Inspire Future Generations Awards -

* A new awards programme celebrating architecture education

**Application pack for entrants**

**What are the Inspire Future Generations Awards?**

Thornton Education Trust is launching a programme of awards to recognise the work that educationalists, teachers and architects are doing to help children and young people benefit from creative architectural learning and engagement in their built environment.

The built environment has a huge impact on our health and well-being, and our relationship with place is fundamental to our day-to-day cultural experience – shaping our sense of identity and our attitude to our environment and ourselves. Yet children and young people's voices are excluded from urban design discourse and there are few opportunities to develop their creative design skills and knowledge to contribute to the debate.

So what happens when young people's minds are opened to the power of architecture and urban design? Why is it important to put young people front and centre in the planning and delivery of projects, in the best possible way? And who are the leading professionals and organisations working now to make this change, and what are they doing?

To celebrate and capacity build in this neglected area, the 'Inspire Future Generations' Awards will identify and recognise the most outstanding examples of architectural education from within the built environment sector and formal education.

**IFG Awards 2021**

Open to teachers, built environment professionals and organisations, the inaugural competition seeks to award initiatives from around the world that have taken place within the last 5 years.

These projects will demonstrate the beginning of a step change in the way we are producing the built environment, which so often doesn't involve young people.

They will demonstrate a range of impacts such as giving children and young people greater agency in their lives and environment; collaborations between architects and schools; and research, advocacy and policy embedded within built environment sector engagement programmes.

Winning initiatives, organisations and individuals will have engaged young people in advocating for these important issues, and will demonstrate best practice, engagement, impact and innovation.

[thorntoneducationtrust.org/ifgawards](http://thorntoneducationtrust.org/ifgawards)  #ifgawards
What are the IFG Awards 2021 categories?

→ Informal learning activity – eg. Out of school activities/events/festivals
→ Youth engagement programme – eg. longer term community projects that might involve a range of stakeholders
→ Best online resource – activities may be purely digital, or may be accessed online for download/working offline
→ Research – new thinking for instance in universities
→ Most innovative organisation – in particular organisations demonstrating considerable impact and best practice through their programmes
→ Diversity in action – recognising inclusive programmes that represent the young communities they are designing for
→ Individual of the year – highlighting the outstanding contribution made by a particular practitioner

What impact will the programme have?

The IFG Awards will:
→ demonstrate that informal architectural learning gives valuable skills, opportunities and knowledge to children and young people
→ improve youth-led design approaches in general and identify areas of adaptability in response to the pandemic
→ create a lasting impact on the design process and the communities involved
→ inspire the creation of a future generation of placemakers
→ establish TET as a setter and keeper of architectural education standards

Why enter?

Winning an IFG Award would:
→ Demonstrate your commitment to improving architectural education
→ Promote best practice in youth engagement in urban design and planning
→ Share your innovation and leadership with your peers
→ Provide a platform to showcase and raise awareness of your brand through our social media campaign
→ Offer access to a network of professionals

Timeline:

- 15th June 2021 – awards launch
- 28th June 2021 6pm – Live Zoom Q&A on awards, registration at https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcrdeGspj8pGtdL2F7H0PnmLxoc5D0w2BY
- 4th October 2021 6pm – awards entries close
- 18th October 2021 – winners announced
- October 2021 – awards ceremony
FAQs

This is a new awards scheme. What is it aiming to do?
Currently there is no programme of awards to acknowledge educationalists and built environment professionals whose passion, energy and expertise have introduced future generations to architecture and the built environment. Launched in 2021 by the Thornton Education Trust (TET) in the UK, the annual IFG Awards will lead on recognising best practice in this vitally important field.

Who is eligible?
In 2021 there are 7 awards, each of which has separate criteria. Broadly speaking they are open to architects and other built environment professionals, educationalists, researchers, local authorities, charities, housing associations and other built environment organisations. Please see the entry criteria for each award.

When is the deadline for submissions?
The deadline is 4th October 2021 6pm.

Do I need to pay to enter?
There is no fee for individuals submitting entries.

However, there is a small fee of £35.00 (1-50 employees) / £95.00 (50+ employees) for organisations/businesses submitting entries to cover our running and admin costs, for which we are thankful for your honesty at the time of entering.

There is no fee for submitting a nomination under the Individual of the Year category.

Fees can't be refunded should you choose to withdraw.

Is there a prize?
A prize fund of £500 will be presented to winners of the Individual of the Year category, Informal Learning category and Diversity in Action category.

How do I make an application?
Applications are made online through simple forms on our website. Unfortunately we can't accept applications through any other method. Applications should be written in English.

