

# Dalston Square Culture and Community Engagement Forum

6.30pm, Monday 12 March 2018

Education Room, Dalston CLR James Library

## MINUTES

**Present:** Lucy Bellingham, Avant Garde Dance  
Maia Chiara Rossi, Donna Fugassa  
Ellen Cosgrove, Dalston Square resident Yildiz Lilly, Café Route  
Natalie Delaney, Stars n Stripes  
Melinda Duodu, Young Hackney  
Ian, Dalston Square Resident  
Lucy McMenemy, Cultural Programme Officer, LBH  
Dan Mayfield, School of Noise  
Gbenga Olopade, 840 Arts TV  
Peter, Dalston Square resident  
Vaishnavi Ravichander, Dalston Square resident  
Sian Slater, Hackney Proms  
Claire Ward-Thornton, Art Hoppers

**Apologies:** Edward Quigley, Hackney Cooperative Developments  
Gerry Hunt and Tony Haynes, Grand Union Orchestra

**Notes:** Minutes by Lucy McMenemy (LBH)

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1.	<b><u>Welcome/Introductions / Apologies</u></b>
2.	<b><u>Minutes of the last meeting</u></b>  The minutes were approved.
3.	<b>Forthcoming events:</b>  <b>1) Dalston Children's Festival on Saturday 26 May, 11am-4pm.</b>  Festival activities in Dalston Square will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Universal Board Games - board games from around the world 12-2pm</li><li>• Hackney Play Bus – play on the grass for under 5s 11am-2pm</li><li>• Hackney Play Streets – chalking, skipping etc.</li><li>• School of Noise - performance of electronic music devised by children in a session in the library earlier that morning. Followed by a drop-in session. 1-4pm</li></ul> <b>2) Dalston Children's Festival on Saturday 2 June, 11am-4pm</b>  Festival activities in Dalston Square will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bollywood Dancing lesson for children aged 5+ and their parents / carers by Vaishnavi Ravichander* 11am-12pm</li><li>• Pop-Up Play Road by Stars n Stripes 12-4pm</li><li>• School of Noise - performance of electronic music devised by children</li></ul>

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	<p>in a session in the library earlier that morning. Followed by a drop-in session.1-4pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fruit pizza-making session by Café Route 11-2pm</li> </ul> <p>It was suggested that the Co-op could potentially provide fruit for the activity by Café Route. <b>Action:</b> Café Route to investigate.</p> <p>*The Bollywood dance class was proposed by local resident Vaishnavi immediately after the meeting.</p> <p>The co-existence of the Pop-Up Play Road and the School of Noise will be worked out at a site visit in the next couple of weeks. In fact, both Natalie and Dan are keen to collaborate, as there are possibilities for the music to interact with the cycle training.</p> <p>A discussion was held about launching the new artwork on the windows of the Dalston CLR James Library by Art Hoppers, as part of the Dalston Children's Festival. Would be v simple celebration involving participants who drew the portraits at a previous event in 2016. To be confirmed.</p> <p>The festival will be promoted through the many organisations involved, so we are expecting approx. 500 people over the course of each day.</p> <p>Café Route will provide a pop-up ice cream stall for both festival days (and possibly other event dates – tbc)</p> <p>Low key background music will be played from 11am-1pm on both days. From 1pm, the electronic music performance and subsequent workshop will run until 4pm.</p> <p><b>3) Pasta Festival, Saturday 9 June, 11am – 4pm.</b></p> <p>Following the huge success of last year, Donne Fugassa café are replicating the Pasta Festival again this year.</p> <p>Pasta dishes will be cooked live by Donna Fugassa in the square using hot plates. The portions will be sold at a discounted price and will be eaten at pop-up tables and chairs in the square.</p> <p>The event will include a performance by Hackney Proms, who are currently launching their 2018 programme of high quality classical concerts. The performance will be by Three4 – a classical band of violinist, soprano and pianist playing a wide range of classical music, engaging for all ages.</p> <p>Maia explained that the café needs to break even with this event, so the price of the pasta portions will depend on the cost of the event.</p> <p>Café Route kindly offered to provide free access to their 3-phase power, negating the need to hire an industrial generator. <b>Action:</b> Maia to investigate</p>

