

Creative  
Ways  
We've  
Grown

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## In 2018, Lambeth Council launched its landmark Creative and Digital Industries Strategy, ‘Creative Ways to Grow’.

Our vision was for Lambeth to be at the cutting edge of this dynamic sector. Laying out plans provided a clear pathway to promote arts and culture, foster economic growth, and support our residents, even during the most challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the Creative and Digital Industries now established as one of Lambeth’s priority growth sectors, we have reviewed and reflected on the extensive achievements and learnings we have gathered since launching our initial strategy, and have developed this publication, ‘Creative Ways We’ve Grown: Lambeth’s Creative and Digital Industries Strategy Five Years On’.

Across these pages, we aim to showcase and spotlight some of the inspirational individuals and institutions who have invested their care and commitment to keep culture and creativity thriving in Lambeth.

As we celebrate the progress made, however, we acknowledge that there is still work to be done, particularly in ensuring inclusive and equitable growth across the Creative and Digital Industries. We also acknowledge it is important to ensure that every resident can access and influence all the incredible opportunities Lambeth offers to create, curate, and consume culture.

Equity and justice will therefore be at the forefront of our plans as we reinvigorate our ambitions for the future of Lambeth’s Creative and Digital Industries.

Looking back at these last five years, we would like to thank all our partners, contributors, collaborators, funders, and champions. We hope that you are as proud of your collective achievements as we are.

**Councillor Claire Holland,  
Leader of Lambeth Council**





# Our Vision

In 2018, we laid out plans to put Lambeth at the cutting edge of London's dynamic creative and digital economy. We focused on five key areas:

1  
Protect and grow workspace across the borough  
Space

2  
Connect service areas across the Council to support inclusive growth  
Business Friendly Services

3  
Develop a strong business 'ecosystem' for creative and digital businesses  
Networks and Support

4  
Foster culturally vibrant places that showcase the borough's creative past and future  
Place

5  
Tackle inequality in the Creative and Digital Industries  
Talent



# 1 Space

In collaboration with the Greater London Authority, workspace providers, and commercial property developers, we brought forward a wide variety of workspace options to support the Creative and Digital Industries. These spaces act as business incubators, co-working and artistic maker spaces, and large-scale offices.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

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### Co-Working Spaces

We have established industry-leading co-working spaces in the heart of Lambeth. These spaces have become collaborative homes for clusters of creative and digital businesses. Two notable achievements are the opening of both Tripod and International House. The Brixton Recreation Centre redevelopment also benefitted from a significant capital investment secured towards 12,000 square feet of new creative workspace.

### Future Workspace Fund

In 2020, Lambeth Council launched an £8m Future Workspace Fund to both build and enhance, affordable workspace in the borough. Cultural organisations that have benefited to date include 198 Contemporary Arts and Learning, Raw Material, Rambert, and The Old Vic. These capital developments will provide bespoke and welcoming facilities for creative practitioners, including dancers, photographers, artists, and musicians.

### Local Plan

In 2021, Lambeth Council adopted an amendment to the Local Plan which would make it compulsory for major commercial development schemes in the borough to provide affordable workspace as part of their proposals. This policy has helped us to safeguard and grow the borough's affordable workspace offer and work towards even more opportunities for workspace in the future.

## LEARNINGS

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Workspace is more than just offices, desks, and chairs. They are spaces to gather, collaborate, practice, and perform. Most importantly, access to workspace must be equitable, and provide a support network that enables anyone in the borough, regardless of their need, to access and benefit from these spaces.

# 2

## Business Friendly Services

Over the last five years, Lambeth Council has secured over £50m of inward investment to grow the Creative and Digital Industries in the borough and support capacity-building within organisations. This investment has enabled renovations and capital projects that have improved the potential of many cultural organisations in the borough, including the Black Cultural Archives, Brixton House, Artists Studio Co., Mudgang Pottery, and Photofusion.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

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#### Resilience Funding

During the pandemic, the council invested over £12m to support the resilience of the sector. When the country was put into lockdown, the Council took a bold and innovative approach to supporting local businesses, ensuring funding was rapidly made available to support the sector's emerging financial needs.

#### Capacity Building

To support smaller organisations and individuals, the Council provided dedicated fundraising consultancy to build their capacity. This raised over £1m from Arts Council England, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, EQUIP, and A New Direction. Organisations benefitting included Makeshift Foundation, Creative Sparkworks, and Iconic Steps.

#### Engine of Recovery

In partnership with South Bank Business Improvement District, Southbank Centre, National Theatre, Rambert, The Old Vic, and Young Vic, we published Engine of Recovery. Through data and stories, the report demonstrated the significant value that these South Bank organisations contribute to both the local and national economy, as well as their impact on local residents and borough-wide opportunities.

### LEARNINGS

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Lambeth Council plays a key role in providing capacity-building opportunities for the borough's Creative and Digital Industries. It is also important for the Council to promote and celebrate the social and economic impact made by this rich and dynamic sector, from the grassroots organisations through to the national institutions in our borough.

# 3

## Networks and Support

Throughout the last five years, it has been more important than ever to be connected with each other and find meaningful ways to support the organisations, artists, and communities in our borough. Lambeth's Creative and Digital Industries are large and varied, with networks spanning cultural leaders, technology entrepreneurs, educators, and emerging creative talent. These networks operate at the intersection of collaboration and competition, allowing enterprise to flourish.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

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#### **Creative Enterprise Zone**

In 2018, Brixton was announced as one of the Mayor of London's first five dedicated Creative Enterprise Zones (CEZ). The Brixton CEZ was awarded a budget of £570,000 to develop creative clusters and partnerships across Brixton and the surrounding areas. Through collaboration with our grassroots and commercial partners, we found innovative ways to connect, platform, and promote the incredible creative potential of the area.

#### **Night Time Enterprise Zone**

In 2022, Vauxhall was chosen by the Mayor of London to be a Night Time Enterprise Zone (NTEZ). The NTEZ was awarded £130,000 to deliver a range of activities and programmes that would support businesses and encourage more people to use local high streets at night. The award was partly in recognition of the importance of Vauxhall's nighttime economy and the cultural significance of the renowned LGBTQ+ bars, clubs, and arts spaces.

#### **Future Connected**

In partnership with Act IV and Arts Ideas Realised, Lambeth Council launched Future Connected. The 9-month programme brought together directors of 10 grassroots organisations to help them develop the tools to build sustainable business plans. By allowing space and time for the cohort to gather and collaborate, Future Connected created a network of dynamic, engaged, and visionary leaders from across the culture sector in Lambeth.

### LEARNINGS

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Lambeth Council is in a unique position to convene creative clusters and collaborative networks within the borough, and this joined-up approach produces meaningful partnerships. The Council must also continue to play an active role in supporting cultural leaders to rise to the growing demands of the sector. Our cultural leaders are innovative and resilient, but in their multi-faceted roles they must make challenging decisions in an increasingly complex economic and social context.



# 4

## Place

As part of Lambeth Council’s commitment to cultural activation in the public realm, we have co-commissioned grassroots and large-scale organisations, collaborated with communities, and extended outdoor cultural programming across the borough. This intersection of place, culture, and creativity has grown opportunities for communities to come together and celebrate their culture and history.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

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#### Town Hall Art Programme

The Town Hall Art Programme has given talented artists the opportunity to use our newly refurbished Town Hall to create and share work directly with our local communities. Since 2019, we have commissioned and showcased work from Jon Daniel, Linett Kamala, Marina Vitaglione, and Lamarr Golding. In 2022, we also launched the borough’s first ever Poet Laureate in collaboration with Abstract Benna, a Lambeth-born spoken word artist.

#### Public Art

Outside of the Town Hall walls, we have collaborated on an array of public art installations and opportunities. We hosted national initiatives including The World Reimagined Globe Art Trail and facilitated community-led installation projects such as 81 Acts of Exuberant Defiance. In partnership with Wandsworth Council, we also delivered Line of Light Festival, and through Present in the Moment we collaborated with 3 Lambeth schools to engage young people to create public art.

#### Performances

As public performances moved online during the pandemic, Lambeth’s annual programming followed suit. Our community celebrated Windrush Day with video and social media, while Lambeth Country Show and Classical Vauxhall shared performances and events online. As in-person performances returned, we welcomed Paines Plough’s Roundabout to Slade Gardens, highlighting the potential for the Council to programme high-profile cultural events in different public spaces across the borough.

### LEARNINGS

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Creative placemaking offers important opportunities for communities to meaningfully connect and build civic pride. As a Council, we can facilitate wide-reaching cultural activation of the public realm that changes and improves our perception of the world around us. To facilitate the smooth-running of community-centred cultural events, a collaborative and cross-Council approach is integral.

