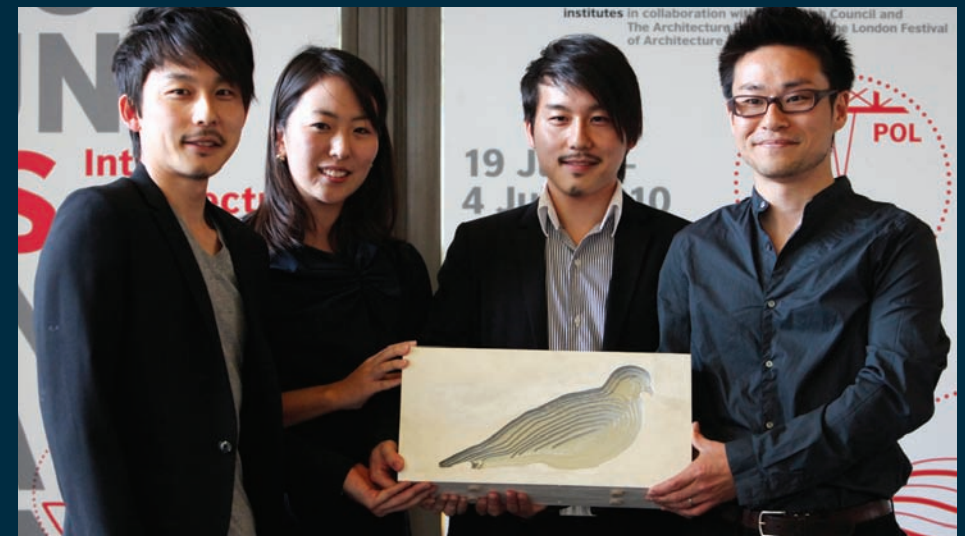
Lucy Hind and David Toole © Simon Warner

INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE 2012

Working with London's embassies and cultural centres, the British Council will coordinate a three-month season of international architecture and design events. The International Showcase will run from 23 June to 23 September 2012 in partnership with the London Festival of Architecture and the London Design Festival and will give an insight into architecture and design from around the world.

The International Showcase builds on London's cosmopolitan design community and brings to life the atmosphere and character of each participating country through a varied programme of events and exhibitions. It will build on the success of the Showcase in 2010 when 40 countries participated, and the inaugural Silver Pigeon Award was launched for the best international contribution to the London Festival of Architecture.

International Showcase 2012 will feature in the London 2012 Festival.



© Jody Kingzett



Merlyn Diamond,
Sprinter from Namibia.

© Matthew Grayson

WORLD OLYMPIC DREAMS

A BBC project following the lives and progress of 26 athletes from around the world as they train for 2012. BBC World Class and the British Council have teamed up to enable schools in the UK to twin with schools attended by World Olympic Dreams Athletes. In the build up to the Games, the schools will work together on joint projects inspired by Olympic values.

World Olympic Dreams is a partner programme of the London 2012 Education Programme.

WORLD STAGES

World Stages London is the first-ever collaboration between seven of London's leading theatres. Together, they will create a series of outstanding theatre events that evoke the uniquely rich cultural mix of London. Developing the theme 'London in the World – the world in London', the shows will draw on stories from around the globe, working with artists from many of the countries whose peoples have taken root in London. The British Council will support overseas research and development visits, and identify international touring opportunities for the finished productions.

A series of outstanding theatre events that evoke the uniquely rich cultural mix of London.



WORLD SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

The Royal Shakespeare Company is producing a major festival featuring a series of high profile collaborations between UK theatre companies and their international counterparts which will take place in Summer 2012. Working with the Royal Shakespeare Company, the British Council will support some of these international partnerships and develop a related education programme.

The education programme will include an international schools project, through which hundreds of school children in the UK and overseas will create Shakespeare-themed performances, and a significant conference that will celebrate inspiring examples of the teaching of Shakespeare from around the world.

The World Shakespeare Festival is part of the Cultural Olympiad and will feature in the London 2012 Festival.

The schools element of World Shakespeare Festival will be a partner programme of the London 2012 Education Programme.

THE CULTURAL OLYMPIAD AND LONDON 2012 FESTIVAL

The Cultural Olympiad is designed to inspire creativity across all forms of culture, especially among young people. The culmination of the Cultural Olympiad, the London 2012 Festival, will open on 21 June 2012, Midsummer's Day. It will run until 9 September 2012, the last day of the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

More information on the Cultural Olympiad can be found at www.london2012.com/culture

Sign up to be first in line for more information on the London 2012 Festival at www.london2012.com/festival

GET SET AND THE LONDON 2012 INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Get Set is the official London 2012 education programme for schools and colleges in the UK. Resources and information about how UK schools/colleges can gain rewards and recognition for their London 2012-related activities can be found at www.london2012.com/getset

In September 2011, LOCOG will be launching an international education programme providing learning materials, information and activity ideas about the London 2012 Games for schools in the UK and from around the world. More information will be available at www.london2012.com/schoolsfromaroundtheworld