



LEARNING LAB CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE - ARTS, CULTURE AND ENGAGEMENT IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

1ST DECEMBER 2022, 9.30AM TO 5PM
THE PAVILION, HORNIMAN MUSEUM AND GARDENS
100 LONDON ROAD, SE23 3PQ



London Borough of Culture is
a Mayor of London initiative

MAYOR OF LONDON

Presented by



COUNTERPOINTS.



Arts Council
ENGLAND



How are artist-led methodologies and cultural programmes in local government transforming civic participation, service provision, policy-making and governance?

In this Learning Lab, we bring together several of The Mayor's London Borough of cultural programmes, which have incorporated creative acts of convening, speculation, community manifesto-making and collaboration between artists, council workers, service users and wider residents.

As part of We Are Lewisham, The Mayor's London Borough of Culture 2022, we will engage with the recent Artists of Change Residencies, co-developed by Lewisham Council and Counterpoints Arts, highlighting Teatro Vivo's focus on Lewisham Council's call to action on Climate Emergency, and Dima Karout's engagement with Lewisham's proud status as the first to declare as a Borough of Sanctuary.

Alongside this, we will hear from on-going cultural programmes, including the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham's New Town Culture, which is embedding culture as a core part of social care services, and the Mayor of London's commissioned 2.8 Million Minds, which is exploring how culture can support young peoples' mental health.

This Learning Lab provides an opportunity for collective learning from live case-studies and a practical space to workshop commissioning processes. It also aims to evaluate the tangible impact of creative collaborations and community manifestos that connect residents and local authorities in shared conversation and ownership of a borough. We welcome all council teams, artists, producers and community organisers.

Reflections from the Learning Lab will be visually documented by Migrants in Culture.

Counterpoints Arts' Learning Lab Programme is committed to the collective power of public learning and the constructive risks entailed in pushing the boundaries of accepted knowledge and practice. Exploring migration, the creative arts and social change, together with the role and value of the arts and culture as a necessary, democratic right. Individual Labs facilitate lively exchange and debate, forging alliances between artists and activists, cultural workers, curators, educators, community residents, human rights advocates and policymakers. Breaking down silos and responding to need – where no one participant can claim hierarchy of thought or skill.

Image: Kas Darley and Mark Stevenson | Teatro Vivo, and Dima Karout | Arts Curator

PROGRAMME

9.30 - 9:45 am: Welcome and Introductions

Dijana Rakovic, Senior Producer, Counterpoints Arts and Rachel Harris, Senior Producer, We Are Lewisham

London Borough of Culture 2022 – Artists of Change

9:45 - 10:45am: Lewisham Speaks

A walk-through and critical reflection with Teatro Vivo Co-Directors, Kas Darley and Mark Stevenson; and Martin O'Brien, Climate Resilience Manager, Lewisham Council. Moderator: Clara Giraud, Projects and Policy Officer in Mayor of London's Culture Team at the Greater London Authority.

10:45 - 11:45 am: Internal Landscapes

A walk-through and critical reflection with Arts Curator and Creative Director, Dima Karout; Paul Aladenika, Head of Policy and Strategy, Lewisham Council; and Fergus Downie, Specialist Housing Support and Refugee Resettlement Manager, Lewisham Council. Moderator: Áine O'Brien, Curator of Learning and Research and Co-Founder, Counterpoints Arts

11:45 - 12:15: Coffee

12:15 – 1:15 pm: Working with a creative ethos in local government

A conversation between two on-going cultural programmes within local government, New Town Culture and 2.8 Million Minds, with Marijke Steedman, Senior Curator of Cultural Programmes at Barking & Dagenham Council, and James Leadbitter (vacuum cleaner), artist lead on 2.8 Million Minds. Moderator: Joon-Lynn Goh, GLA Civic Futures Fellow 21/22.

1:15 – 2:30 pm Lunch

Time for networking, engaging with project manifestos, short films and publications.