# 5 Talent

Lambeth is a borough bursting with creative talent, but not everyone has equal access to the creative opportunities on their doorstep. Together with our partners, we are determined to level the playing field. Over the last five years we have launched a range of programmes and partnerships to open up the sector, prioritising equitable access for young people currently under-represented in the Creative and Digital Industries.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

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### **ELEVATE**

With youth leadership at its heart, ELEVATE platforms creative talent and provides high-quality training alongside real-world work experience for young people in Lambeth. Since 2018, we have secured £2.6m of investment that has enabled ELEVATE to engage over 5,000 children and young people. ELEVATE has also provided 500 paid opportunities for residents aged 16-30, including creative careers insight sessions, work experience placements, and paid internships.

### **Cultural Education Partnership**

In 2020, we launched Lambeth's Cultural Education Partnership (CEP), which brings together education and cultural partners to improve the relevance and reach of creative learning opportunities. This dedicated collaboration has connected over 75% of Lambeth schools with creative opportunities such as poetry workshops, theatre tours, and work experience. During the pandemic, the CEP was invaluable in keeping our cultural partners up-to-date with the ever-changing needs of schools.

### **Stride**

Stride was established as a partnership between the London Boroughs of Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark and Wandsworth. The programme secured £2m of investment specifically for Lambeth, offering support for entrepreneurs at all stages of their journey in the Creative and Digital Industries. Stride's Partnership Network also brought young entrepreneurs together with influential people from the sector, alongside partners from local government, the education sector, and the community.

## LEARNINGS

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We have a lot to learn from Lambeth's young creatives, and we will continue our work to platform their talent and incorporate their ideas. Alongside this, it is equally as important to work with employers to improve inclusive employment practice and develop accessible pathways to employment in this dynamic sector.







*Let's take  
a look at  
the last five  
years...*

2018

to

2022

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Grown

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Creativity is an essential part of Lambeth's spirit. It expresses who we are. Lambeth's creative life is the work of local people, arts organisations, and businesses across the borough. Our resulting creative economy is what brings people together, builds understanding, and contributes to inclusive growth.

Councillor Jacqui Dyer MBE,  
Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy and Equalities

Brixton is awarded  
**£570,000**  
 to safeguard and grow  
 its creative economy

GLA awards

**£200,000**

to support the next generation  
 of creative talent in Lambeth



Lambeth Council engages  
 with over

**100 local  
 stakeholders**

to develop its first Creative and  
 Digital Industries Strategy

New workspace for businesses across

**12,000 sq ft**

of disused space



**FEBRUARY**

**Cultural Impact Award spearheads strategy**

Lambeth Council is awarded a £200,000 Cultural Impact Award as part of the Mayor of London's Borough of Culture programme. This grant lays the foundation for significant inward investment in the borough and paves the way for the creation of our Creative and Digital Industries Strategy.

**APRIL**

**New strategy is developed**

Using the Cultural Impact Award, Lambeth brings together over 100 local stakeholders, including creative and digital businesses, education providers, trade bodies, young residents, thought leaders and social entrepreneurs, in a series of events and workshops, in-depth interviews and surveys to develop and finalise a new Creative and Digital Industries Strategy.

**OCTOBER**

**'Creative Ways to Grow' launches**

Lambeth Council launches its Creative and Digital Industries Strategy at the National Theatre with attendance from Lambeth creative organisations, practitioners, and the community. The event highlights the truly collaborative nature of the strategy and the Council's collective ambitions for the future of the industry.

**NOVEMBER**

**Brand new cinema opens in West Norwood**

A new cinema opens as part of a redevelopment for West Norwood Library. The Library renovations include a fun and engaging children's area, more than 35,000 books, and new equipment to give people with disabilities better access to the facilities. The cinema has four screens showing all the latest films, with a café and bar area open to everyone.

**DECEMBER**

**Brixton is a Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ) winner**

The Mayor of London comes to Lambeth Town Hall to announce the winners of the city's inaugural CEZ competition. Brixton is one of the five winners, and a budget of £570,000 is awarded to safeguard and grow Brixton's creative economy. A further £400,000 in European Social Fund funding is secured through the Brixton CEZ to deliver targeted support for young people not in work through Lambeth's Creative Cluster programme.

**Good Growth funds Brixton Recreation Centre initiative**

The Mayor of London awards £2.17m in capital funding to make improvements to the Brixton Recreation Centre and adjacent public realm. £600,000 of this funding is allocated towards creating a new workspace for creative businesses across 12,000 square feet of disused space within the building.

Lambeth's diverse community of cultural organisations is the backbone of the borough's rich cultural identity.

Binki Taylor, Partner,  
The Brixton Project





2019

Creative  
Ways  
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Grown









We're all associated with Lambeth in some shape or form, whether we live here, work here, or have been born here. So the stakes are high and personal.

Antonia Georgieva, Elevator



International House provides  
**40,000 sq ft**  
of space for creative  
organisations

Vauxhall Cultural  
Programme receives

**£96,000**

towards cultural events  
and activities

Stride is awarded  
**£8 million**

to diversify the creative  
and tech industries



**MARCH**

**Award for Stride**

The South London Innovation Corridor (later renamed Stride) is awarded £8m to diversify the Creative and Digital Industries in Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark, and Wandsworth. The programme leads on talent development, business support, and knowledge exchange across these boroughs, with a focus on encouraging and supporting people from diverse backgrounds.

**APRIL**

**Town Hall Art Programme established**

Following a major refurbishment of Lambeth's Town Hall, a new Town Hall Art Programme is launched to reflect and celebrate the contemporary life and heritage of the borough. The programme opens with a retrospective of one of the UK's leading Black creatives, Jon Daniel. Daniel's work is presented in partnership with 198 Contemporary Arts and Learning, including his iconic series of 'Afro Supa Heroes'.

**Affordable Workspace in the heart of Brixton**

International House, an 11-storey building in Brixton owned by Lambeth Council and managed by 3Space, re-opens with over 40,000 square feet of space for new and growing businesses, social enterprises, and charities. With a focus on design, creativity, and innovation, the initiative is recognised as the first accredited Living Wage building in the UK. High-growth architecture practice Resi, and Turner Prize-winning collective Assemble, are some of the organisations attracted to take space.

**JUNE**

**Celebrating Windrush**

Curated in partnership with Lambeth Archives, 'Before and After Windrush: 350 years of Black people in Lambeth' is presented in the Town Hall Community Room. The exhibition celebrates Brixton's Black community as documented by the photographer Harry Jacobs, uncovering the lives of Black people living in Lambeth in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

**Vauxhall Cultural Programme benefits from Section 106**

The Council commits £96,000 of capital money received from developers through the Section 106 Agreement to support the next two years of the Vauxhall Cultural Programme in partnership with Vauxhall One Business Improvement District. Activities include outdoor film screenings, Bearpit Karaoke, and Victorian Vauxhall which celebrates the history of the Pleasure Gardens and Classical Vauxhall.

**JULY**

**ELEVATE launches with live event**

ELEVATE, Lambeth's mission to open-up the Creative Industries to every young person in the borough, launches with an event at Rambert. The evening is produced and hosted by the programme's inaugural participants, with Abstract Benna, Roella Olouru, and Housni Hassan (DJ) performing to a sold-out crowd.



## Lambeth Elevators

The Elevators are young creatives who have helped shaped ELEVATE, Lambeth Council's mission to open up the Creative Industries for all young people in the borough. We discussed the impacts of the programme with two cohorts of Elevators, and explored what the future of creative collaboration might look like.



**The launch was impressive — how did it feel, being part of the team to design and lead it?**

**Kyra:** We have really worked hard as a team to come up with the name and branding. It really gives you a sense of happiness when you can see the end goal.

**Letitia:** I was part of ELEVATE from the beginning, and by getting involved I feel like I'm now part of the creative sector.

**What does being part of ELEVATE mean to you?**

**Abstract Benna:** As one of the founding members of ELEVATE, I have seen it, as well as myself and the other members, grow as leaders and business minded people. What ELEVATE allowed us to do was have a direct hand in shaping the future of our borough by funding organisations on our doorstep, allowing us to have a sense of pride that we're contributing to the place we call home and the people in it.

**What have you enjoyed most about being part of ELEVATE?**

**Letitia:** There are so many amazing, creative young people in Lambeth. With ELEVATE, you can build connections, build a network, discover new skills.

**Kyra:** I have enjoyed the inclusiveness of ELEVATE. You meet some really nice people with the same positive vision as you.

**What was it that attracted you to get involved in ELEVATE and become an Elevator?**

**George Owusu-Afriyie** I've always wanted to give back to my community but I didn't really know what that meant. ELEVATE offers a way to do that.



**What's your experience of ELEVATE been so far?**

**Antonia** I haven't encountered anything like it before. It's empowering: having a say, being given a space to share my experience. Meeting like-minded individuals who are all coming at it from different perspectives and have unique journeys that have brought us here.

**Naz** For me, being a new dad, I feel that I'm part of a foundation for the future, for my son — a Lambeth resident. ELEVATE has helped me explore. I didn't know what was out there in my borough.

