

Illuminated River Schools programme

In July 2016, 50 secondary schools across London were briefed by Thames Festival Trust on the Illuminated River schools programme and asked to submit ideas.

In August 2016, the Thames Festival Trust shortlisted four of the best ideas to go onto Phase 2 of the project. Schools were selected based on the most diverse concepts and locations across London. The artist and illustrator, Josh Knowles, was selected to work with the schools and students from UCT, running workshops in September and October.

The resulting exhibition is shown alongside the professional competition entries at the Royal Festival Hall.

Schools

Wallington High School for Girls, Sutton

- **Age range** – 12 x Yr10
- **Ideas** – Students took the ideas from their initial concepts and developed storyboards which described the design process in real terms and describe the 'user journey'. They presented their ideas as pitches to camera, bringing to the fore the personalities and personal notes in their concepts.

St Marylebone CofE School, Westminster

- **Age range** – 7 x Yr 9 & 10
- **Ideas** – The theme for the bridges is the history of Frost Fairs during occasions that the River Thames would freeze over. The students created a table top model of the bridges and the river from cardboard, tape and plasticine. Each student took a section of the historical imagery (e.g. elephants) and/or environmental landscape (landmarks, selected bridges, etc.) to render 3D into one big installation/presentation. They filmed the details using 'fly through' style video footage which was then edited into a video sequence.

Winchmore School, Enfield

- **Age range** – 7 x Yr13
- **Ideas** - The students created a stop motion animation of their bridge lighting concepts using ink drawing, collage and paint. Taking their initial ideas they brainstormed ways to develop a presentation that knitted together devised narrative threads of 'Past-Present-Future', 'Lights Over London' and 'A Fork In The Road'; a poetic analogy issuing a dark warning of the consequences of unsustainable living versus the potential for a greener future. The drawings were photographed and edited together to make an animated video sequence.

Ellen Wilkinson School, Ealing

- **Age range** – 6 students, 2 x Yr11 and 4 x Yr9
- **Ideas** – The students recreated each bridge concept sketch in a photographic sequence or tableau, using props, artists materials and performance. The

students included themselves in the photographs, either as a prop or performer, to help represent/describe their ideas in a creative way.

London Design and Engineering UTC, Newham

- **Age range** - 4 x Yr11
- **Ideas** – Pupils designed a new lighting scheme for Waterloo Bridge. They created a 3D printed model of the bridge and devised an interactive way for the public to change the lighting via tweets. The students also produced a video showing the history of the bridge and how their final model / design was created.