

## Dalston Square Culture and Community Engagement Forum

7pm, 16 January 2013

Education Room, Dalston CLR James Library

### MINUTES

**Present:** Vaida Baltrusaityte, Dalston Square resident  
Ngoma Bishop, House of AMAU  
Carolina Caicedo, The Decorators  
Ellen Cosgrove, Dalston Square Residents Association  
Cory Defoe, Dalston Town Centre Manager, LBH  
Fiona Duffelen, Dalston Square Residents Association  
Jim Dummett, Lost Picture Show  
Andrea Enisoh, Hackney Unites  
Lydia Fraser-Ward, Lost Picture Show  
Lloyd French, Trinity Centre  
Nick Griffiths, Land of Kids  
Minna Harrison, Hackney Wow!  
Anna McSweeney, Dalston Square Residents Association  
Lucy McMenemy, Cultural Programme Officer, LBH  
Setura Mahdi, Hard Hat  
Marie Murray, Dalston Eastern Curve Garden  
Mariana Pestana, The Decorators  
Nanette Rigg, City Showcase  
Edward Rogers, Head of Libraries, Heritage and Culture, LBH

**Apologies:** Dominic Ellison, Managing Director, HCD  
Mariatosa Frasca, Hackney Homes  
Cllr Michele Gregory, LBH  
Cllr Sophie Linden, LBH

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

Item		Action
1.	<b><u>Welcome/Introductions / Apologies</u></b>	
2.	<b><u>Minutes of the last meeting</u></b>  The minutes were approved. The actions were all met.  LM informed the forum that a Premises License for Dalston Square has been applied for. The consultation period will end on 11 February 2013.	
3.	<b><u>Review of recent events in the square</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Big Draw with the artist Julian Wild on 13 October.</b> The artist Julian Wild brought hundreds of metres of plumbers pipes and hundreds of elbow joints to the square, as a pool of materials for a communal sculpture. The event was well-attended by a wide cross section of people. The sculptural nature of the event worked very well in the square.</li></ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Launch of Forest Road Young People’s Centre on 27 October.</b> The bungee trampoline was free and despite it being a wet day, there was a constant queue for the trampoline. Very good feedback from the young people who took part.</li> <li>• <b>Asure by the Alevi Centre on 27 November.</b> The Alevi Centre set up a stall outside the library from which they distributed bowls of Asure pudding, as an offering of peace and love to passers-by. It was a very wet and windy day, so the stall was packed up after two hours. Despite that, over 200 puddings were distributed to a wide cross section of passers-by, residents and construction workers.</li> </ul> <p>See <a href="http://www.hackney.gov.uk/dalston-square.htm">www.hackney.gov.uk/dalston-square.htm</a> for photos of the above events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Carol Singing by the Shiloh Pentacostal Church Choir on 16 December.</b> Due to late confirmation by the choir, this event was moved to the Eastern Curve Garden, where a festive event was already planned. It was a very successful event and worked well in the garden.</li> </ul>	
4.	<p><b><u>Reports on on-going work, previously presented to the forum</u></b></p> <p>1. <b>Carolina Caicedo and Mariana Pestana of The Decorators</b> presented an update on the work they are carrying out with the residents of Keswick and Parton Lodges. The Decorators have spent time with the residents and have helped to plan a Christmas party with them. This has been an informative period, enabling The Decorators to develop a better understanding of the kinds of activities the residents enjoy and their aspirations for accessing the public realm. The project will continue over the coming months, with a view to identifying how Dalston Square and the wider public realm in Dalston can become more accessible and enjoyable for the older generation.</p> <p>2. <b>Jim Dummett and Lydia Fraser-Ward of the Lost Picture Show</b> updated the group about their planned work with young people in the area. They have been successful with a bid to Film London and so will be delivering a series of film club sessions with a group of young people during March and April. The participants will become part of a programming panel for two ‘people’s cinema’ screening events in the square on 25/26 May and 1/2 June 2013 (both half term weekends). Open access workshops are also planned as part of these events.</p> <p>It was mentioned that the Forest Road Young People’s Centre has a film club already set up – the young people involved could be potential participants for the project.</p>	<p>Jim and Lydia to follow up with Young Hackney service.</p>