**How can ELEVATE and Lambeth's Creative Industries sector work better with young people?**

**Naz** Improve the referral process. Because you can do everything doesn't mean you should. I work with young people at risk, but I'm not a qualified youth worker. Sometimes we need to say — here is a partner organisation that could be of support and bridge the gap to connect them.

**Matthew** There's so much that's hidden. I didn't even know how many jobs there were in music — like making music for ads. And you don't know about it until you're in these networks. And that's what we can do with ELEVATE — introduce someone to this whole new world.

**Lambeth's Elevators from 2018- 2022 were:** Whitney Achonwa, Ayo Adegun, Ned Blackburn, Reuben (Benna) Braithwaite, Sky Caesar, Kyra Campbell, Jelly Cleaver, Fejiro Emasuobi, Antonia Georgieva, Housni Hassan (DJ), Naz Hoque, Lara Grace Ilori, Letitia Johnson, George Owusu-Afriyie, Damian Reyes-Fox, Matthew Smith, Emeka Ughanwa, Akira Williams



The Elizabeth House re-development estimated to bring

**11,000 new jobs**

to the South Bank and Waterloo area

Eric Fest engages over

**300 young people**

in a Creative Careers festival



Studio Voltaire and 198 Contemporary Arts and Learning receive

**£550,000**

of grant funding towards capital developments



**JULY**

**ERIC Fest is held at Pop Brixton**

ERIC Fest, a radical Creative Careers festival, engages over 300 young people, who are empowered to explore the Creative Industries through talks, workshops, live entertainment, stalls, and zines. Employers at the festival include BBC Sport, WOW Foundation, Lush Cosmetics, The Old Vic, Us Two Games, She is Clothed, Universal Music, and Havas Advertising.

**SEPTEMBER**

**Stride launches OneTech programme**

Stride announces its first programme in collaboration with OneTech, a company committed to changing the face of start-ups in London. During a packed launch event at WeWork Waterloo, OneTech offers workshops and networking opportunities to emerging business leaders from Stride's four London boroughs. Across the lifespan of the programme, OneTech supports almost 100 Lambeth-based start-ups to develop and grow their businesses.

**Town Hall Art Programme welcomes inaugural Artist in Residence**

Lambeth Council welcomes visual Artist Linett Kamala to the Town Hall as Artist in Residence, where she produces a series of works inspired by the legacy of Olive Morris, a Jamaican-born British-based community leader and activist. The exhibition, 'My heart will always be in Brixton', features work that is inspired by Kamala's conversations with the people who visited Lambeth Town Hall during her residency.

**OCTOBER**

**Elizabeth House redevelopment gains approval**

Guided by the Council's Draft Affordable Workspace policy, property developers HB Reavis commit £33m of subsidised workspace to the Elizabeth House re-development in Waterloo. The development scheme, expected to commence in 2025, will bring an estimated 11,000 new jobs to the South Bank and Waterloo area.

**DECEMBER**

**Visual Arts get a boost**

Lambeth Council, in partnership with Stride, commits £550,000 in grant funding to Studio Voltaire and 198 Contemporary Arts and Learning. These funds enable two of the borough's most highly-regarded visual arts charities to begin constructing extensions to their much-loved and frequently visited public spaces.

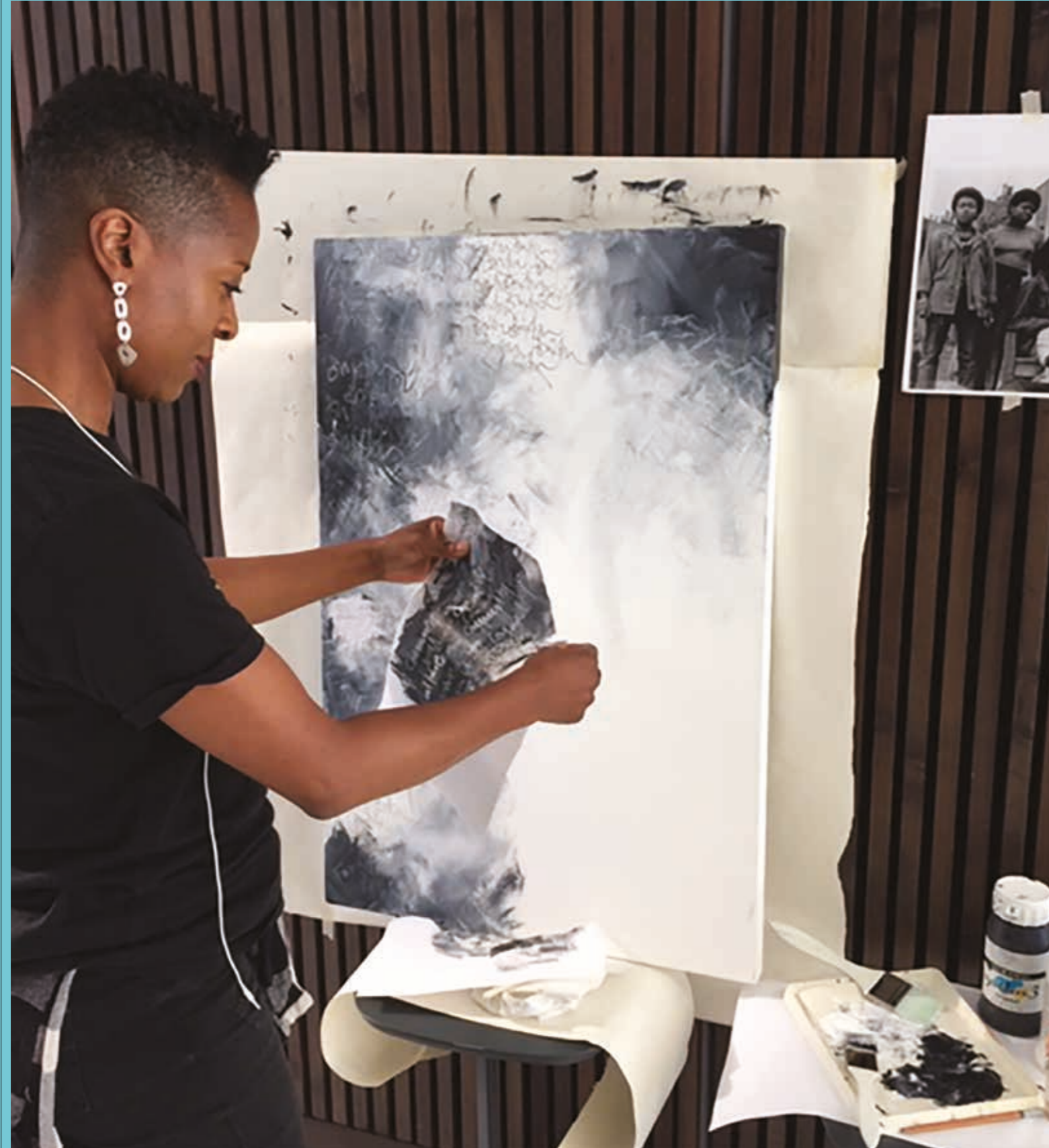
**Jellyfish Pictures establishes HQ in Brixton**

In response to a Lambeth Council Planning requirement, a new commercial space is built within The Edge housing development at Gresham Road. The space catches the interest of Jellyfish Pictures, an award-winning Animation and Visual Effects studio. After 18 years in Soho, Jellyfish Pictures establish their new HQ in Brixton's vibrant Creative Enterprise Zone.



## Linett Kamala

Linett was the Town Hall Art Programme's inaugural Artist in Residence. Linett works across various disciplines including mixed media paintings, murals, and DJ soundscapes. We spoke to her about what it meant to create art work in Lambeth's historic Town Hall.



### Tell us about the inspiration for your residency

It was entitled 'My heart will always be in Brixton', the words of Olive Morris. Olive Morris (26 June 1952 — 12 July 1979) was a Jamaican-born British-based community leader and activist in the feminist, black nationalist, and squatters' rights campaigns of the 1970s.

### Why did this feel an important subject for you?

To keep the memory of Olive Morris alive through a visual form and for her legacy to continue to be rooted in the history of Brixton beyond physical structures. It was an opportunity to explore, through creative expression, what Olive Morris's activism might look like if she were still alive today, particularly in relation to the theme of education. I asked the question 'If Olive Morris was still with us, what would her response be in relation to current matters of mental health and wellbeing for young people?'

### How did people engage with the exhibition?

Alongside creating the artworks, I gave numerous tours of the exhibition to school and university students and hosted a sold-out artist talk. We filmed the exhibition in 360 degrees and uploaded it onto a Virtual Reality headset, which we then took to Success Primary School in Hanover, Jamaica, and ran workshops with the entire school so the children in Olive's birth country could learn about her.

### What was special for you about this residency?

Being based in a building which is the civic hub of the community meant my art was able to reach all sectors of Lambeth residents and those who worked for the council. I was able to engage directly with the community and more people learnt about the incredible legacy of Olive Morris.

