

## Dalston Square Culture and Community Engagement Forum

6pm, Wednesday 11 June 2014

Education Room, Dalston CLR James Library

### MINUTES

**Present:** Emma Cahill, Daily Life Limited  
 Carmen Caruse, Dalston Square resident  
 Jane Collins, Dalston square resident  
 Ellen Cosgrove, Dalston Square resident  
 Lina Johansson, Mimbre  
 Mark Loftus, Dalston Square resident  
 Lucy McMenemy, Cultural Programme Officer, LBH  
 Chris Murray, Young Hackney, LBH  
 Ted Rogers, Head of Libraries, Heritage and Culture, LBH  
 Monica Sever, Children and Young People, Library Service, LBH  
 Cllr Peter Snell

**Apologies:** Cllr Soraya Adejare  
 Fiona Dufellen, Dalston Square resident  
 Cory Defoe, Dalston Town Centre Manager, LBH  
 Dominic Ellison, Managing Director, HCD  
 Melek Erdal, Café Route  
 Juliet Formby, Age UK  
 Marie Murray, Dalston Eastern Curve Garden  
 Tulin Ozsoy, Tulin Dance School of Ballett

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

| Item |  | Action  |
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| 1.   | <b><u>Welcome/Introductions / Apologies</u></b>  |   |
| 2.   | <p><b><u>Minutes of the last meeting</u></b></p> <p>The in-ground fixings for the pop-up tent have been installed and the tent is being manufactured this week. It will be used for smaller scale events.</p> <p>The Anorak Village Fete is not yet confirmed – could possibly happen later in the summer.</p> <p>The Dalston Beach proposal has been dropped, due to concerns about sand interfering with the fountains mechanisms.</p> <p><i>Could we still have the deckchairs and water toys? Yes, could be brought out at suitable events.</i></p> <p>At the last meeting it was agreed that further consultation was needed before agreeing to City Showcase's proposal to hold a three-day Christmas Market in the square on 5-7<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Since then, the Dalston Square Residents Association carried out a survey with all residents which included relevant questions about the cultural programme. The findings of the survey revealed strong support for cultural activities happening in the square and the majority of people</p> | <p>LM to report to the forum in-between meetings if this goes ahead</p> |

| Item |  | Action          |
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|      | <p>were supportive of the idea of three-day activities. As a result, we have given the go-ahead to City Showcase and they are now liaising with all necessary council departments and other potential partners.</p>  |                 |
| 3.   | <p><b><u>Update on premises license application for the square</u></b></p> <p>The Premises License for Dalston Square is still pending confirmation from the licensing team. Meanwhile, TENS licenses will be used.</p>  | LM to follow up |
| 4.   | <p><b><u>Proposals for forthcoming events</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Reminder : Tulin Dance School Annual Picnic and Students'End of Year Performances 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2014, 12noon-5pm</u></b></p> <p>Tulin Oszoy presented the project at the previous meeting. To recap, The Tulin School of Ballet is based on Dalston Lane (in the Elise Centre). This event will be a showcase of the school's ballet pupils. It is free to all and suitable for all ages.</p> <p><b><u>The Square of Stories 12 July – 2 August, 1pm</u></b></p> <p>Organised by Hackney's Cultural Development Team, these story-telling events celebrate the presence of the Dalston CLR James Library and Hackney Archives on the square. All events will take place under the pop-up tent and will accommodate approx 70 people.</p> <p><b><u>1) 12 July – A Hackney Motley – stories from the Hackney Archives.</u></b><br/> This will be a sharing of the stories discovered by artists who have been in residence in the Archives for the last six months. (The project was commissioned by the Art House Foundation - local artists' studios on Laburnam Street – and is supported by Arts Council England.</p> <p>Lead Artists are Sara Nunes Fernandes, Rupert Ackroyd, Dan Pasteiner, John Summers and Tom Woolner.</p> <p>The event will comprise a series of performances and activities relating to research topics chosen by the artists. Expect Hackney-based musical storytelling, a hurdy gurdy, ghosts and possibly monsters, singing workshops, jesters hats and banners. Suitable for all ages.</p> <p><b><u>2) 19 July – Paul Rubinstein – musical stories.</u></b><br/> Paul Rubinstein is a storyteller specialising in 'musical stories'. He weaves music, singing, sound-scapes and instrument playing into the fabric of the stories to make them come to life.</p> <p>His stories always have a strong element of audience participation. This can involve singing, call-and-response or audience suggestions that help drive the narrative forward.</p> <p>He aims to relate his stories to the new Dalston Library, the square and the area as a whole and intends to incorporate some musical elements that relate to Dalston, such as sounds from the area or music inspired by – or composed in – the area. Suitable for all ages.</p> <p><b><u>3) Griot Chinyere – stories from Africa</u></b></p> |                 |

