



The School of the (Im)Possible



A Pilot Project for North Lanarkshire Council

Introduction

The School of the (Im)possible was piloted by Plato Cultural in Brazil with the support of the International Teaching Artists Collaborative. It was selected as one of five global commissions from a very competitive call out. You can access the other commissions here <https://www.itac-collaborative.com/projects/itac-impact-climate>

Plato Cultural then reached out to The Necessary Space to partner them in developing it for Scottish Schools. Together TNS and Plato Cultural went on to win a grant from British Council (please note this is strictly embargoed until 2nd March) to partner in the first steps of a global roll out.

The BC grant allows for a roll out of the project to more schools in Brazil and the opportunity to pilot it in 2 schools in Scotland. From there we aim to work with a local authority to help launch a local, national and international roll out.

Following discussion with Derek Brown this document aims to outline the Why, How, and What of "School of the (Im)possible" for North Lanarkshire schools. It will also share some information on the Who-companies and individuals delivering it along with some video evidence of its success and impact.

Why ?

As the world struggles with recovery from Covid and the urgency of the Climate Emergency, it has never been more important to offer our children agency, understanding and confidence in shaping their future. The School of the (Im)possible is a proven toolkit and immersive learning activity that is designed to assist teachers in guiding and participating in their classes' explorations around climate emergency. It creates an immersive learning environment that navigates through the overwhelming information and emotional overload that the climate crisis presents and turns our children into collaborative learners and teachers.

The project also offers direct support for integration into Scottish education curriculum and is designed with a curriculum specialist at hand. It also offers a global perspective by linking the schools involved with the Brazilian schools and future Schools of the (Im)possible, so that a global network of collaborative learning and agency can evolve.

How?

Great attention has been paid to the design and aesthetics of the live and virtual materials that we bring to you. The how of the experience has to be immersive, compelling and able to seize the children's and teachers'

curiosity and creativity. To do this we work closely with you and bring a team of “teaching artists” to your school to connect with a teacher and their class. On a given day a round shaped bookcase arrives mysteriously in the class. It contains books that are empty but have the children’s names on the spines of the books- crediting them as authors of the books.



With further investigation, the teacher and class discover the bookcase is not just a bookcase. Its is a portal to the future and they then make contact, with some agents from the future and find out that there are also agents in Brazil.



When they open their books, they are blank but there are instructions and tasks for them to follow in order to start filling the pages of the books. The tasks guide the teachers and pupils through an active learning adventure.



Over 2 four week periods, the children and teachers explore at their own pace and complete tasks that are designed for group and individual learning. All this is done with the support of the teaching artists who can visit for one or two days per week depending on how you want to integrate it to your school. The teacher can continue with the project on a daily basis with indoor and outdoor learning opportunities and or visits to science centres, parks and other places of interest- where they might find clues to the tasks set.



The project culminates in the class taking a journey into a chosen outdoor environment- it might be a country park, forest, loch, hill, wood, or farm. Here they take their final journey and connect with the agents from the future. It is through this connection they are informed that the agents they have been communicating with are themselves- but 20 years on. They task their younger selves to start writing the book, because they need to share all their knowledge with the world.



North Lanarkshire would be the first local authority to lead on the initiative. We are aiming to expand across Scotland and the rest of the world via our networks with ITAC and British Council. From these small beginnings we truly believe we have the potential to exemplify creative learning and plug it into a global network.

What ?

At this stage we have the means to pilot with 2 schools but are interested in expanding it to more if you feel you can support the required resource. To determine what would be needed and what time and timescale is required we obviously need to discuss this. As a starting point we envisaged the following:-

Day one- March/April-	Introductions and scoping- find 2 schools
Day two- June- schools.	Full day of development and scoping with
Day three- five- August teachers.	Training and integration into curriculum with
Week Four -Sept	Book Case arrives activities begin
Week five- September	More activities and connections with Brazil.
Week six- September	More activities and scoping of trip
Week seven- Sept	Trip to portal
Week eight	Conclusions and plans for where the portal
should go next. Inauguration as an agent of the School of the (Impossible)	

This is of course a starting point.

Finance and Resources

We have the resources to support two teaching artists for 8 weeks and a curriculum support person for a series of consultations. We would welcome support to bolster the level and frequency of engagement.

We would like to discuss levels of support for costs of the bookcase and the personalised assets – such as the books, props, and recordings. We are also looking for a contribution towards the creation and management of the portal interface with the AR assets and the dialogue with the other “agents.”

It is not a deal breaker if finance cannot be found- we can cut our cloth accordingly but would like to avoid compromising the aesthetic quality of the assets.

Who?

ABOUT THE NECESSARY SPACE

<https://www.thenecessaryspace.com/>
https://www.instagram.com/theatre_of_opportunity/

The Necessary Space (TNS) is led by Simon Sharkey who is best known as being one of the founding directors of the National Theatre of Scotland, where he pioneered the “Theatre Without Walls” approach on a national and global scale. He has an international reputation as a leader in the field of Participatory arts in education, placemaking, environmental and well-being contexts. The Necessary Space works globally and locally in close collaboration with artists, teachers, policy makers, thought leaders, and participants to create “acts of wanton wonder” that create the “aha” moment that brings us closer together to shape our lives and futures. We are a collective, a network, an ensemble that is constantly pushing the boundaries of art in contexts beyond “art for art’s sake.” We call it a “Theatre of Opportunity” because it is the space where we create collectively and give context and purpose to our creations. It is the space for people of all ages, abilities, identities, and ethnicities to thrive in the equality, diversity and limitless potential of imagination.

ABOUT PLATÔ CULTURAL

www.platocultural.com
www.instagram.com/platocultural

We are Platô Cultural, an emerging company based in Brazil specialized in immersive experiences in education. We work in partnership with schools, museums, institutions, and companies to deliver transformative projects in response to specific briefs. Our aim is to transform education by exploring new ways of learning and connecting to the world through imagination. We combine design, immersive art, narrative design, and new technologies to create learning adventures that nurture the individual and the collective learning and ignite new relationships between people and places. From our experience, the key to reaching and engaging with young audiences lies in creating a fictional world which will draw them in. With the young groups, we want to create a sense of seeing the everyday as the magical, the mythical and the imaginative. Through this process, we provoke in the

young generation a sense that the world is something playful, creative, and possible to change.

Contacts and Links

Links to School of the Impossible video and website.

SHORT 2 MIN VIDEO- <https://youtu.be/RLLA8pzQ-I8>

IMPACT EVALUATION VIDEO- <https://vimeo.com/669860702> password : agorapulse

FINAL EVENT - WEBSITE LINK- www.platocultural.com/2071

For information and to chat please contact

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