2:30 – 2:45 pm: Rapporteur: Dana Olarescu, Socially Engaged Independent Artist

2:45 – 4:15 pm: 3 workshops: Commissions, Legacy and Manifestos

The collaborative workshops are designed to connect different sets of skills and ways of working together. Each workshop group will include a moderator to facilitate the conversation and a notetaker to capture the gist of the collective thinking. Each group will have 10 mins to present back to the Learning Lab, at which point we will open a wider feedback discussion.

1.Re-Imagining Commissions?

How might we re-imagine the architecture of commissions, specifically public projects that are shaped through collaboration and partnership between artists, local communities and council teams? Is there another way to co-design commissioning briefs, whereby diverse expectations about outputs/outcomes can be rehearsed and anticipated in advance? What have we learned from recent commissions that we can transfer and take forward into future work?

2. Whose Legacy?

The term 'legacy' is frequently used but what does it mean in practice? That an artist-led and council collaboration has been effective in creating positive change for a community? Or that artist-led methodologies might influence council culture and practice? What does it mean for a Borough of Culture initiative or any place-based project to leave a legacy and for whom?

3.Community Manifestos into Policy?

What is the journey from manifesto to policy? How might community aspirations and collective insights expressed in artistic manifestos, (comprising lived everyday experiences and calls to action) be translated into strategic, local policy plans? How might they influence council culture? What role might performative, co-produced manifestos play in shaping decision-making and service delivery at council and community level? (Artist facilitated community manifestos include, among others: Lewisham Speaks, 2.8 Million Minds, Climate Home, Moving Day. Covering the environment, mental health, youth, community integration, access to services, ownership over public space and shared decision-making).

4:15-5:00 pm: Feedback from Workshops; Final Wrap-up and Collective Actions

LEARNING LAB IS A COUNTERPOINTS ARTS' PROGRAMME.

CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE – ARTS, CULTURE AND ENGAGEMENT IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE IS DESIGNED IN COLLABORATION WITH JOON-LYNN GOH, CULTURAL ORGANISER AND CIVIC FUTURES FELLOW 2021/2022 WITH GLA.

PART OF WE ARE LEWISHAM, THE MAYOR'S LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE 2022. IT IS FUNDED BY MAYOR OF LONDON WITH SUPPORT FROM LEWISHAM COUNCIL AND COUNTERPOINTS ARTS.

BIOGRAPHIES

Teatro Vivo - Some theatre companies transform spaces to create experiences. Teatro Vivo create experiences which change spaces forever. Lewisham based Teatro Vivo is a critically acclaimed site-specific theatre company making playful, exciting yet thought provoking immersive shows in unusual places, bringing Shakespeare to Supermarkets, exploring The Odyssey on the streets of Deptford, and discussing the British arms trade in public squares. Led by Joint Artistic Directors Mark Stevenson and Kas Darley, the company works in a unique way: High quality professional performers perform alongside community participants, with both rehearsals and performances in public spaces where anyone can access what they are doing – enabling communities to be part of the process throughout.

Martin O'Brien is the Climate Resilience Manager at Lewisham Council responsible for leading delivery of Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan and the Council's ambition for the borough to be net zero carbon by 2030. He has worked at Lewisham Council since 2007 and before that in public sector roles in regional government and the civil service. In his spare time he traps and records moths (and lets them go again).

Clara Giraud is Projects and Policy Officer in Mayor of London's Culture Team at the Greater London Authority, where she works on the London Borough of Culture programme, and culture, health & wellbeing projects. She has worked as an arts producer since 2009 with a range of artists, and as Project Manager of Unlimited, a commissioning programme for arts by disabled artists. She is co-chair of the board Chisenhale Dance Space, and a passionate advocate of independent artists, and culture in our daily lives.