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|      | <p>A full proposal has yet to be received by Griot Chinyere, but she intends to tell children's stories from Africa.</p> <p><u>4) Olivia Armstrong – Foolish stories from around the world</u><br/> These are stories of "wise fools" and may include tales of the inimitable Hodja from Turkey and beyond, trickster tales of Anasi Spider-Man from West Africa and the West Indies, the fools of villages in England, fools on errands, fools on journeys, stories of silly people and silly stories to make us laugh. The sessions will be full if interaction and participation from everyone.</p> <p><b><u>Watching the World Go By – intergenerational street theatre</u></b><br/> <u>16 August, 1pm</u></p> <p>Lina Johansson from Mimbre presented this item.<br/> Mimbre create breathtaking and highly-skilled acrobatic theatre using circus and dance innovatively as a physical language to illuminate human connections. Mimbre is based in Tyssen Street, Dalston and is supported by the Arts Council England.</p> <p>They plan to bring Watching the World Go By to the square. It is a participatory show where young people and older residents take part alongside Mimbre's professional acrobats to interpret and perform the everyday theatre of the street that inspired Mimbre's show <i>Bench</i>. Loneliness and happiness, bagladies and runaway brides, comedy and the ordinary – the show is a reflection on who we are and how we connect with others.</p> <p>Mimbre's performers will work with an intergenerational cast of 10 young acrobats with 10 older Dalston residents, together creating characters and scenes inspired by the colourful history and streetlife of Dalston. These sketches will be incorporated into Mimbre's show alongside the professional performers and culminate in a public performance at Dalston Square.</p> <p>To facilitate the participation of local residents, workshops will be held for a group of young people (8-12 years old – to come from Mimbre's existing youth group) and a group of older residents (55 years +). These older residents will be recruited through the Decorators' Hackney Circle project and through publicity materials distributed in the area.</p> <p>The performance is aimed at an audience of all ages, and is family friendly.</p> <p><b><u>The Hackney Playbus – 9 and 23 August 1-3pm</u></b></p> <p>The much-loved Hackney Playbus will visit the square for two Saturdays this summer. The converted double-decker bus contains a host of playful things to do for the under 5s, that can spill out onto the square.</p> <p>For children under 5 and their parents / carers.</p> <p>(Perhaps we could add the tent, deckchairs and water toys to this event?)</p> <p><b><u>Reminder: The Decorators: Hackney Circle, 30 July – 10 September</u></b></p> |        |

