

Dalston Square Culture and Community Engagement Forum

6pm, Wednesday 13th April 2016
Education Room, Dalston CLR James Library
MINUTES

Present: Nancy Bending Beckett, Young Hackney (Forest Road Youth Hub), LBH
Clarissa Carlyon, Hackney Cooperative Developments
Hi Ching, AAAHA / River Cultures
Jim Dummett, Lost Picture Show
Lucy McMenemy, Cultural Programme Officer, LBH
Mehmet, Café Route
Marie Murray, Dalston Eastern Curve Garden
Ted Rogers, Head of Libraries, Heritage and Culture, LBH
Claire Ward-Thornton, Art Hoppers

Apologies:

Nick Connaughton, Arcola Theatre
Ellen Cosgrove, Dalston Square resident
Maia Chiara Rossi, Donna Fugassa
Cllr Peter Snell
Anna McSweeney, Dalston Square resident

Notes: Minutes by Lucy McMenemy (LBH)

Item		Action
1.	<u>Welcome/Introductions / Apologies</u>	
2.	<u>Minutes of the last meeting</u> The minutes were approved.	
3.	<p>Review of recent events</p> <p>1) Arcola Youth Theatre and ABP Autograph performances: Sunday 6 December, 12-2pm</p> <p>The Sound and The Fury. This spoken word event involved approx. 50 young poets aged 13-19 from Arcola Youth Theatre and performers from ABP Autograph Gallery sharing their views and thoughts with the public.</p> <p>2) BLEMA presents 'African Christmas in Dalston Square', accompanied by the Hackney Youth Choir: Saturday 12 December, 12noon-4pm</p> <p>BLEMA dancers are regular performers at the Hackney One Carnival. They brought their amazing African dancing, drumming, acrobatics and story-telling performances to Dalston Square. There were also be a number of stalls selling African clothes and jewellery.</p> <p>In between the professional performances, BLEMA drummers offered free African drumming workshops for all ages.</p>	
4.	Future programming for 2016 – context and strategy	All to feedback to Lucy if want

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	Lucy McMenemy talked through the revised Cultural Strategy for Dalston Square. Feedback is invited from all forum members.	to suggest any changes
5.	<p>New proposals:</p> <p>1) Shakespeare in Love film screening – Sat 23 April, 8.15pm</p> <p>The Lost Picture Show will manage a screening of Shakespeare In Love as part of the Shakespeare Screenings programme organised by the council. The screenings are part of the Shakespeare in Shoreditch festival running from 20th – 30th April 2016.</p> <p>The screening will be different to previous screenings in the following respects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The film has a 15 certificate. Signage will be placed in the square and an announcement will be given at the start of the film to ensure all are aware. • Headphones will be used so that the noise volume does not disturb residents. • A £10 returnable deposit will be asked for the headphones. <p>2) Dalston Children’s Festival</p> <p>This event is part of the Dalston Children’s Festival – a celebratory festival of fun and free things to do in venues all over Dalston on Sat 28th May and Sat 4th June. www.dalstonchildren.org.uk</p> <p>Sat 28 May, 2-4pm</p> <p>In the morning the Art Hoppers will host a drawing table where people can draw each other – the resulting portraits will be part of the ‘Dalston Drawing Collective’ and will be used for a large artwork on the windows of Dalston CLR James Library. At the same time, Hackney Play Association will be running skip-offs and other street play games.</p> <p>In the afternoon, Universal Board Games will bring board games from around the world and Hackney Play Bus will fill the square with toys.</p> <p>Between 10am-12noon and 2-4pm, Donna Fugassa will host 10-minute caricature sessions for children, where they can get a drawing representing their alter-ego!</p> <p>Art Hoppers describe their project as follows:</p> <p><i>A project which captures the face of Dalston as seen and</i></p>	