Dima Karout is an arts curator and creative director with a multicultural education background. Previously living and working in Damascus, Paris and Montreal before relocating to London, Dima has 20 years international experience in designing socially engaged art projects, publications and learning programmes. She specialises in contemporary art and its potential for expanding ideas, building creative communities and initiating social change.

Paule Aladenika is the Head of Policy, Strategy and Executive Support at Lewisham Council. Paul has worked in local government for more than 20 years', with more than a decade as a senior public sector manager and leader. Paul has extensive experience of strategic planning, policy development and leadership development. Over the years, Paul has worked alongside many local government Chief Executives as well as politicians, including at Ministerial level.

Fergus Downie is the Housing and Refugee Manager at Lewisham Council, and has been working at the Council for the last thirteen years. Fergus has supported the process of Lewisham Council being recognised as the first Borough of Sanctuary in May 2021. The award follows the Council's Corporate Strategy to be an open and welcoming borough.

Áine O'Brien, Curator of Learning and Research/Co-Founder, Counterpoints Arts, runs Learning Lab, a platform supporting cooperative (un)learning through socially engaged art and other civic practices. She directs the Summer School on Cultural Diversity and Collaborative Practice (in partnership with Create - National Development Agency for Collaborative Arts). A recent publication includes Art, Migration and the Production of Radical Democratic Citizenship (co-edited with Agnes Czajka, Rowman International - Frontiers of the Political Series, 2022).

James Leadbitter / vacuum cleaner is the name of a UK based artist and activist who makes candid, provocative and playful work. the vacuum cleaner wants to find better ways to go mad. Drawing on his own experience of mental health disability, he works with groups including young people, health professionals and vulnerable adults to challenge how mental health is understood, treated and experienced. 2.8 Million Minds is a collaboration between Bernie Grant Arts Centre, Chisenhale Gallery and the vacuum cleaner.

Clare Lovett is Principal Project Development Officer - Culture and Creative Industries at Greater London Authority. She is currently leading the development of London's creative health and wellbeing programme focusing on cultural social prescribing, creating Creative Health and Wellbeing Zones and delivery of Thriving Through Culture a three-year programme which supports young people experiencing mental ill health.

Marijke Steedman is the Senior Curator for Cultural Programmes in Barking and Dagenham Council. Marijke founded New Town Culture in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham in 2018. Previously she was curator for Create London, Whitechapel Gallery and Tate Britain. She edited the book Gallery as Community; Art, Education and Politics.

Marley Starskey Butler is an artist, raised by Wolverhampton, nurtured by Derby and born in Leeds, making work about opposites, parallels, memory, love, loss, mortality, and the politics of belonging within self and in society. My concurrent practice as a Social Worker keeps me tied to the lives, stories and experiences of the most vulnerable and complex members of society, whilst being a jigsaw piece in ensuring children in care have the best futures possible.

Joon-Lynn Goh is a cultural organiser, working with art and infrastructure. She embraces organising as a practice in which migrant and global majority communities are protagonists of change, and where infrastructure, organisation and business are creative experiments in stewardship and worldbuilding. Joon-Lynn is a founding organiser of migrant-led design agency Migrants in Culture; co-founding director of cancer-patient led business Sex With Cancer; and GLA Civic Futures Fellow 2021-22.

Dana Olărescu is a socially engaged artist working at the intersection of social design, installation, and performance, focusing on challenging minority exclusion and environmental injustice. Through participatory methodologies that democratise access to art and knowledge, she aims to give underserved migrant groups the agency to become active co-producers of culture. Latest publications include 'Practising Migration' in Art, Migration, and the Production of Radical Democratic Citizenship; 'Socially Plagued' in Social Works? Open journal, and 'When Grief and Joy Collide' in Assets of Community Value magazine.

