



Press Release: April 6th 2018

Wac Arts

Empowering young people
to change their world
through the arts

- **Wac Arts welcomes KIDS to the Old Town Hall**
- **Collaboration is key to success**
- **Building a creative community in Belsize Park**

Wac Arts is home to many arts and cultural organisations and is a place where like-minded organisations live and connect to benefit the community. Akademi South Asian Dance have been at home in the Old Town Hall for as long as Wac Arts have, moving in in 2000 when Wac Arts (formally Interchange/ WAC) saved the building from becoming flats and secured a 100-year lease from Camden Council. University of the Third Age and RSPOP moved into the building shortly after. Wac Arts is now home to ten organisations as well as running their own performing arts and media programmes for young people aged 5-26. In January 2018 Wac Arts welcomed KIDS to the Old Town Hall as a new Building Partner.



Wac Arts has always been a huge advocate of collaborative working. It has been the approach that has helped Wac Arts provide an exciting range of activities and performing arts training including provision for children and young people with disabilities. In March 2017, Wac Arts was awarded the Camden Council Contract for Short Breaks for 3 years which has been funding the after school and weekend programmes. On these programmes young people engage in arts, media, and inclusive sport activities in safe surroundings. Wac Arts partnered with KIDS (Kids provide an extensive range of services to disabled children and young people, aged 0-25 years) and PACE (Play, Adventure and Community Enrichment) to secure this funding for the three organisation's so that together they could support young people to develop new life skills, grow confidence, make friends and most importantly, have fun in a safe and supportive environment.

Wac Arts is looking forward to more chances to work with KIDS in the future and by creating a home full of organisations that can collaborate, support and develop together, Wac Arts' vision to create a collaborative creative and cultural community inside the Old Town Hall continues to blossom.

About KIDS: KIDS is a national charity, founded over 47 years ago, providing a wide range of support services for disabled children, young people and their families. Supporting children with any disability from birth to 25 years of age. They offer support to the whole family with the aim of giving disabled children a brighter future. www.kids.org.uk

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