



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

Transforming guns to goods at the Manchester Science Festival 2010

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NAME: Sam Ingleson

1. Name of case study / project: Guns into Goods

2. Organisations and groups involved in case study:

University of Salford – School of Art and Design and School of Computing, Science and Engineering. (University Partners)

CARISMA (community Alliance for Renewal for Inner South Manchester Area)
(Community Partner)

Peace FM, (Community Partner)

Greater Manchester Police (Community Partner)

Stretford High School (Community Partner)

3. Quote:

“This is Physics? It’s not like the science at school. I didn’t know you could do Physics at University”

4. Background and aims and objectives of this project: This proposal builds upon an existing AHRC collaboration between University of Salford and CARISMA. As well as promoting alternatives to gang culture we were also looking at widening aspirations and generating enterprise through the arts. The aim of this event was to engage audiences from inner city Manchester with the scientific and technical processes that are undertaken when removing a gun from circulation. Hopefully this increased knowledge of both the physical changes to the metal and the drawing and rendering techniques undertaken to realise a new product will add extra understanding and support from within the community.

5. Job title or role of person who gave the quote: Over heard statement by a teenage Boy observing the Metal Vapourisation Experiment

6. Knowledge of public engagement with universities at the start of your project:

All partners had some experience of working in collaboration between communities and university prior to the Manchester Beacons project but we had not previously shared our work with the wider public.

7. Short summary of project: We wanted to use the science festival as an opportunity to let the wider public see the processes involved in turning guns into goods and so used the transformation of metal from one state to another as the central theme. The event lent on the work of James Joule a Salford scientist and linked up 2 schools (art and science) within the university. Families were invited to an event at Stretford High School to witness a Metal Vapourisation Experiment and an opportunity to create peace plaques using casting methods and draw with light sources. There was also a chance to find out more about Wearpeace and CARISMA and the Police whilst listening to Peace FM DJ.

8. Key learning points: Following your analysis, briefly state the most important findings and conclusions from your project. Please also include any unexpected findings. Summary as bullet points.

9. Which public engagement priorities and objectives does this work fulfil, and how?

Priority 2: Levels of engagement

Objective 3: Increasing the relevance of institution activity and connectivity with communities For example finding out how the resources of the university can be used to help communities address aspirations and challenges they have. Whilst the larger KTF project is addressing issues of connectivity with communities, the beacon award allowed us to evidence this to a wider audience.

Objective 4: Improve opportunities for sustainable two-way learning

For example building lasting, respectful relationships; learning from public or community knowledge and experience. This funding allowed all the partners to gather for a celebration of what we have achieved so far and helped us to commit to further collaborative working across the university and the local community.

10. What actually happened: Expand on Q6 to explain what actions for example were taken, how you approached the project, what activities took place, what the phases of the project were, how you planned to explore your aims and objectives.

11. To what extent did you meet the aims and objectives set out in your application form?

Please explain if and how you were able to meet the aims and objectives outlined in Q4. If they were not met, please say what barriers you identified that prevented you achieving them.

12. Outcomes and impacts of the case study: Please explain anything not already covered in Question 11 about the value of this project. For example what have you achieved that would not have happened otherwise? How it benefitted, challenged or made a difference to you and other people involved. What impact has / will this have in the short or long term? Will there be any continuation of something started within your project? Has the project changed the way you or your partners work?

13. Learning points from the case study: What else have you, partners or participants learned as a result of this project? For example, what would you do differently if you could repeat the work? How has being part of the Beacon programme specifically helped you? What would you like to develop further? Please include successes and challenges.

14. Outputs:

Plaster Casts created by the participants from their mould designs (theses were taken home).

Peace Tiles – Messages on tiles that will be on public display during Manchester's Peace Week 2011

New Collaborator – MAG (Mines Advisory Group) Representative came to event 0 this has been followed up by a meeting to look at ways to work together.

Positive publicity – The event was picked up by BBC NorthWest Website and Manchester Evening News

15. Next steps:

We are continuing to work on this project with the ethos of involving as many partners as possible.

The event enabled us to focus on other ways we need to reinforce the positive message surrounding the recycling of guns – we are looking at certificates of authenticity for example.

We have a meeting with the Mines Advisory Group next week to look at their documentary images of how guns in other parts of the world have been turned into useful items. This will be a valuable teaching resource when taking our Guns to Goods project back into schools.

16. Contact details:

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17. Image name/number:

IMG_8189.jpg Demonstrators are Helen Smith and Mike Thompson

18. Image caption: Metal Vapourisation Experiment carried out by University of Salford Physics students

19. Name of photographer: Rebecca Harrison

20. Additional logos/websites:

www.wearpeace10.wordpress.com

21. Publishing: If you wish to publish your findings please let your Beacon contact know, they may wish to include specific wording about the Beacon programme or help promote your publication.