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	<p><i>illustrated by local people through the drawing of portraits by children, their parents, siblings and friends. The resulting portraits created by and representing intergenerational relationships will illustrate the character and community spirit of Dalston in a playful expression of personal drawings. The illustrations will form the visual elements of a collective design for the windows of Dalston library, printed and installed on vinyls for all to see and enjoy.</i></p> <p>Donna Fugassa describe their project as follows:</p> <p><i>Is your child really a secret agent, super hero, princess or dragon? Let them tell their story and they will get a bespoke caricature, to remind them they're special.</i></p> <p>4 June, 11-3pm</p> <p>Bump Buddies, (Shoreditch Trust) will invite new and prospective parents to find out how to using creativity and everyday materials to have fun with their kids, such as junk mail and home-made playdough. The housing charity Shelter will also be on hand to offer advice.</p> <p>3) Mimbre acrobatics and street theatre performance 'If I would I could'– Sat 11 June, 2pm</p> <p>Local, all female street theatre and acrobat group Mimbre will bring their latest production to the square. They say:</p> <p><i>Mimbre's outdoor show is a physical re-imagination of a day where you could freeze the baddies, save the day and fly home when the bus is late. Taking a seemingly normal woman, getting on with normal life on a normal day, Mimbre uses acrobatics, movement and humour to look at the things we would change if we could.</i></p> <p><i>The performance considers the expectations of modern life and all the superpowers we ideally would need to get it all done.</i></p> <p><i>'If I could I would' is self-contained family friendly performance, created for outdoor festivals and events, with a small transformable set and cast of 3 performers.</i></p> <p>4) Street Orchestra London Hackney Tour, ending in Dalston Square – Friday 17 June, approx. 5pm</p> <p>Street Orchestra London (comprised of many Hackney residents) will come to Dalston Square as the finale of their Hackney tour. The Orchestra is acoustic and plays non-classical tunes.</p>	

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	<p>5) Universal Board Games – two dates to be confirmed</p> <p>Universal Board Games will bring their intergenerational board games from around the world for everyone to enjoy.</p> <p>6) Gahu and Yaram Arts African street theatre – Sat 13 August</p> <p>Gahu and Yaram Arts are both established Hackney Carnival organisations who have a strong track record of working in Hackney’s public spaces. Collectively, they deliver captivating performances involving juggling, dancing, drumming and medieval West African Masquerades known as Zimba (grisly lion imitating figures). The audience are encouraged to join in and it is for all ages.</p> <p>7) Anansi Day – Sat 13 August</p> <p>AAAHA / River Cultures are working closely with the Hackney Caribbean Elders Association to plan ‘Anansi Day’ in the square. They describe the event as:</p> <p><i>a day that celebrates Anansi, the fabled storyteller spider/man character from the Caribbean community. There will be an Anansi storyteller, an Anansi stilts performers and art workshop creating designs and drawings inspired by Anansi. Prior to this day, Hackney Caribbean Elderly Organisation members will create Anansi images for the Stilts performer to wear and display. They will also create images to inspire workshop participants at Anansi Day.</i></p> <p>This event will incorporate the performances by Gahu and Yaram Arts (no 6)</p> <p>8) Arcola ‘Giant Puppet Opera’ – date to be confirmed</p> <p>The Arcola was interested in bringing their Giant Puppet Orchestra to the square, but since the meeting, the plan has changed to holding a series of Children’s Comedy events – dates to be confirmed.</p> <p>9) Anorak ‘Drawing Imaginarium’ – Fri 21- Sun 23 Oct (half term)</p> <p>Anorak Magazine is celebrating its 10th birthday and to mark this milestone is holding a free festival called the ‘Drawing Imaginarium’. Aimed at children and families, this event will bring to life Anorak’s ethos of encouraging creativity through a series of artist-led workshops all over the square.</p>	

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	<p style="text-align: center;">10)Photomonth East London - Oct/Nov – dates to be confirmed</p> <p>Alternative Arts plan to deliver a dynamic exhibition of photography across Dalston’s public realm, using the windows of shops, restaurants, cafes, bars, poster boards and some interior spaces. An open call for submissions will be sent out in May. It is hoped that the businesses in the square will be able to take part in the event and host photos in their windows.</p> <p>As part of the launch of the exhibition, a pop-up inflatable screen will be set up in Dalston Square onto which Photomonth photos will be projected.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11)Christmas choirs – Dec – Date to be confirmed</p> <p>There is much scope for local choirs to perform in the square at Christmas – LM to discuss this with Hackney Music Service.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>Date to be confirmed in September – at Dalston CLR James Library, in the Education Room (2nd Floor)</p>	