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	<p>this option.</p> <p><b>4) Grand Union Orchestra, (date and times to be confirmed)</b></p> <p>Grand Union Orchestra would like to perform in the square at some stage, and will invite musicians from Dalston to drop in for an improvised performance. GUO fuse musical traditions from all over the world, creating new works that reflect the cultural diversity of East London.</p> <p><b>5) Dalston Street Art Festival by 840Arts, Saturday 7 July, 10am-8pm</b></p> <p>This is an ambitious Dalston-wide festival that aims to facilitate community participation in street arts. It will involve a number of partner organisations in the area such as Young Hackney, Dalston Eastern Curve Garden, London College of Fashion, Arcola Theatre etc.</p> <p>Activities proposed for Dalston Square will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• drop-in art workshops</li> <li>• 10 international street artists creating artworks on free-standing boards</li> <li>• 4 international street food stalls run by students from Hackney Community College.</li> <li>• Live and recorded music (using the usual PA system for the square which is calibrated to ensure the volume is appropriate).</li> </ul> <p>Temporary plywood boards will be erected for artists to paint onto. Gbenga Olopade from 840Arts is currently seeking support of local developers to provide the free standing boards. Travis perkins was suggested as a potential sponsor. <b>Action:</b> Gbenga to investigate.</p> <p>Suitable precautions will be taken to protect the ground surface from paint spills.</p> <p>Further collaborations may be possible and Gbenga is currently discussing options with other creative organisations.</p> <p>Donna Fugassa and Café Route are supportive of the street food stalls.</p> <p>This event is dependent upon funding from Arts Council England to go ahead – the outcome of the application will be known by May and the likelihood of the event going ahead will be confirmed at that point.</p> <p><b>6) Avant Garde Dance</b></p> <p>Avant Garde would be interested in bringing a performance to the square in the future – tbc.</p>
<b>AOB</b>	1. Natalie from Stars and Stripes proposed that the Pop Up Play Road

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	<p>(cycle safety training for children) could be a regular part of the square's programme, coming to the square once a month from April to September in 2018, from 1-4pm. It is self-funding and self-managing and would not require council support. It was agreed that this would be feasible and would bring life and vibrancy to the square.</p> <p>Dates for the pop-up play road will be:  Saturday 5 May 1-4pm  Saturday 2 June (Children's festival) 12-4pm  Saturday 30 June 1-4pm  Saturday 4 August 1-4pm  Saturday 1 September 1-4pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Yildiz and Mehmet from Café Route mentioned that they would like to hold a party for local residents on the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the café opening in April or May – date to be confirmed. They plan for the party to take place in the square as well as in the café, with live music and cocktails. They will apply for a TENS license for this event.</li> <li>3. Yildiz and Mehmet also said that they would like to give a donation to a local charity or potentially to contribute to costs of an event in the square.</li> <li>4. A Mediterranean Cooking Festival was proposed by Maia to involve Donna Fugassa, Café Route and La Ventana.</li> <li>5. A winter event is also suggested.</li> <li>6. More events for adults were requested and it was pointed out that several of the events in the summer programme are for all ages.</li> <li>7. The use of empty shop units was discussed – the empty unit behind the library is owned by the council but it is an empty shell, not appropriate for the public to access and the others are leased from Barratt Homes by businesses (who choose not to open them).</li> <li>8. Lucy mentioned that the funding pot used to support events in the square is coming to an end after three years (and it will be spent on the items in the agenda above). She also mentioned that she has limited capacity to facilitate additional events in the square this summer due to other commitments. However, the potential collaborations discussed as part of AOB are positive and the council will continue to facilitate discussions.</li> </ol>