### What are your final thoughts on the Town Hall Art Programme?

I thoroughly enjoyed my time as an artist in the Town Hall. I feel the Town Hall Art Programme is a model which other councils can learn from. It is an opportunity to bring art directly to the people of Lambeth.



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This pandemic has wielded an unquantifiable wound to theatre-makers and theatres, the repercussions of which we will continue to feel for a long time.

Kwame Kwei-Armah,  
Artistic Director, Young Vic



The Council's Arts and Culture at Risk fund supports

## 25 cultural organisations

during the initial months of the pandemic

Lambeth Council secures

# £75,000

to launch Lambeth's Cultural Education Partnership



The Annex at The Old Vic supported by a

# £3.75 million

loan agreement with Lambeth Council



### MARCH

#### Country plunged into lockdown

Along with the rest of the country, Lambeth goes into lockdown, following government instructions to stay at home. Non-essential businesses and services, including the borough's cultural organisations, are required to close. During this time of devastating loss and hardship, Lambeth Council, like other local authorities, implements measures to support vulnerable individuals and businesses affected by the restrictions. These include financial support schemes, food assistance programmes, and mental health services.

#### COVID-19 Support

Recognising the incredible risk that the pandemic posed to cultural organisations, Lambeth Council uses some of its discretionary funding from Central Government to create an Arts and Culture at Risk fund. This funding provides £355,000 in targeted support to 25 cultural organisations across the borough.

### APRIL

#### ELEVATE Education: A new partnership begins

Lambeth Council secures a £75,000 grant from A New Direction's Challenge London Fund to launch Lambeth's Cultural Education Partnership (CEP). The CEP enables ELEVATE to extend its offer and support for schools in the borough. Throughout lockdown, the CEP plays an important role in helping young people keep creative by connecting schools to over 35 partner cultural organisations. Within its first 18 months, the CEP engages over 50% of Lambeth schools.

#### The Lockdown Diaries

Lambeth Archives launches a project to document the impact of the pandemic on the lives of people across the borough. Entries come from far and wide and span drawings from children, written testimonies from prisoners at HMS Brixton, and video entries from Lambeth Council workers and NHS staff at St Thomas' Hospital. The Archives continue to gather testimonies throughout the pandemic, helping to enhance our understanding of Lambeth's ongoing history.

#### Council convenes South Bank and Waterloo recovery group

Lambeth Council creates a regular working group with the Southbank Centre, the National Theatre, BFI, The Old Vic, Young Vic, and Rambert, to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on their organisations and how the Council can support them through the pandemic.

### MAY

#### The Annex at The Old Vic

Lambeth agrees a £3.75million loan with The Old Vic that will be used towards the construction costs for The Annex, a five-storey building for creativity, education, and community. As part of this partnership with Lambeth Council, The Old Vic commits to delivering more activities for the borough's local community over the next 20 years, with their in-kind support valued at over £95,000 per year.



## Hannah Fosker

Hannah is the Education and Community Director at The Old Vic. We spoke with her about the last five years for the organisation, and what the future looks like for the venue.



### The Old Vic celebrated a big birthday in 2018?

Yes. We marked our 200th birthday with a three-day party. Free performances, a street party, and open house for local families.

### And then how did things change over the next few years?

Fast forward to March 2020, and the theatre was forced to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We made a commitment to do everything possible to maintain some kind of meaningful connection with our audiences. We remained committed to live theatre and pioneered an innovative approach: Old Vic: In Camera. Produced by a skeleton staff, our series of live Zoom performances direct from The Old Vic's historic stage engaged with audiences throughout lockdown.

Performances included *Lungs*, *A Christmas Carol*, and Dr. Suess's *The Lorax* and were streamed globally to over 100,000 households in 94 countries. The audience for *A Christmas Carol* included 2,500 care homes and 129 local schools watching for free.

### What were your other priorities in addition to engaging audiences?

We kept our Education and Community programmes running, pivoting online and working closely with Lambeth Council to develop several projects including Front Line Online, Front Line Lambeth, Community Club, and the Lambeth Baylis Trustee scheme.

Front Line Lambeth gives 16–30-year-olds the opportunity to discover more about careers in the arts and culture sector, developing key transferable skills through paid placements in Front of House and hospitality roles. Across three years, Front Line Lambeth enabled 70 young people from Lambeth currently under-represented across the Creative Industries to work in six different cultural organisations across the borough.

### It sounds like creative pathways is an important focus for you?

Absolutely, and more recently we have worked with ELEVATE, leading focus groups to understand the perspectives of teachers, young people, and parents on working in the creative sector, and hosting an online creative careers conference for Lambeth secondary schools.

Having The Annex project on the horizon for everybody offers hope and direction at this difficult time. It allows us to be purposeful and to respond to the deep need in the community for theatre to rebound, stronger and more accessible and welcoming than ever.

Matthew Wharcus  
Artistic Director of The Old Vic

### What does the future hold for the theatre?

The Old Vic has embarked on a major programme of investment and renewal to sustain and modernise our Grade II\* listed 205-year-old theatre as a creative hub and community resource for the next generation.

This includes providing wheelchair access to our auditorium and downstairs café-bar, doubling the number of toilets, re-raking the stalls, and replacing the seats. The next stage is a six-storey extension to The Old Vic for creativity, education and community.

The Old Vic has agreed a loan from Lambeth Council of up to £3.75m for a period of 20 years that will enable us to construct The Annex, which will be key in driving our purpose and mission of invigorating, inspiring, and opening doors through world-class theatre for all.





35,000  
Lambeth  
residents

join in online  
Windrush celebrations

Black Cultural Archives  
is awarded

£81,000

from the Culture Recovery  
Fund for Heritage

Stride supports

300 young people

into creative career pathways



**JUNE**

**ELEVATE launches new website**

An unexpected twist of the pandemic and lockdown means ELEVATE has to pivot its delivery onto an online forum, which enables a new functional website to be built that provides a space for connection and digital collaboration. For many Elevators, this platform would provide a meaningful sense of connection during a challenging period of career development.

**Windrush Day in lockdown**

Windrush Day 2020 marks an extraordinary collective event for the community, despite the restrictions of lockdown and social distancing. With the help of the newly launched ELEVATE website, over 35,000 Lambeth residents, including 20 schools, take part adorning their windows with our Windrush motif and taking to the streets in a collective display to celebrate and sing for Windrush.

**JULY**

**Lambeth Country Show goes virtual**

To keep the Country Show spirit alive when no in-person events could take place, Lambeth Council launches an online programme covering residents' favourite parts of the show. Activities includes live music, poetry recitals, samba bands, kids craft workshops, dance-alongs, a digital stroll around the Flower Show, and the much loved Vegetable Sculpture Competition, which is won by Bethan Ways' Frida Kale-O in the public vote.

**OCTOBER**

**Black Cultural Archives celebrate grants**

Following long-term collaboration and funding support from the Council, the Black Cultural Archives celebrates receiving £81,000 in funding from the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage. This grant enables the Brixton-based cultural venue to continue welcoming visitors in a safe environment.

**NOVEMBER**

**Stride launches Talent Development Programme**

Stride awards £504,000 to LDN Apprenticeships, We Made That, A New Direction, School of Communication Arts, Chocolate Films, and Do It Now Now to support nearly 300 people with paid work experience, pre-employment training, pre-apprenticeship training, apprenticeships, jobs, and in-work progression.

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Creative  
Ways  
We've  
Grown







As small charities and grassroots organisations, we are all up against it, so we really appreciate the Council's investment and support. The Future Workspace Fund is a great example of innovative and entrepreneurial thinking by a local authority.

Rachel Nelken, CEO, Raw Material





20,000 people

watch Classical Vauxhall online

100 young people

log on to develop their Creative Futures

South Bank and Waterloo cultural cluster generate

£510 million

in GVA to UK economy pre-pandemic



MARCH

Make It in Brixton kicks off

The Brixton Project, in collaboration with Lambeth Council, launches 'Make It in Brixton', a website which supports and promotes opportunities for local creatives within Brixton. This digital platform, delivered as part of Brixton's status as a Creative Enterprise Zone, enables more creatives in the area to meet, network, and collaborate.

Classical Vauxhall goes online

With further restrictions to public gatherings announced by the government, Classical Vauxhall moves online for the first time, with 4 different shows watched by 20,000 people across 47 countries. The performances, supported by Vauxhall One Business Improvement District, include pianist Fiachra Garvey with the Navarra String Quartet and Mezzo-Soprano Hanna Hip.

APRIL

Brixton uprising commemorated

The initiative '81 Acts of Exuberant Defiance' launches with the large-scale public art piece 'Atlantic Billboard: Look Both Ways'. This projected animation is created by four local young people working in collaboration with award-winning creative studio Mesmer. This installation marks the start of a community-led programme commemorating the 40th anniversary of the 1981 Brixton uprisings.

