

Dalston Creative Futures II

London 2012 and the Cultural Olympiad

Meeting Notes 23_07_08 @ Arcola Theatre

This meeting is the second of 'Dalston Creative Futures' launched by the exhibition *Arts Space of the Future* hosted at Arcola in May 2008. These monthly meetings aim to help artists and arts organisations in Dalston to engage with regeneration projects and the Cultural Olympiad.

The meeting notes of the first meeting and a project description are still available to download on the event page of our website: www.arcolaenergy.com/events.html. For any comment or to learn more about Arcola Energy projects, please visit our blog: www.arcolaenergy.com/contribute/?cat=7.

➤ Context of the discussion:

The **Cultural Olympiad** is an integral part of the London 2012 Olympics, beginning the weekend of 26-28 September 2008 and running through to the end of the Games. During the Olympiad, London and the UK welcome the world in celebrating internationalism, cultural diversity, sharing and understanding.

The Cultural Olympiad will also reflect and support a number of **themes**, such as community projects, sustainable long-term benefits to cultural life in the UK, and excellence in the performing arts and creative industries.

➤ Central questions of the meeting:

How could Dalston's artists be involved in the Cultural Olympiad?

➤ List of attendees:

Marva Antoine, Artistic director
Thierry Bidet, Artist and architect
Charles Bishop, General manager Theatre Centre
Jemma Buchley, Audience development Rio Cinema
Chris Cleeve, Education officer
Fanny Déléris, Energy Intern, Arcola Theatre
Hadrian Garrard, Culture Lead for the Five Host Boroughs
Johanna Gibbons, J & L GIBBONS LLP
Nick Llewellyn, Director Hackney Shed and Rainbow drama group
Lucy McMenemy, Cultural Development Officer, London Borough of Hackney
Neil Taylor, Director Campbell works
Ben Todd, Executive Director, Arcola Theatre
Cristina Prudente, Artist

➤ Meeting discussion:

1) Introductions

2) Ben Todd: Project overview

Presentation of the context: **Dalston Square** Regeneration Project (www.dalstonsquare.co.uk) and the **Cultural Olympiad** (www.london2012.com/plans/culture/now-to-2012/cultural-olympiad-projects.php) as occasion for local artists to get involved in cultural/artistic projects.

3) Johanna Gibbons: Presentation of the cultural and public spaces maps

JG presented Dalston Square as a potential for programming, for projects through large partnerships. Work with LM from LBH: regeneration project as potential for changing dynamics and develop local creativity.

JG 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, with a central question: how do we maintain and enhance the value already in situ?

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

4) Hadrian Garrard: The structure of the Olympics 2012 and the Cultural Olympiad (see summary attached themes/Structure) or visit www.london2012.com.

- 2 **keys organisations** for the London 2012 Games: the London 2012 Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (**LOCOG**) and the Olympic Delivery Authority (**ODA**). Role of the London Development Agency (**LDA** - Mayor of London) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (**DCMS**).

- The precise area affected ('the ODA planning boundary') includes parts of the London Boroughs of Greenwich, **Hackney**, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest.

- Launch of the Cultural Olympiad the week end of the 26 to 28 September. See www.visiteastlondon.co.uk or www.london2012.com.

- About **Create Festival**: cultural partnership of the 5 boroughs, working together with leading venues, cultural organisations and festivals to develop CREATE into an internationally significant festival and a permanent annual feature.

Aims: make east London part of London's culture excellence, turn empty spaces to culture areas => create an annual **homemade, worldclass** and **international** festival, develop an east London cultural programme, which involve communities, artists, schools, venues...But a continually evolving project (no strict artistic vision).

- Easier to be an organisation to get involved: individual artists or small companies work with local artistic venue. In Dalston contact Ben at Arcola Theatre: ben@arcolatheatre.com

Next meeting about Creative Futures in Dalston to be held end of August, date to be announced shortly.

Fanny Deleris, 24th July, Arcola Theatre.