Can I make multiple submissions?
There are 3 separate entry forms; one for Project submissions, one for Best Innovative Organisation, and one for Individual of the Year. You can make as many submissions on each as you like. Please note you cannot change your application after you have submitted it.

Does the project, organisation or individual need to be based in the UK?
No, they can be from any country, but the award entry form must be completed in English.

What information do I have to provide?
We will ask for a lead contact person who we will liaise with on all correspondence.

All forms have a few short sections where relevant information is requested, plus the opportunity to upload no more than 4 sides of A4 which may include photos, press, stats, testimonials etc (max 10mb).

Projects categories request information on the project purpose, research, delivery and evaluation.

Most innovative organisation requests information on how this particular organisation has pioneered new approaches to youth engagement or architecture education, and how it demonstrates best practice.
**Individual of the Year nomination** requests information on an individual practitioner - whether working independently or as part of a team - who has gone the extra mile and made an outstanding contribution to the field of architecture engagement and/or education.

Please note: There is a save function on the form.

A full copy of your application will be automatically emailed to you after submission.

**What are the assessment criteria?**

**Impact – metrics.** For instance, what is the overall impact of your project, when did it begin, what are the tangible benefits to children and young people, how have they been measured, has it met its objectives, how many children and young people has it engaged

**Innovation – uniqueness of the initiative.** For instance, what makes the initiative new and pioneering, how is it unique, how has it had a transformative effect on architecture education

**Insights – what this tells us about architecture education, and best practice.** For instance, what are the best practices learned from the initiative, how is this being shared, how far-reaching is the scope of the initiative, what are the challenges that arose and how did you overcome them, lessons learned

**How are the award winners selected?**

An independent panel of leaders in education and the built environment select the winners, after carefully reviewing all entries.

**When and how will I hear if I have won?**

We will advise all winners in writing by 5th October.

Unfortunately it may not be possible to correspond with unsuccessful applicants.

**Please note:** TET reserves the right to publish and promote all content and imagery from submissions and you agree that relevant photography licences/permissions have been obtained. You agree that to the best of your knowledge we are free to use any images supplied to us, and grant TET permission to use these on our website and in any associated publicity without infringement of copyright. Credit line should be supplied.

**Can I sponsor an award?**

Yes, we are seeking sponsorship for the IFG Awards and would be delighted to discuss opportunities with a range of benefits. Please email us at info@thorntoneducationtrust.org for more details.
**Judges**

**Julia Nicholls**
Julia Nicholls is a communications consultant with over 20 years’ experience working with architects. As Director of Public Relations at Squire & Partners when the practice moved to Brixton in 2017, Julia led an award-winning creative programme of community collaboration aimed at establishing strong connections with local people, inspiring future generations and actively supporting diversity in the industry.

**Nicholas Okwulu**
Nicholas is a Community Enabler, Community Specialist, Founder of Livesey Exchange, Pempeople Inc and Engager of Local Residents around the Old Kent Road (Plan)

**Professor Rosie Parnell**
Rosie is Professor of Architecture and Pedagogy, University of Newcastle. She is one of the few who has avidly researched this area and publications include Children, Young People and Architecture

**Neil Pinder**
Neil is Head of Product Design and Architecture with over 25 years teaching experience, celebrated for his dynamism and expertise in bringing architecture to secondary school pupils. He is Trustee for TET as well as for Blueprint for All (formerly Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust). Awarded the NLA (New London Architecture) Hidden Hero award 2021 and A ‘Lifetime Award’ by Sound Advice.

**Victoria Thornton**
Victoria has created and developed pioneering programmes including My City Tool, Accelerate into University, Summer Architecture Academy, Architecture in Schools, Architecture of the Emotions, Excellence in Cities. Also Education Expert on the Farrell Review of Architecture and the Built Environment and currently Learning Committee, Design Museum. She founded Thornton Education Trust in 2021.

**Manijeh Verghese**
Manijeh is Manijeh is the Head of Public Engagement at the Architectural Association, where she also teaches a Diploma Unit. She is the co-curator of the 2021 British Pavilion at the 17th Venice Architecture Biennale and is currently on the curatorial panel for the 2021 London Festival of Architecture.

The panel will follow a voting system in their judging - first in a long-listing and with the final judging taking place on 28th September.

**About Thornton Education Trust**
Our vision is a society where urban design and architecture is an inspiring and positive force improving the lives of current and future generations.

We will achieve our mission through advocacy, disseminating creative learning resources and research, and advancing good practice and shared learning between teachers, educationalists, built environment professionals and architects. Through this we seek to close the gap between architecture and education: to embed architecture in young people's education, and to embed young people in architecture.