

Arts Space of the Future

Cultural Regeneration in Dalston

Meeting Notes 06_06_08 @ Arcola Theatre

➤ Context of the discussion:

The nation is awash with hypothetical discussion about the future of the creative industries. Meanwhile, in Dalston, real decisions need to be made about what is required for the arts to truly benefit from regeneration and the Olympics.

The Mayor of Hackney is committed to making culture integral to the future of Hackney and a 5-Borough Festival of the Cultural Olympiad aims to bring art to all.

Arcola was hosting the Arts Council England / RIBA London competition Arts Space of the Future and invited artists to put themselves on two new maps of Dalston showing cultural assets and public spaces of the area. These maps will be used in developing a new cultural strategy for Hackney and to launch cultural Olympiad projects.

➤ Central questions of the meeting:

- How can culture and the arts contribute to Dalston regeneration?
- How can we make it happen?
- How can we make visible the existing cultural assets of the area?
- How could Dalston's artists be involved in the Cultural Olympiad?

➤ List of attendees:

Larisa Blazic, Artist (outdoor video installation)

Alex Blum, Artist based at the Chocolate Factory

David Cotterrell, Artist

Fanny Déléris, Energy Intern, Arcola Theatre

Liza Fior, muf architecture/art

Lloyd French, The Trinity Centre

Johanna Gibbons, J & L GIBBONS LLP

Adam Hart, Executive Director, Hackney Co-operative Developments

Jackie Holt, Marketing and Engagement Manager, The Lux

David Kohn, Director, David Kohn Architects

Caroline Lee, Arts Development Officer, A Space

Jill Low, Open Dalston

Bruce Mcrobbie, Regeneration, London Borough of Hackney

Lucy McMenemy, Cultural Development Officer, London Borough of Hackney

Claire Mookerjee

Marie Murray, Chair Open Dalston

Duncan Noble, Duncan Noble – Management, Musician / Manager of Fantasia / Judeh Camara / Zubop Gambia

Paa "C" Quaye, Ujamaa Arts Project

Claire Quinn, Academic in environmental policy and visual culture of built space

Ben Todd, Executive Director, Arcola Theatre

➤ Meeting discussion:

1) Introductions

2) Project overview: BT

Presentation of the context: Dalston Square and the Cultural Olympiad.

- How can arts and culture contribute to the regeneration of the area? How can people be involved in these news projects?
- How can we show and promote the cultural assets of Dalston?
- How Arcola Theatre can be involved?

3) Presentation of Arts Space of the Future exhibition: DK

The exhibition "*Dalston: Arts Space of the Future*" builds on the 2007 Arts Council England / RIBA London competition challenging architects to present visions of how arts venues will evolve in the 21st Century.

Presentation of Heterotopia, second Prize of the competition: arts spaces as sustainable leaders.

4) Presentation of the cultural and public spaces maps: JG and LF

JG presented Dalston Square as a potential for programming, for projects through large partnerships.

JG developed a central question for Dalston's regeneration: "*Must 'adding value' always displace the value that is already in situ?*". She introduced the necessity to keep and valorise existing communities.

JG and LF described the goal of the maps: connect existing artists with places in order to give an identity for projects, make visible the skills and assets Dalston already have. These maps should be used as tool for planning and to develop arts space of the future.

LF specified that she took a large definition of "culture", including arts, food, public structures, etc.

The maps will remain accessible at Arcola Theatre until 2012: a growing project.

5) Discussion

- A suggestion was made to digitise the maps, so that they become an interactive resource, enabling comparisons of Dalston's demographics / cultural capital over time - LM to explore with LBH.
- Discussion on how live/work space can be secured for artists in Dalston (perhaps 'listing' artists as buildings are listed).
- The point was made about the value of having a vision for Dalston Square in 2012, as a framework to hang ideas upon.
- LM informed the group about Cultural Development's work on a draft arts strategy for the square - LM is meeting Hackney's arts cluster groups to find out what's happening on the ground and to explore ideas for the strategy.
- BT volunteered to lead the community in taking forward ideas for Dalston Square in 2012
- The point was made that these two processes need to inform each other to get the best result - partnership working between the community and the council.

6) Conclusion

BT suggested that further meetings are held.

Next meeting to be in one month's time.

Further publicity required and the purpose of meetings made more clear – perhaps 3 points for discussion.

Fanny Deleris, 13th June, Arcola Theatre.