Town Hall Art Programme celebrates leadership

The Town Hall Art Programme co-commissions an exhibition with Photofusion entitled 'Spectemur Agendo: By Our Actions May We Be Known'. Inspired by the 1903 portraits of the first elected Lambeth Councillors, four local artists explore the notion of leadership today, celebrating heroes from the local community before, during, and after the pandemic.

Our Creative Futures event reaches out

London South Bank University hosts a two-day online event, Our Creative Futures, reaching nearly 100 young creatives, creative professionals, facilitators, and teachers. ELEVATE partners, participants, and the Elevators take a lead in the discussions.

JULY

Engine of Recovery reports on impact of cultural cluster

In partnership with South Bank Business Improvement District, Southbank Centre, National Theatre, Rambert, The Old Vic, and Young Vic, Lambeth Council publishes the 'Engine of Recovery' report. The report demonstrates the huge social and economic impact made by Lambeth's world-class cultural cluster, who, before the pandemic, supported 8,100 full time equivalent jobs and delivered £510m in Gross Value Added to the UK economy.



## Nic Durston

Nic is the Chief Executive of South Bank Business Improvement District (BID). We spoke with Nic about the relationship between the BID and Lambeth Council when it comes to the Creative and Digital Industries, and we discussed the important work of our collaboration to deliver the Engine of Recovery report during the pandemic.

### Tell us about South Bank BID's relationship with Lambeth Council in relation to the Creative and Digital Industries?

South Bank BID and our other partners were heavily involved in the creation of the first Creative and Digital Industries Strategy. We co-sponsored the strategy in recognition that the creative and artistic cluster of international significance on South Bank is not only synonymous with the area but central to its growth and success.

### How did this relationship develop in response to the COVID pandemic?

The production of the Engine of Recovery report was a great example of the South Bank BID working well with the Council. The impact of the report was hugely significant, demonstrating the value of South Bank and Waterloo organisations to the UK economy.

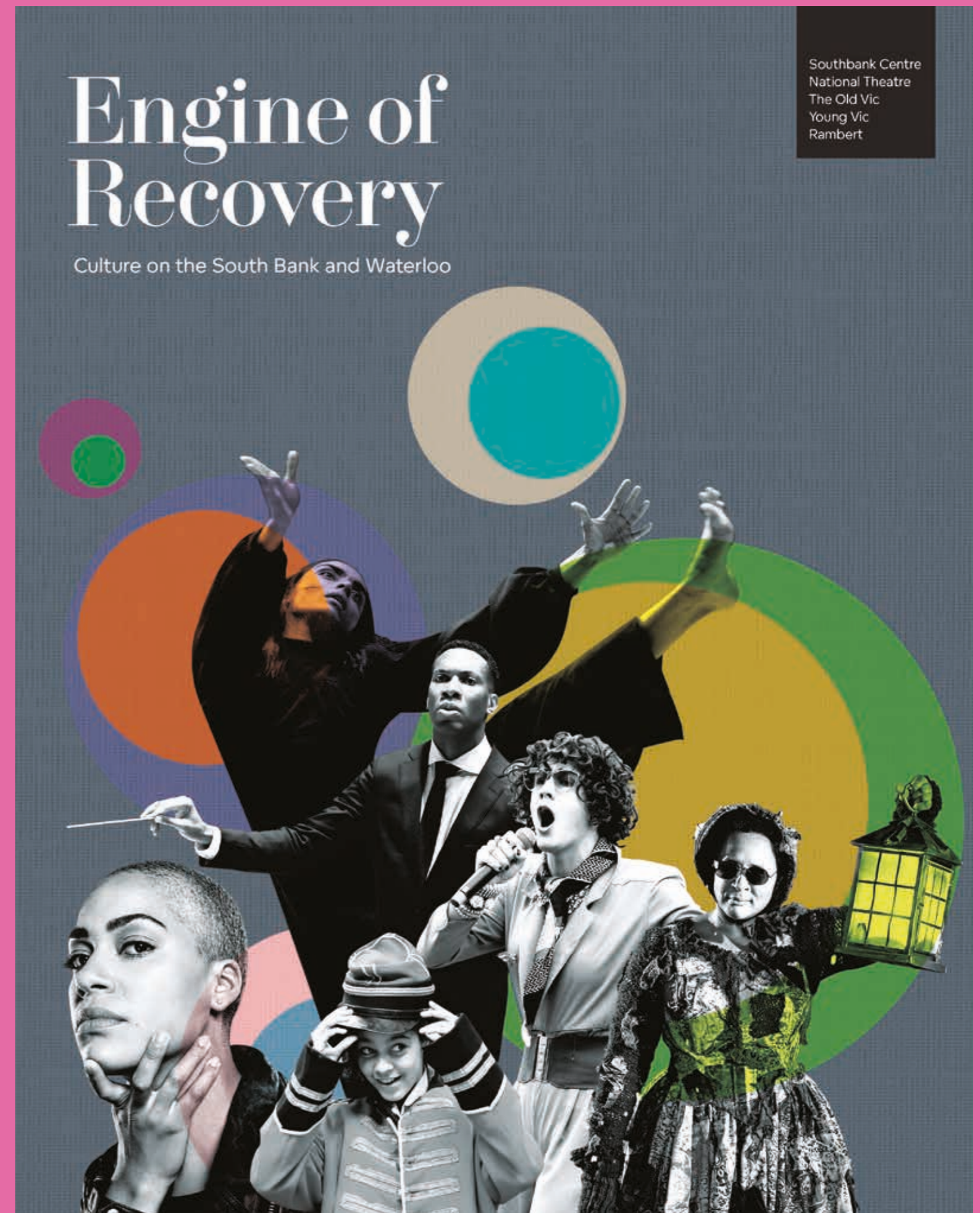
The National Theatre, Rambert, Southbank Centre, The Old Vic and Young Vic contributed £500m GVA annually and attracted 5.6million visits. In addition to the economic value is their huge social value in supporting education and skills, enterprise, and health and wellbeing.

### Can you tell us about how South Bank BID and Lambeth Council worked together on the South Bank and Waterloo Recovery Plan?

We were quick off the mark with getting a recovery plan in place and the priorities identified have stood the test of time. We experienced a different working relationship with the Council during the pandemic as we both adjusted to the emergency at hand. The Council showed real flexibility and was very open to ideas and new ways of working. We collectively focused on the art of the possible, not just business as usual.

### How would you like to see this relationship evolve?

Co-production is the key to ensuring the effectiveness of the collaboration between the Council, South Bank BID and the cultural organisations themselves. The production of the first Creative and Digital Industries Strategy really epitomised the benefits of this approach – the openness of the conversations, and the creativity and honesty in exploring what solutions would work. South Bank is an important part of London's Central Activities Zone. Its economic value and importance, and its world-class institutions require specific ways of working. We've seen some really good, collaborative work and now need to consider how best to harness this as we work in partnership to deliver on the economic and social opportunities for the area.



Southbank Centre  
National Theatre  
The Old Vic  
Young Vic  
Rambert



3,000  
young people

collaborate on Lambeth's first  
ever dance flashmob

Studio Voltaire supports over

60 artists

including artists with  
learning disabilities



Affordable Workspace  
Policy secures

36,000 sq ft

of space for cultural use



#### JULY

##### Flashmob connects thousands of young people

The Boury Academy and ELEVATE Education collaborate on the borough's first ever dance flashmob. Over 3,000 young people from nurseries, playgrounds, and school halls show off their impressive dance moves, providing a much-needed sense of connection and celebration for Lambeth's schools.

#### AUGUST

##### Roundabout comes to Lambeth

Leading playwriting company Paine's Plough presents Roundabout, an outstanding festival of new plays and community events performed in a large-scale tent at Slade Gardens. An ELEVATE Neighbourhoods celebratory event also takes place in the tent and alumni of The Old Vic's Front Line programme receive paid work during the festival.

#### SEPTEMBER

##### Affordable Workspace policy adopted

As part of Lambeth Council's Local Plan, major commercial development schemes in the borough are now required to provide affordable workspaces. Responding to the policy, CO—RE and Mitsubishi Estate London propose The London Studios, which would provide 36,000 square feet of space for cultural use at affordable rates. To test The London Studios concept, ELEVATE partner organisations and young creatives ran pilot programmes at 72 Upper Ground.

##### Norwood High Street becomes Creative Business Cluster

Lambeth Council's Local Plan also sees Norwood High Street designated a Creative Business Cluster. Proposed developments can be supported if they can deliver workspace suitable for Creative and Digital Industries, helping us to grow the sector in this part of the borough.

##### Lambeth Now powers ahead

Funding is secured for further development of Lambeth Now, the website that promotes Business, Culture, and Investment in the borough. The funding helps expand the site to include a greater focus on South Lambeth, profiling areas such as Streatham and West Norwood.

