

# Dalston Square Culture and Community Engagement Forum

7pm, 18 July 2012

Education Room, Dalston CLR James Library

## MINUTES

**Present:** Gubsi Agolia-Astinall, Keswick Lodge resident  
 Ladi Ajayi, Sports and Physical Activity Manager, LBH  
 Vaida Baltrusaityte, Dalston Square resident  
 Ellen Cosgrove, Dalston Square Residents Association  
 Brian Cumming, Dalston Eastern Curve Garden  
 Yvonne Barnett, Holy Trinity School  
 Tara Cranswick, V22  
 Jim Dummet, Lost Picture Show  
 Lloyd French, Trinity Centre  
 Cllr Michele Gregory, LBH  
 Anthony Kane, Dalston CLR James Library Manager, LBH  
 Anna McSweeney, Dalston Square Residents Association  
 Lucy McMenemy, Cultural Programme Officer, LBH  
 Cieron Magat, T-Shirt Party  
 Setura Mahdi, Hard Hat  
 Marie Murray, Dalston Eastern Curve Garden  
 Edward Rogers, Head of Libraries, Heritage and Culture, LBH  
 Siobhan Tate, Bridge Academy

**Apologies:** Cory Defoe, Dalston Town Centre Manager, LBH  
 Lorne Stefanini, Chair, Rhodes Estate TRA  
 Cllr Sophie Linden, LBH  
 Cllr Jonathan McShane, LBH  
 Cllr Angus Mulready-Jones, LBH

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

Item		Action
1.	<b><u>Welcome/Introductions / Apologies</u></b>	
2.	<p><b><u>Minutes of the last meeting</u></b>            The actions from the last meeting were all met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LM distributed data on the demographics of Dalston, produced annually by the council and the NHS. The data is due to be updated, using recent census information and more accurate information about Dalston's open spaces.</li> <li>• A new page has been created on Hackney's website, where information about past and future projects in Dalston Square will be displayed, as well as minutes of the forum's meetings: <a href="http://www.hackney.gov.uk/dalston-square.htm">www.hackney.gov.uk/dalston-square.htm</a></li> <li>• The Dalston Square Residents Association will post minutes of the forum meetings on its website and also has a new blog about the events programme in the square: <a href="http://dalston-square.com/">http://dalston-square.com/</a></li> <li>• Leah Phibbs from the Hackney Homes Volunteer Centre is interested in setting up a befriending scheme for residents of Keswick Lodge, to support them in accessing events in the square.</li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b><u>Suitable license hours for the square</u></b>            A discussion was held about the need to find a balance between having</p>	LM to develop a proposal for

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	flexible license hours that enable engaging and exciting events to take place in evenings whilst not creating a nuisance for local residents. A consensus was reached about the need to end loud music in the square at an earlier hour, but certain cultural activities, such as film screenings in summer months would need to be able to continue to a later hour. Weekend events could potentially go on later than weekdays.	suitable hours for a range of different activities in the square – to be shared with all.
4.	<p><b><u>Review of recent events in the square</u></b></p> <p><b><u>1. Climbing tower on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, as part of the Beechwood Rd street party</u></b> The tower was used by a range of people over the day (55 people registered to climb). It was particularly popular with a group of local children aged 8-12 years, who spent a lot of the day on/ around the tower. It could be a good event to repeat when trying to engage local young people.</p> <p><b><u>2. The Van Man performance on 16<sup>th</sup> June</u></b> The two performances were well-received by crowds of approx 70 people. Feedback has been positive and it seems that contemporary dance theatre in the square appeals to a broad range of ages.</p>	
5.	<p><b><u>Local publicity strategy</u></b> LM outlined that publicity material for the Van Man performances had not been as thoroughly distributed as it could have been, due to receipt of the publicity materials from partners late in the day. In the future, publicity materials will be needed earlier on and electronic distribution networks will need to be more robust. The new Dalston Square page on Hackney’s website and the Dalston Square blog on the DSRA website will make it easier to get information out to more people in advance. Twitter and other such networks could also be utilised.</p> <p>The publicity and distribution strategy for events in the square is to be worked upon and improved.</p>	LM to action
6.	<p><b><u>Forthcoming events</u></b> LM explained that it would not be possible to hold the bungee trampoline event in Dalston Square on the 21<sup>st</sup> July, as part of the One Hackney Festival, due to interventions in the planning process by the borough’s police.</p> <p>The budget is still in place for this event, so it should be possible to reschedule for another date. To be confirmed.</p>	LM to rearrange the bungee trampoline for another date.
7.	<p><b><u>Presentations of proposals for future activities Sept-October 2012</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Ladi Ajayi, Sports and Physical Activity Manager, LBH</u></b> outlined plans for a Black History Month event in Dalston Square and in the library on 29<sup>th</sup> September.</p> <p>The event will focus on the game of cricket, as a celebration of the heritage of CLR James (who wrote ‘Beyond a Boundary’, recognised as one of the best books about cricket). The event will comprise cricket training in the square from 12-5pm, live and amplified music from 12-5pm, a sports debate in the library from 6-8pm and a screening of Fire in Babylon in the library from 8-9.30-pm. An exhibition documenting members of local cricket clubs and their reflections upon what cricket means to them will be on display in Dalston CLR James library from</p>	