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5.	<p><b><u>Presentations of proposals for future activities throughout 2013</u></b></p> <p><b>1. Minna Harrison re Hackney Wow launch, Wed 27 March 4-6pm</b>  Hackney Wow! Is a new on-line kids guide to fun stuff to do in the area created by Year 3-6 pupils of Rushmore Primary School. 13 places have already been explored by the pupils and these will be featured on the Hackney Wow site. Hackney Wow will be launched at Dalston CLR James library with an exhibition of the children's work and free creative workshops. If weather permits, a street performance will take place in the square, led by Hoxton Hall. The event will include two small gazebos and amplified music. Local people/residents are welcome to get involved.</p> <p><b>2. Nick Griffiths re Land of Kids, Mon 6 May (bank holiday), 12-6pm</b>  Land of Kids is a new one-day family event by the producers of Land of Kings, that will take place in a number of venues in Dalston. The artists Lost &amp; Found will bring a free activity to Dalston Square for the day, called Bino Footie. Based on 5-a-side football, participants (kids and adults) wear specially designed binocular goggles that make everything look far away, affecting their spatial awareness. The event is a challenge for participants and spectacle for on-lookers. Two goals will be marked out on the square. Two commentators will use megaphones. 4-5 stewards will assist. There will be no music.</p> <p><b>3. Andrea Enisoh re Dalston People's Festival, either 13 &amp; 14 July or 20 &amp; 21 July, 11am-7pm</b>  Dalston People's Festival is being co-ordinated by Hackney Unites, a community organisation. The festival will promote events being put on by many groups all over Dalston. In Dalston Square it is proposed to set up approx 30 stalls, hold a series of informal workshops and stage performances of music by both professional and non-professional groups (including schools and community dance groups.) There will be amplified music. A tabloid newspaper promoting the festival will be distributed to every accessible door in Dalston. Local people / residents are welcome to get involved.</p> <p><b>NB</b> one objection by a resident was expressed after the meeting, regarding the duration of the event and the resulting impact in terms of noise.</p> <p><b>4. Lucy McMenemy re Dalston Children's Festival, June-August (exact dates to be confirmed)</b>  This is a new initiative, developed in order to acknowledge and celebrate the work that the community has put into transforming Dalston into a child-friendly place, and to raise awareness of the great places for children to enjoy in Dalston amongst Hackney's</p>	<p>Hackney Unites to respond to this.</p>

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	<p>families at large. The festival will be community-led and will promote programmes of activities for children during the summer months in venues and spaces all over Dalston.</p> <p>In Dalston Square, there will be a launch event at the start of the festival. To be confirmed.</p> <p>Based on the success of the informal cricket training that was held in Dalston Square in October, a series of informal sports training activities will be programmed by Hackney Council during the summer. These will also be promoted by the festival.</p> <p><b>NB</b> Since the meeting, the launch date of the festival has been confirmed as 25 May and the launch event in Dalston Square will include the first workshops and screening event by the Lost Picture Show and the young people they are working with (see 4.2 above). The event will include a PA system and a temporary screen.</p> <p><b>5. Ngoma Bishop re House of Amau Summer Weekend 2013 – Sept 28 &amp; 29, Sat 11am-8pm / Sun 11am-7pm</b>  This event will take place in a range of venues in Dalston, showcasing local art and produce. In Dalston Square, there will be a number of stalls selling adult and children’s books and locally sourced produce, plus some health and BEMA information stalls. All stalls to be confirmed. In addition there will be the following creative activities:  Sat: Steel drum workshop 3-4.30pm  Sun: African drumming workshop 3-4.30pm</p> <p><b>6. Nanette Rigg re City Showcase Dalston Square Christmas Market, Sun 1 Dec 2013, 11am-7pm</b>  City Showcase is a not-for-profit organisation based outside Hackney that exists to support emerging talent in the fields of music and design. It is proposed to hold a one-off high-profile, design-led Christmas market in Dalston Square. It will be a platform for young designers and artists etc. 20+ stall holders will be selected by a panel from an open call-out, on the basis of quality of their product. The market will be accompanied by a live stage featuring amplified music, comedy and potentially performances by local school choirs. Involvement of local people is essential for the event to be a success. Forum members were invited to consider becoming part of the selection panel (one person needed).</p> <p>All of the proposals were welcomed by the forum members and the events will proceed to be organised. The objection to the duration of the event for the Dalston People’s Festival will be looked into and reported on at the next forum meeting.</p>	<p>LM to report to the forum in April.</p>

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6.	<p><b>Other potential projects to bear in mind for 2013</b></p> <p>The following events were particularly successful in Dalston Square in 2012 and it was noted that it would be good to include them in the programme for 2013:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Big Draw</li> <li>• Black History Month</li> </ul> <p>It was also suggested that a community festive lighting project could be developed to culminate in Dec with an installation in Dalston Square. This would be an expensive project, so would depend on fund-raising and sponsorship.</p>	
7.	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>Event organisers could consider applying for funding to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dalston Community First fund</li> <li>• London Community Foundation (Hackney is one of its priority areas)</li> </ul> <p>Many forum members expressed a desire for synergy between the festivals mentioned. E.g joint funding bids may be more successful.</p>	
9.	<p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b></p> <p>7pm on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April, at Dalston CLR James Library, in the Education Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)</p>	