#### OCTOBER

##### Studio Voltaire doubles up

Studio Voltaire re-opens after a £2.8million renovation, which doubles the size of its public space. Through its partnership with Action Space, the gallery now supports over 60 artists, including artists with learning disabilities.



## Stephen Black

Stephen is Director at CO—RE, a Central London developer. We talked to Stephen about the innovative arts and cultural hub ‘The London Studios’, a key part of CO—RE and Mitsubishi Estate London’s development plans for 72 Upper Ground, South Bank.



### Why was the inclusion of cultural space and opportunities such a key consideration?

We saw from the start that this scheme provided an incredible opportunity to add to the richness of the South Bank’s cultural quarter. We also knew it needed to complement, and build on, the existing cultural environment.

### How did you make sure the scheme responded to the cultural needs of the area?

For us, designing The London Studios was our first time incorporating cultural infrastructure as a such a significant element of a development. There’s a learning process we all have to go through when we’re trying something new, but we were supported by the Council and experts within our project team. We worked with creative consultants FutureCity

to learn from the local creative community with our ‘Preview’ programme. This helped us bridge the gap between property and culture, creating a dialogue with cultural venues, big and small, within half a mile radius of the site.

### How did you work with the Council to build on the potential benefits?

Working with the Council helped us connect with organisations across the borough. This made us realise the full potential for The London Studios to provide work, rehearsal, and performance space for groups for whom being based on the South Bank is currently out of reach. It was a real opportunity for mutual benefits — providing big business occupiers with connectivity, vibrancy, access to local talent, and the opportunity to fulfil their environmental and social aims in creative and meaningful ways.

And for smaller, local partners there is an opportunity to access resources and space that would otherwise be unavailable.

### Has this scheme made a difference to CO—RE’s approach?

It’s become even more clear to us the importance of the Creative and Digital Industries in providing jobs, social impact and economic opportunities. Incorporating Creative and Digital Industries provision into development schemes is something that we believe is really worthwhile exploring in future projects across London, where there is a local need.



We also spoke to Chris Taylor, Co-Founder and CEO of Young Creators UK (YCUK), about the pilot YCUK ran on the 15th Floor of 72 Upper Ground. The project, ‘The South Bank Shutdown’, was part of the ‘Preview’ programme in collaboration with CO—RE, Mitsubishi Estate London, and FutureCity.

### Can you tell us about ‘The South Bank Shutdown’?

With our community of 75 young people, YCUK co-created and built the largest free-to-use creative space in the UK. The space included a podcast studio, design studio, digital print suite, and a chillout wellbeing hub, as well as a number of other studio and professional spaces. The space offered young people their dream creative, social, and commercial base as they emerged from the pandemic.

### How was the project delivered?

The young people learnt space design, carpentry, and how to negotiate discounts on equipment. Everything the space needed was done by our community and founders.

### Can you tell us a bit about how the space operated?

There was no cost for young people to come into the space and we covered their travel as well as providing free food, drink, and access to wellbeing sets during their visit. The pilot ran for 6 months, and we had over 3,000 individual visits by young people aged 16 to 30. 80% of those visits were from young people who were from underprivileged or marginalised backgrounds.

### Was it just young people using the building?

Not at all. We hosted major influencers, top UK professional creatives, change makers, agile consultants, musicians, venture capitalists, community leaders, and multiple other Lambeth-based organisations. These professionals were all using a space built and run by young people.

### What can be learnt from this pilot programme?

A key part of the project was young people having ownership of what is generally considered an elite and inaccessible space. The young people had real ownership of the project, so it gave them an immense sense of pride and broadened their vision of what they could achieve. The project also set the bar for what an accessible creative space for young people could and should be.



Future Workspace  
Fund invests over  
**£2 million**

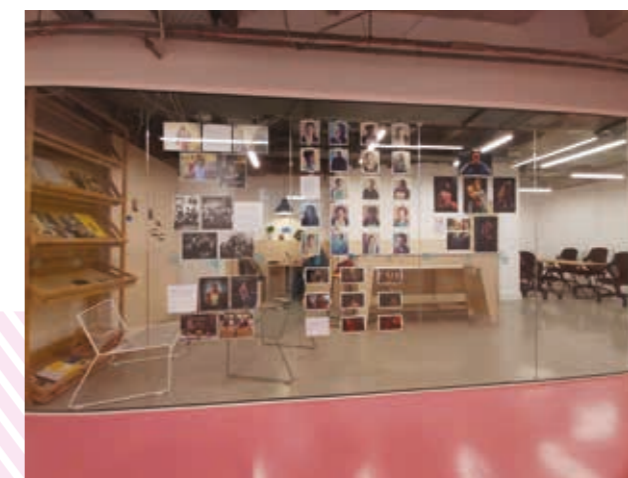
into four ambitious  
capital projects

198 Contemporary Arts and  
Learning re-opens with over  
**2,500 sq ft**  
of affordable workspace

Lambeth's Economic Resilience  
Fund safeguards and secures over  
**1,000 jobs**



**222**  
**entrepreneurs**  
awarded seed funding



**OCTOBER**

**Future Workspace Fund  
commits capital**

Round One of the Future Workspace Fund invests over £2m into four projects that are growing, enhancing, and safeguarding affordable workspace across the borough. These projects unlock £6.9million in match funding and are forecast to benefit 258 businesses every year with an additional 960 jobs across 69,000 square feet of space.

**198 Contemporary Arts and Learning  
(198 CAL) expands**

198 CAL, an anchor for Black artists since 1988, re-opens with a spectacular expansion of its facilities. The venue now includes over 2,500 square feet of affordable workspace for charities and social enterprises, with a special aim of supporting Black-led enterprises. There are also spaces for education and community groups, an archive, and new galleries.

**Line of Light shines out**

As part of the Nine Elms Vauxhall Partnership, Lambeth Council co-host Line of Light Festival, an outdoor celebration of the people and communities who live above the new Northern Line extension. The festival includes a two-mile long trail of outdoor illuminations, involves over 250 creative content makers and 29 local businesses, and attracts more than 5,000 visitors.

**NOVEMBER**

**Stride invests in business  
development**

University of Arts London, Goldsmiths, and Does Ltd are awarded a share of £350,000 to assist 222 budding entrepreneurs transform their seed ideas into viable start-up businesses. A further £278,000 is awarded to Shapeways.io, Spiral Skills, World Heart Beat Music Academy, LDN Apprenticeships, Iconic Steps, and Creative Sparkworks, enabling these organisations to provide talent development and job opportunities to people across Lambeth.

**DECEMBER**

**Economic Resilience Fund supports  
recovery**

A total of £2.5m of Additional Restrictions Grant funding is made available to 13 projects that support post-pandemic recovery in the sector. The programme secures an additional £2.1m in match funding, providing direct support for 861 businesses and indirectly supporting a further 3,692 organisations, safeguarding 749 jobs, and helping to create 323 new job opportunities across the sector.

**Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ)  
continues**

The success of the Brixton CEZ is recognised by the Mayor of London and awarded a re-accreditation which includes a further £70,000 of funding. This investment enables the CEZ to continue supporting the collaboration and growth of some of Lambeth's most exciting creative businesses.



## Lucy Davies

Lucy is the Director of 198 Contemporary Arts and Learning (198 CAL), a Black-led and Black-owned visual arts organisation situated on Railton Road, Brixton's former 'Frontline'. In 2021 the venue reopened after an extensive refurbishment project.



### Can you tell us about the historical relationship between 198 CAL and the Council?

It's important to put the success of this development project in the context of the past 35 years, as support from the Council was present in the very early days of the organisation and was significant in enabling it to grow.

The way that we work and the things that we're interested in — giving a platform to artists, issues of racial justice, being inclusive, offering learning programmes to a wide range of people in the borough — the Council has always understood that and seen 198 CAL as a space that is helping us collectively to achieve more in those areas. It's a complementary relationship.

### 198 CAL has recently had some significant redevelopment work completed on the building, tell us how this came about?

It felt as if there was a new energy in the Council at that time, a motivation to get things going and support organisations like 198 CAL to achieve their aspirations.

Our first large amount of money came from the Mayor of London via the Good Growth Fund — 40% of the initial budget for the works. Shortly after, we received funds from Lambeth Council through the Stride Programme.

The Council's support continued from this point, from introductions and brokerage to small loans and grants to get us over the line. We also benefited from the knowledge of those working at the Council, who provided us with practical support on the planning process, fundraising, and other parts of the project, including assisting us with the acquisition of the small piece

of land at the back of our building, which has now become part of its footprint.

### What difference was made by the Council support?

We didn't have a lot of experience, so the support of the Council in capacity building, and feeling our way through the process was invaluable. Our architects, CarverHaggard, also really went over and above to realise the project's ambition.

Because of the way funding works, organisations like us have issues around resource management. Most funders want to pay for delivery of services but are not interested in paying for management capacity. And when you bring it all together, it's a significant amount of investment the Council made, both of time and effort, and that's why I say it really wouldn't have happened without their support.

