

Letter of Support to Thames Festival Trust
***Rivers of Hope* project**

Paris and Rouen, 20 March 2023

The British Council in France and the association Rouen Seine Normande 2028 are hereby confirming their partnership with the Thames Festival Trust to develop and deliver the *Rivers of Hope* project, involving primary and secondary schools in Rouen and Norwich.

The British Council has had a successful global partnership with the Thames Festival Trust for 15 years on the *Rivers of the World* project, which was delivered successfully in France in 2009-2011.

The British Council in France and the Association Rouen Seine Normande **2028** are supporting *Rivers of Hope* as it offers new opportunities for French schools to get involved in an international arts and education programme and develop new bilateral exchanges with the UK, responding to a demand by French educational authorities. In its bid to the European Capital of Culture 2028, Rouen Seine Normande 2028 insists on the fact that discovering new language for young pupils is a strong tool to understand interculturality.

The long-standing town twinning between the cities of Rouen and Norwich since 1959 also provides an opportunity to refresh connections through cultural partnerships and confirm our strong desire to find new ways to work together, specifically through a concrete educational partnership. The recent signature of a joint memorandum between the two cities from 2023 to 2030 also supports this.

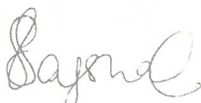
Finally, the project also aligns with the arts and education focussed activities in the forthcoming UK-France 2024-*Together We Imagine* programme designed by the British Council in France, celebrating cultural exchanges and re-imagining the relationship between the two countries through culture.

Within the above frameworks and timely opportunities, the British Council in France is very pleased to develop a partnership with the association Rouen Seine Normande 2028 tying in with their twinning with Norwich and supporting their bid to the European Capital of Culture 2028.

The association Rouen Seine Normande 2028 confirms its commitment to delivering *Rivers of Hope* within the next two years with 5 secondary schools linked to Norwich.

By this letter of intent Rouen Seine Normande 2028:

- commits to funding all the costs associated to this project in Rouen
- commits to a public exhibition of the artworks created



Sarah Bagshaw
Head of Arts
British Council France

Marie Dupuis-Courtes
President
Rouen Seine Normande 2028

