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Young coders share the sounds of Scarborough with the world

Scarborough based award winning arts and environment charity Invisible Dust are working with young people to allow them to respond imaginatively and creatively to environmental issues, whilst developing their computer coding skills, through the [‘ECODE’](#) project.

Invisible Dust works with leading artists and scientists to produce unique and exciting works of contemporary art. The organisation uses the latest scientific thinking to explore our environment and highlight climate change. Invisible Dust is deeply committed to supporting communities to become ambassadors for climate change. Understanding local environmental issues and learning how to talk about them is the beginning of this journey for the organisation’s audiences. ‘ECODE’ aims to encourage its participants to start taking responsibility and to begin influencing change.

Supported by the Essential Life Skills Fund and in collaboration with North Yorkshire Libraries, ‘ECODE’ project takes place at Scarborough Library, where participants learn computer coding, using programmes such as Scratch and Sonic Pi. Working with sound artist Rob Mackay, the ‘ECODE’ group, aged between 8 and 13, have been capturing sounds of the sea, bird song in parks and underwater noises using special hydrophones - microphones that record sound in water.

Rob Mackay, sound artist, said:

“The ‘ECODE’ project is a great idea for getting the kids to become more aware of their environment and changes in it through coding and technology. Working with sound and listening to the sounds of Scarborough has allowed the participants to gain a wider awareness of the environment of the area, simply by listening to the soundscape.

We’ve gone out on two field recording trips where the participants have recorded contrasting sounds in different parts of Scarborough near to the library including waves on the shore, traffic, and underwater recordings in the duck pond on Valley Road. We’ve also recorded ‘hidden’ sounds around us such as sonifying electromagnetic interference.”

Once the sounds were collected the young people used the computers at Scarborough Library to layer the sounds to create their own individual soundscapes of Scarborough. These soundscapes will be uploaded on to Google Maps to make a soundmap of the area.

Working with Scarborough Library, 'ECODE' participants will be installing a solar-powered microphone and streambox to capture the sounds of Scarborough which will be added to a worldwide interactive soundmap.

[The Locus Sonus Project Soundmap](#) showcases sounds from all over the world, from whale breeding grounds near Hawaii, the jungle in Costa Rica and the hum of traffic in Camberwell. The sounds are captured using microphones which are then shared live via an online interactive map.

The microphone on the roof of Scarborough Library will be live from Friday 1st March and noises familiar to the town, such as seagulls and easterly winds from the sea, will be shared in real-time on the [online soundmap](#). The microphone and streambox will continue to capture sounds from 1st March so anyone from around the world can continue to listen in to the soundscape of Scarborough.

Dorcas Taylor, Education Curator at Invisible Dust said:

"We hope that the sounds captured using the microphone and streambox will make people think about the environment and our impact on it. In addition to being part of a global project, the activity is helping the children learn valuable life skills."

Working with a digital artist has enabled the young people to think more imaginatively about nature and become aware of the threats our natural world is facing. Using coding has allowed them to develop creative and problem-solving skills which are important to them as individuals and also for the planet, as we face the wider threat of climate change."

Listen to the sounds of Scarborough from Friday 1st March on the online soundmap [here](#). Find out more about Code Club [here](#).

ENDS

For more information please contact Invisible Dust Marketing Manager, Emma Hallam on emma@invisibledust.com and 07813558183.

Images and credits: <http://bit.ly/ECODEPress>

Notes to Editors

Invisible Dust

Invisible Dust works with leading artists and scientists to produce ambitious contemporary artworks exploring our environment. Founded in 2009 by Director and Curator Alice Sharp, our mission is to create powerful art and engagement programmes that spark meaningful international conversations on pressing environmental issues. Our scientist advisors include from Oxford University, Manchester University and King's College, London amongst many others. Our artists include Turner Prize winners Elizabeth Price and Jeremy Deller. In 2017 our Hull UK

City of Culture exhibition 'Offshore: Artists Explore the Sea' included artists Tacita Dean, John Akomfrah, Martin Parr, author China Miéville and Mariele Neudecker at Ferens Art Gallery and Hull Maritime Museum and drew a live audience of 400,000. We have attracted over 2 million people to our projects and 3.2 million online through regular coverage in national and international media with our national and international programmes - including The Under Her Eye, Women and Climate Change conference and festival in 2018 which featured author Margaret Atwood and brought to the table activists, scientists, technologists, and leaders including Christiana Figueres and Caroline Lucas. www.invisibledust.com

Wellcome Trust

Wellcome exists to improve health for everyone by helping great ideas to thrive. We're a global charitable foundation, both politically and financially independent. We support scientists and researchers, take on big problems, fuel imaginations, and spark debate. www.wellcome.ac.uk

Arts Council England

Arts Council England champion, develop and invest in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives, we support activities across the arts, museums and libraries, from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. www.artscouncil.org.uk

North Yorkshire County Council

North Yorkshire County Council's Library Service works in partnership with communities to deliver a wide range of information, physical and digital book loans, events and activities, extensive online resources and safe, accessible meeting spaces. www.northyorks.gov.uk/libraries

The Essential Life Skills Fund

The Essential Life Skills Funding is aimed at increasing participation in extracurricular activities that help children and young people develop resilience, team working, communication and other 'essential life skills', proven to increase confidence, broaden horizons and support social mobility.

Locus Sonus

Locus Sonus is a research group whose main aim is to explore the ever-evolving relationship between sound, place and usage. Their methodology places artistic experimentation at the centre of research. Multidisciplinary theoretical approaches dialogue with, nourish and nurture this experimentation and the research sometimes (but not systematically) leads to artistic productions in the form of installations, performances, concerts and web-based projects. <http://locusonus.org>