Rachel Harris is Senior Producer at London Borough of Culture 2022 following her role as Head of Public Programming at UCL, working with academics, artists and the public to animate and make accessible the world-class research taking place at the University. Prior to this, Rachel was Creative Producer, Festival Development and Head of Participation at Southbank Centre, directing international festivals and with a leading role in creating programmes designed to involve the widest communities in Southbank Centre's work. Throughout her career, she has led initiatives which integrate artistic ambition with social impact to develop local, national and international connections.

Dijana Rakovic is a Senior Producer at Counterpoints Arts. Her role spans production, curation and participation, with special interest in climate change and environmental justice. Dijana leads on the production of Counterpoints Arts' music programme; Refugee Week UK London artistic programme, in collaboration with flagship cultural institutions; and supports the organisation's commissioning strand, focusing on place-based socially engaged art projects.

PARTNERS

Counterpoints Arts is a leading national organisation in the field of arts, migration and cultural change. Its mission is to support and produce the arts by and about migrants and refugees, seeking to ensure that their contributions are recognised and welcomed within British arts, history and culture. Since being set up in 2012, Counterpoints Arts has developed a trusted network of partners and collaborators from across different sectors, and has supported hundreds of artists, organisations and communities to develop new work, skills and connections.

The Horniman Museum and Gardens has won Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022, the world's largest museum prize. The Horniman connects us all with global cultures and the natural environment, encouraging us to shape a positive future for the world we all share.

Opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to 'bring the world to Forest Hill'. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history, music and an acclaimed aquarium, alongside a World Gallery of anthropology and a flexible arts and exhibition space, The Studio. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London. horniman.ac.uk

Greater London Authority was created after a referendum in 1998, when Londoners voted in favour of a directly elected Mayor to represent London's interests, and a London Assembly to scrutinise their work. It has a role in many areas of London life. Supporting London's culture and creative industries is one of the Mayor's top priorities. We live in a city unrivalled anywhere in the world for the breadth and quality of its arts and culture. This means hardwiring culture into London's economic and social development, making it a 24 hour city, shouting about our creativity around the globe and making sure every Londoner has the chance to engage with and benefit from culture.

About London Borough of Culture 2022

We Are Lewisham

Lewisham is the Mayor's London Borough of Culture 2022. The year-long cultural programme, **We Are Lewisham**, is a whole borough celebration, with hundreds of events happening across venues, parks and street corners. Inspired by the borough's history of activism and standing up for equality, it celebrates Lewisham's rich diversity and its trailblazers past and present, amplifying less heard voices and highlighting the power of culture to create change. Jointly led by Lewisham Council and the Albany, We Are Lewisham will bring together all of the borough's neighbourhoods, communities and stories.

The Mayor's London Borough of Culture award

London Borough of Culture is a Mayor of London initiative, launched in June 2017. The award puts culture at the heart of local communities, where it belongs. It shines a light on the character and diversity of London's boroughs and brings culture to everyone, so that all Londoners have the chance to be part of something extraordinary.

Lewisham Council

Lewisham is a vibrant and culturally diverse borough. This reflected in all aspects of daily life, from the response to the pandemic where the community rallied to support our most vulnerable residents, to the 170 languages spoken in our homes, schools and businesses. We have a rich history of welcoming people from all over the world and are proud to be recognised as the UK's first Borough of Sanctuary, for our work in championing the rights of refugees and migrants.

We are committed to tackling inequalities so that everybody has the opportunity to succeed. The pandemic has shone a light on the disparities experienced by those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds in all areas of their lives. In November, Lewisham became the first local authority to commission a headcount study of high streets to better support our BAME independent retailers through Covid 19 recovery and to champion the diversity of town centres.

As we plan ahead, we are working towards a fairer, greener, healthier and more economically sound future for all in Lewisham. This means continuing our efforts to tackle climate change for generations to come; ensuring that good health and wellbeing is equally accessible to everyone; and safeguarding local jobs and upskilling residents with tools they need to succeed. Building on the community spirit and activism that has helped us through the pandemic, we are committed to creating a Future Lewisham we can all have a part in.