

Find your talent in Bethnal Green

BY TONY FINNEGAN

THE rich mix of arts and culture in the East End will be celebrated at the Young People's Festival of Talent this week in Bethnal Green.

Taking place over two days, the festival has been organised by Tower Hamlets Council as part of the Find Your Talent initiative.

This government-funded programme aims to ensure every child takes part in at least five hours of cultural activities each week. Ten areas across the country are taking part in the three-year scheme, with Tower Hamlets the only one in London.

The festival of talent on Friday and Saturday, January 16 and 17 will be an opportunity for youngsters and their families to sample some of the cultural activities that are already available for them to enjoy.

People attending the festival at the V&A Museum of Childhood in Cambridge Heath Road will be able to try their hand at anything from dance to drama, fashion to film and much more.

Also involved in the project are the Imperial War Museum and the Tower of London, and local arts and culture groups such as the Half Moon Theatre and the Museum of London Docklands.

Lead councillor for children's services Clair Hawkins said:

"Arts and culture can enrich any child's life.

"Find Your Talent is all about making sure Tower Hamlets' children and young people have every possible opportunity to enjoy arts cultural activities, and the Young People's Festival of Talent is a great way for them to find out what's on offer."

The festival is also a chance for people to tell the council what culture means to them.

The council's Tagwagon vehicle kitted out with video recording equipment is being used to record people's views.

Local schools will be visiting the festival on Friday, whilst the Saturday session is open to any Tower Hamlets children and their families.