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8.	<p>29<sup>th</sup> Sept – October 31<sup>st</sup>.            If anyone is interested in volunteering to assist in researching the exhibition, please contact Lucy McMenemy: 020 8356 2919 <a href="mailto:lucy.mcmenemy@hackney.gov.uk">lucy.mcmenemy@hackney.gov.uk</a></p> <p><u>Tara Cranswick from V22</u> described ‘Once Upon a Time’, a community drawing project in the square and library on 6<sup>th</sup> October. From 12-3pm, local children and their families / carers will be invited to get involved in the creation of a narrative – to be drawn onto the paving in the square, with the support of several visual artists. The project will culminate at 3.15 with a multi-media presentation of the children’s stories in the basement of the library. All are invited to the grand finale at 3.15pm.            Volunteers are welcome to assist in making props for the day / staffing a refreshments table.</p> <p><i>(Holy Trinity School is currently developing a story-telling project using their ipads – a link could be developed between these projects)</i></p> <p><u>Julian Wild, local artist</u> was unable to attend, but LM outlined a communal sculpture project called ‘Making the Connection’ which is proposed for 13<sup>th</sup> October. From 12-5pm, passers-by will be invited to get involved in the creation of sculpture made out of 350 metres of tubing and elbow joints. This is a touring project and the resulting sculpture is different in every locality it is made, reflecting the dimensions of the space and the unique contributions from participants.            A viewing of the sculpture will be held from 5-6pm, possibly with live music.            Volunteers are needed to assist Julian throughout the event, and in setting up and taking down the sculpture at the end of the day. If you are interested in working alongside Julian, please contact Lucy McMenemy: 020 8356 2919 <a href="mailto:lucy.mcmenemy@hackney.gov.uk">lucy.mcmenemy@hackney.gov.uk</a></p> <p><i>(An earlier outreach event for this project will be held at Bridge Academy, to develop the interest of local young people)</i></p> <p><u>Cieron Magat, local artist from T-Shirt Party</u> is working in collaboration with Real Gold, a collective of Dalston-based artists and creatives on a proposal for a community t-shirt printing project for the library and square on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.            The project is likely to appeal to young people, and aims to demonstrate the similarity between the role of the library / archives and the role of the internet as sources of inspiration for designers. It will involve ‘fake librarians’ assisting participants in finding imagery in the library to put onto a t-shirt, which they will then print and keep. A scanning and printing area may be set up in the square, potentially under a gazebo – to be confirmed.</p> <p><u>Marie Murray, Dalston Eastern Curve Garden</u> and Lucy McMenemy are at an early stage in discussing ideas for a potential link between the square and the garden during the Halloween or Christmas period. To be confirmed at the next forum meeting.</p>	

Item		Action
	<p>Dalston Community First has some funding to distribute to local community projects – the DCF funding must be matched with in-kind support. For more information, visit <a href="https://dalstoncommunityfirst.wordpress.com/">https://dalstoncommunityfirst.wordpress.com/</a> or contact Lloyd French for more details: <a href="mailto:lg_french@hotmail.com">lg_french@hotmail.com</a></p>	
9.	<p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b></p> <p>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2012</p> <p>Please note that these meetings are attended by an invited group of resident representatives. For further information, please contact <a href="mailto:lucy.mcmenemy@hackney.gov.uk">lucy.mcmenemy@hackney.gov.uk</a> tel. 020 8356 2919</p>	