

PHAKAMA

£5,384

Project Phakama is an international educational exchange programme involving arts practitioners and young people. Funds were sought for a Co-ordinator in London for a youth project to educate and empower young refugees and asylum seekers in three London boroughs.

The funds have been used for part-time employment and for base expenses. The project Phakama has undertaken with the grant from TFN, Strange Familiars, draws on both traditional ethnic art forms and contemporary British art practice. 25-30 young refugees and asylum seekers have been meeting with a team of artists every Saturday to develop arts, communication and social skills. Each month Phakama has also run an intensive arts workshop and once a week the group meet to visit a gallery or theatre. The performance they have developed involves theatre, music, poetry, dance, circus and fire. They have performed for social workers, policy makers, teachers, community workers and other young refugees. Now they are training more facilitators to expand their work and also cover singing, hip hop, capoeira and acro-balance along with pastoral care of the young people they are involved with.