| Item |  | Action                                     |
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|      | <p>This project was presented by the Decorators at the last meeting. To recap, its main purpose is to better connect older residents to the cultural life of Dalston, in particular Dalston Square.</p> <p>A pilot phase to the project will aim to introduce older residents to more of the new (and also established) businesses and cultural spaces in the area. This will be done through a series of weekly special events, taster sessions, opportunities and special offers in July, August and September 2014.</p> <p>The Decorators are currently discussing the project with a range of potential project partners locally. Collectively, these partners will be called the 'Hackney Circle'.</p> <p>The Hackney Circle communications strategy will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hackney Circle signage / billboard in Dalston Square</li> <li>• Posters in Hackney Circle venues / spaces</li> <li>• Bespoke upholstered Hackney Circle seating in all venues / spaces</li> <li>• Invitations to attend events</li> <li>• Hackney Circle window stickers in participating venues / spaces - a kind of standard mark to indicate that the space is older-people friendly</li> </ul> <p>The communication strategy will not rely heavily on on-line marketing – this media is not the most accessible format for older residents.</p> <p><b><u>Official Launch of Dalston Square – date to be confirmed</u></b></p> <p>This event is being led by Hackney's Regeneration Team in partnership with Barratt Homes.</p> <p>The official launch will celebrate not only the square's completion, but also the people and organisations that have helped to create the square's community. The daily activities of the businesses and the library / archives will be brought outside for all to enjoy, free for all.</p> <p>Funding is yet to be confirmed, so none of the following plans are definite yet. The event could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• speeches from Hackney Council and Barratt Homes</li> <li>• a time-line challenge from the archives</li> <li>• treatments from Smooth You,</li> <li>• food and drink from Café Route, Le Ziz, Nancy's Pantry and the Library Café</li> <li>• book-inspired creative activities for children from the library</li> <li>• Children's entertainment (science experiments) from Nancy's Pantry</li> <li>• SNUG play equipment from Gillett Square</li> <li>• Live Music – brass band</li> </ul> <p><i>Chris Murray suggested that more thought could go into making the event attractive to local young people. For example through the choice</i></p> | <p>LM to feedback on this point to the</p> |

| Item |  | Action            |
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|      | <p><i>of music / performances – is there a school choir or a local performance group that could take part? Good point - we will look into this.</i></p> <p><b><u>The Expert View: Lightbox Exhibition 6 Oct – 28 Nov</u></b></p> <p>Emma Cahill from Daily Life Ltd presented this item. Daily Life Ltd is an arts and mental health charity, funded by Arts Council England and led by artist Bobby Baker. The studio is moving to Kingsland Road. Daily Life Ltd aims to investigate and celebrate daily life and its limitations, promoting the abilities of people with lived experience of mental distress through the arts, collaborative research and diverse participation.</p> <p>Their current project is the Daily Life Project, a four-year exploration of Newham, Hackney and Tower Hamlets, on the ground and online.</p> <p>As part of the Daily Life Project, <i>The Expert View</i> is an all-weather installation of ten 4' x 8' illuminated light-boxes, displaying an exhibition of 'Diary Drawing' - artworks by artist Bobby Baker alongside selected artworks produced by others in response to the Diary Drawings.</p> <p>Over the summer, artists Bobby Baker and Jake Spicer will deliver drawing workshops with invited groups drawn from the organisation's local network of arts and mental health groups and mental health professionals in Hackney and beyond.</p> <p>Taking Baker's acclaimed <i>Diary Drawings</i> as a starting point, the workshops will explore the notion of 'expertise' around mental health. Participants will develop drawings of their own reflecting on the theme. Baker will select some of the final drawings to be professionally photographed and curated alongside her <i>Diary Drawings</i> on the light-boxes. The exhibition will also comprise interpretation copy introducing the project, with the twist being that the viewer does not know which workshop drawings are by people with professional expertise, and which by people with personal experience of mental health services. The light-boxes will be fabricated and installed in Dalston Square as a thought-provoking and accessible exhibition, illuminating the evenings throughout October and November.</p> <p><i>Chris Murray suggested that he could assist in linking The Daily Life Ltd team to local groups of young people who have personal experience of mental health services. Emma said that this would be very welcome, as the organisation tends to mainly work with adults and it would be great to have a wider age range of participants.</i></p> | Regeneration team |
| 5.   | <p><b><u>A proposal from Doorstep Dry Cleaners</u></b></p> <p>This is not proposed as part of the Cultural Programme for the square, but the forum was consulted on behalf of the Regeneration Team about this proposal.</p> <p>Doorstep drycleaners would like to have a stall in the square for a number of days, to promote their business. They could possibly make a contribution to the Cultural programme in exchange for the use of the space.</p>   |                   |

| Item |  | Action                            |
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|      | <i>The forum did not think that this would be a good use of the square, nor particularly effective for the business.</i>                                     | LM to feedback to the Regen team. |
| 7.   | <p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b></p> <p>6pm, Wednesday 24 September 2014 at Dalston CLR James Library, in the Education Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)</p> |                                   |