I was a 198 CAL patron for many, many years and I feel proud to be associated with this place. 198 CAL has a really big reputation out there in the art world. I think it's one of Lambeth's best assets and I would like to see the close collaboration continue between ourselves and the Council.

Linton Kwesi Johnson,  
Chair of 198 CAL





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Creative  
Ways  
We've  
Grown

22









It's a time of great hardship for many people in the borough. And we understand that our arts and culture organisations are one of our greatest assets in providing opportunity and tackling inequity.

Councillor Donatus Anyanwu,  
Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities,  
Leisure and Sport

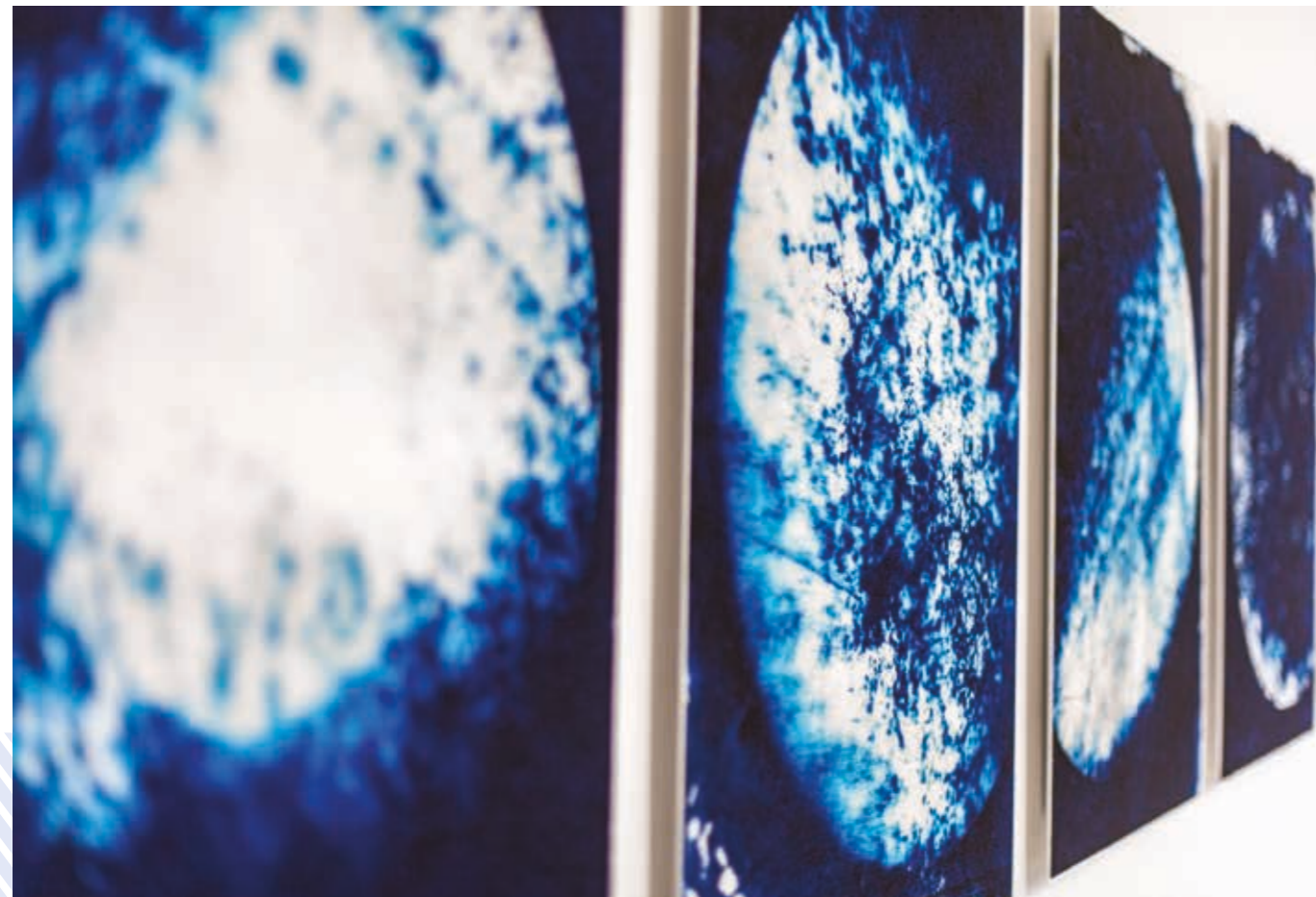


Town Hall Art Programme  
illuminates

# Net Zero

ambitions from Lambeth's  
Climate Action Plan

Arts Council  
England awards  
**£500,000**  
capital grant for  
Raw Material's  
redevelopment



Affordable  
workspaces for

# 26 creative companies

opens in Carlton Mansions

B3 Media will invest

## £150,000

into a micro-studio at its  
new base in Carlton Mansions



## JANUARY

### AIR spotlights air pollution

Marina Vitaglione's disquieting images of air pollution are exhibited in the Town Hall, drawing attention to the Council's Climate Action Plan and its goals to reduce pollution and become Net zero compatible by 2030.

## MARCH

### Brixton House opens its doors

A new development, designed by Foster Wilson Size and supported by Lambeth Council, provides a new home for Brixton House (formerly Ovalhouse). The space includes two theatres, seven rehearsal rooms, and fully accessible spaces. Beauhurst, a local high-growth data company, also move into the 4th floor above the theatre, and the refurbishment of adjacent Carlton Mansions provides 26 workspaces for creative companies and arts charities, including B3 Media, Corali, and Frantic Assembly.

### ELEVATE Education network grows

With ELEVATE Education now engaging over 75% of Lambeth schools, programme partners gather at Cultural Connections events held at various leading Lambeth cultural venues. The first cohort of teachers, known as ELEVATE Champions, come together for training in music and dance with a shared mission of igniting creativity in their classrooms.

## APRIL

### Arts Council England (ACE) awards capital grants

Two of the borough's creative organisations receive significant Capital Grants from ACE, with match funding from Lambeth Council. Raw Material Music and Media are awarded almost £500,000 to re-develop their three-storey building and transform the top-floor into a co-working space for local creatives. B3 Media will invest £150,000 in a micro-studio at its new base in Carlton Mansions, giving creatives access to space and tools for XR motion capture and 3D animation.

### 81 Acts holds the flame

81 Acts continues with 'Holding the Flame' in Canterbury Crescent outside Brixton Police Station. The installation is the first in a series of pioneering Augmented Reality (AR) interventions devised by Aswarm, presenting an alternative and contemporary approach to memorial statues within the public realm.

### People's Corner mural commemorates Olive Morris

The Brixton Project presents People's Corner, a mural inspired by the life of Olive Morris. The work is designed by Linett Kamala through workshops with local young women and installed on Somerleyton Place in Brixton by local female mural artists WOM Collective.



## Abstract Benna

Benna is a Lambeth-born performance poet, storyteller, and writer, who has performed across the country. In October 2022, he was inaugurated as Lambeth's first ever Poet Laureate. We spoke with him about his journey, and the future of spoken word in Lambeth and beyond.

### **You were inaugurated as Lambeth's first Poet Laureate at the Southbank Centre as part of their literature festival. How was that experience?**

I worked with Lambeth Council Officers in the Business, Culture, and Investment team to organise the launch event to document the start of the journey. The launch event itself went well. I had people who have supported my career since the start in attendance which made it feel like a collective celebration.

### **What does it mean to be Poet Laureate for Lambeth?**

It's big for Lambeth residents. Being Poet Laureate for Lambeth is a good opportunity for writers to benefit from the artistic parts of the borough, and those with a deep-rooted passion for storytelling to creatively collaborate with local partners. It also almost feels like a return on investment for their participation in the value Lambeth currently holds.

### **What were your aims for the year?**

My aim was to establish the role and build creative relationships with cultural partners in the borough who might want to collaborate with myself and Laureates to come. It's also to bring the community's awareness to the role which will help form a support network for each Laureate after me.

### **What's coming up?**

More poems, borough-wide performances, and spoken word-based visuals in collaboration with local partners.

### **What are your plans for after your Laureateship?**

I definitely need a short break as it's been a full year and an even fuller decade since I started doing spoken word as a career. It's all gone so fast, and I need to reflect and process it all. I'm currently taking meetings and strategising my next steps though, so potentially a book. I'm also toying with other art forms and seeing how I can merge them with poetry to enhance the stories I want to tell.

### **What is the future of spoken word and poetry?**

It's hard to say. It's such a niche art form that easily becomes something else the more we add elements to it, but I like where the art form currently is. I think an expansion into mental health, mindfulness, and wellbeing practices could be the direction it goes in for the future.

### **Do you have any advice for aspiring poets or artists?**

Enjoy what you do! No matter where it goes or what it turns into, try not to ever lose the original passion and drive you started with. Everything else will fall into place, but enjoy the process and master your craft.





Brixton X Harlem Festival  
attracts over  
**1,000 people**  
celebrating culture, art,  
music, and food

ELEVATE  
invests in  
**4 new  
priority areas**  
including Early Years  
provision for the first time

Arts Council England grants  
**£45,000**  
to celebrate creativity  
of young people



#### MAY

##### Calling Affordable Workspace providers

With the Local Plan and Affordable Workspace policy secured, Lambeth Council invites workspace providers to apply to become part of an approved provider list. The Council also launches a register for Lambeth-based Charities and Not-for-Profit organisations. This register gives these organisations the opportunity to apply for affordable workspace that has been secured through the Affordable Workspace policy.

##### ELEVATE Neighbourhoods funds social priorities

COVID-19 Recovery Funding enables a second round of ELEVATE Neighbourhoods grants for research, strategy development, and project delivery in four new priority areas: Special Education Needs and Disabilities provision for early years, LGBTQ+ inclusion, empowerment activities for vulnerable young women, and work with young people at risk.

#### JUNE

##### ELEVATE welcomes Royal visitors

The Prince and Princess of Wales (at the time, Duke and Duchess of Cambridge) visit Brixton House to learn about ELEVATE. The Royal couple are welcomed by Elevators Abstract Benna, Letitia Johnson and Emmanuel Vuso. They experience first-hand the quality of the activities and support delivered through ELEVATE by Iconic Steps, Oxygen Arts, and the Marcus Lipton Youth Centre. ELEVATE's young people shine brightly and demonstrate the very best of Lambeth's creativity.

#### JULY

##### The Glitch opens

Building on support from Lambeth's Economic Resilience Fund in 2021 to expand VAULT Festival activity around Waterloo, the company behind the festival, VAULT Creative Arts, find a new permanent home on Lower Marsh called The Glitch. By day the space is a café, retail outlet, and rehearsal space, but at night it morphs into a lively bar with experimental performances, cabaret, and comedy.

##### Present in the Moment celebrates creativity

Lambeth Council secures a £45,000 grant from Arts Council England to deliver 'Present in the Moment', which celebrates the creativity of young people within their communities. 50 participants from Bishop Thomas Grant, Lansdowne, and Lilian Baylis Schools come together to celebrate their participation in the project. Aiming to celebrate 'The artist in all of us', the project is produced by Linett Kamala and led by artists Tereza Araujo, Maya Campbell, and Laurie Fitzgerald.

#### AUGUST

##### Brixton X Harlem Festival honours transatlantic Twinning

Supported by Lambeth Council's Economic Resilience Fund, Brixton Business Improvement District (BID) celebrates its trailblazing Twinning with New York City's Harlem 125th Street BID. Across a 5-day festival of culture, arts, music, and food, over 1,000 people attend 36 different events exploring common threads between the two vibrant neighbourhoods.





Creative Ways to Grow has made great steps in making sure that Lambeth residents benefit from having some of the country's best cultural destinations on their doorstep. As we move towards the vision of Lambeth 2030, the borough's cultural partners will play a key role in making Lambeth a place we can all call home.

Bayo Dosunmu, Chief Executive,  
Lambeth Council



Future Connected  
brings together

10 leaders

from grassroots  
organisations

Artist Studio Company  
supports over

50 artists

through improving their  
Streatham Hill Studio space



ELEVATE Careers  
creates over

450 creative  
pathways

for young people



#### AUGUST

##### Town Hall Art Programme features Lamarr Golding

An exhibition of photographs by Golding invites us to see familiar Lambeth locations anew through his bold perspective. A young Brixton resident, Golding has made his mark as a photographer for Stormzy at Glastonbury in 2019 and with photos published in GQ, The Independent, and Time Out.

##### The World Reimagined comes to Lambeth

A stunning trail of globes pop up across the borough as part of a national initiative to transform our understanding of the Transatlantic Trade in Enslaved Africans. Designed by artists Richard Mensah, Alvin Kofi, Gabriel Choto, Vashti Harrison, Dreph, and Suchi Cidambaram, 'The World Reimagined' trails appear in cities across the UK. An accompanying learning programme allows a fantastic set of smaller globes, decorated by local schools, to be displayed in the Town Hall and at the Ritzy Cinema.

#### SEPTEMBER

##### Future of artist studios in Streatham Hill secured

The Future Workspace Fund enables Artist Studio Company to acquire and improve their property at 47c Streatham Hill, safeguarding the affordable rents of the studio spaces used by their 59 artists. The grant also secures rent-free studio space for a local young artist who will exhibit work as part the Town Hall Art Programme during their time in Streatham.

#### OCTOBER

##### ELEVATE Careers debuts

ELEVATE Careers launches as part of Lambeth Council's commitment to using Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) to fund jobs and opportunities for young people. In the first year of the programme, 17 organisations are given £178,000 in grants and £240,000 is raised in match funding. This funding provides over 450 paid opportunities for residents aged 16 to 30.

##### Lambeth's first Poet Laureate steps forward

Abstract Benna, a rising poetic talent, is appointed as Lambeth's inaugural Poet Laureate for 2023. In a special performance during the London Literature Festival at the Southbank Centre, Benna makes an impassioned speech about what the role can achieve and leads poets Aicha Thérèse and Magero in knock-out performances touching on identity, community, and the pressing issue of Climate Change.

##### Future Connected leads change

Future Connected brings together leaders from 10 of Lambeth's grassroots cultural organisations for a 9-month leadership and business development programme. Across nine day-long sessions spread throughout the programme, the cohort develop their strategic skills, build industry connections, and develop new 3-year business plans for their organisations. The programme also includes masterclasses with leaders from some of the UK's foremost large-scale cultural institutions.



## The Future Connected Fellows

We spoke to some of the Fellows from the first year of Future Connected, which brought together cultural leaders to develop skills, build connections, and solidify their organisation's path towards sustainability.



**Lisa Anderson**  
Managing Director  
Black Cultural Archives



**Jahmar Bennett**  
Executive Producer  
Neon Performing Arts



**Marsha Lowe**  
Agency Director  
Oxygen Arts



**Marie McCarthy**  
Artistic Director  
Omnibus



**Laura Hensser**  
Managing Director  
Gasworks



**Rachel Nelken**  
CEO  
Raw Material



**Victoria Ijeh**  
CEO  
Iconic Steps



**Binki Taylor**  
Partner  
Brixton Project



**Tori Sherwin**  
Development Manager  
Myatts Fields Park



**Sophya Bonsu,**  
Development Advisor  
and Project Lead  
Vauxhall Gardens  
Community Centre

**We asked the Fellows what made the Future Connected programme important to them, and they had inspiring insights to share.**

‘Future Connected is an essential pathway for developing the people and organisations that nurture culture and creativity at the heart of community.’

*Binki Taylor, Partner, The Brixton Project*

‘Future Connected is undoubtedly the best work-based professional development programme I’ve ever been part of.’

*Lisa Anderson, Managing Director, Black Cultural Archives*

‘This project has allowed for exclusive insight into some of the most successful and aspiring creative organisations and professionals, within the country.’

*Jahmar Bennett, Executive Producer, Neon Performing Arts*

‘I have felt an overwhelming level of support from the Future Connected team and the cohort members. Receiving this level of support has been incredible and an experience I will never forget.’

*Laura Hensser, Managing Director, Gasworks*

‘For the first time, we can clearly see our path forward, and we can articulate the change and contribution we want to make. Future Connected has literally shifted my thinking about what we want Oxygen Arts to be and what we want it to achieve. It gave me the priceless space to look at the big picture to make sure that our activities aligned with our ambition as an organisation.’

*Marsha Lowe, Agency Director, Oxygen Arts*



# *We hope you have enjoyed delving into Creative Ways We've Grown*

Now it's time for you to get involved as we begin to develop a refreshed Creative and Digital Industries Strategy that will power us towards 2030 and beyond.

While we develop our new strategy, we will still continue to create, curate, and grow cultural opportunities. We also want to build new relationships, engage with more organisations, and connect with a wide range of Lambeth residents.

#### **We want to listen and learn**

'Creative Ways to Grow' would not have achieved such significant impact without the planning and consultation that laid its foundations. Now, it's time to do that work again in order to ensure that we develop an ambitious strategy that truly represents Lambeth's incredible creative tapestry.

#### **Your voice matters**

That's why we invite all residents, artists, entrepreneurs, and anyone who wants to shape Lambeth's future, to get involved.

#### **Want to stay in touch?**

Visit our website, [lambethnow.co.uk/cdi](https://lambethnow.co.uk/cdi) to sign up for our Culture Newsletter and also find information on consultation sessions, networking events, and cultural activities.

You can also drop us an email with your comments, questions, thoughts, or ideas about the future of culture in Lambeth on [culture@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:culture@lambeth.gov.uk)

Together we can ensure that Lambeth's Creative and Digital Industries continue to thrive and grow in inclusive ways.



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Lambeth

# Creative Ways We've Grown