

# Lewisham Arts Plan

## 2009-2015



## About Lewisham

In Lewisham there are more people with less money than in other parts of London.

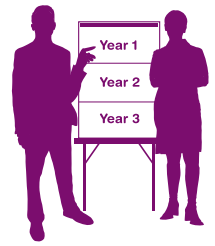
There are more young people in Lewisham than in other parts of London.

Lewisham has a very high number of single parents.

In future there will be more people living in Lewisham, and half of them will be black or from another ethnic minority.

Over two thousand people work as artists in Lewisham and there are three famous colleges training artists of the future: Trinity Laban, Lewisham College and Goldsmiths, University of London.

# Why now?



**Lewisham is a borough in the heart of London. Two hundred and fifty thousand people from different cultures live here.**

There are lots of exciting opportunities coming up for people in Lewisham. Things like the 2012 Olympic Games (and the Cultural Olympiad) and the changes to Lewisham town centre will mean more jobs for people in Lewisham.

Some of London's most important and exciting arts organisations are based in Lewisham, like the Laban Contemporary Dance Centre, The Albany, The Horniman Museum, Heart n Soul, Irie! Dance Theatre and The Broadway Theatre.

Lewisham Council knows that there is a lot of creativity in Lewisham that could be helped to become stronger.

We know that people in Lewisham from different cultures are taking part in the arts and that most people are getting happier with the arts in Lewisham.



*'Dancing in Time' by Montage Theatre Arts. Photo: Hannah Mason*

But we know there are some reasons why people do not take part. They are:

- 1 not enough information
- 2 cost of arts activities
- 3 fear of crime on the way to and from arts activities.

## Who goes to the arts in Lewisham?

Lewisham Arts Service has done research to find out who goes to the arts in Lewisham. We found out that no group has a better or worse chance of getting involved in the arts.

Black people and people from other ethnic minorities are getting very good access to the arts.

People who live in Catford South are most likely to go to the arts and people who live in Evelyn ward are least likely.

Adults are getting happier with the arts in Lewisham but young people are not as happy with the arts as they used to be.

Young adults who are very well educated are more likely to go out of Lewisham to access the arts.





# Our aims for the future



## Our idea for the future of the arts in Lewisham is:

to make Lewisham a creative place, with strong arts organisations, lively neighbourhoods and lots of people taking part.

Lewisham Council thinks we should all:

- 1 work together
- 2 listen to the people who live in Lewisham
- 3 give people an equal chance to take part
- 4 aim high
- 5 support things to last

These are the foundations of this plan.

This is a plan to help make two things happen:

- 1 for the people that live in Lewisham to get more involved in arts and culture
- 2 for arts organisations to make themselves stronger by having a range of ways to get money for their work



*Photograph courtesy of Trinity Laban/  
Merlin Hendy.*



## Creative space



**Support exciting designs for new cultural buildings or places. Support high quality arts venues so that**

**Lewisham is a creative place to live, work and learn.**

Arts venues in Lewisham get people going out in the evening and give people safe places to meet other people from their neighbourhood.

The building work in the borough over the next few years gives us a chance to put exciting art in public spaces, and to make sure that arts venues are at the

heart of town centres. Working with the best building designers (architects) will mean we get amazing buildings that put Lewisham on the map.

There are some festivals that Lewisham pays for, like People's Day and Black History Month, but some are put on by artists themselves like Sydenham Music, Brockley Max and Telegraph Hill Arts festivals.

Festivals add a lot to the cultural life of the borough and Lewisham will support festivals to get stronger.

*'Waterline' by Oliver Barrett*



# Making money from art



**Invest in the arts so that they bring more money into Lewisham.**

Lewisham Arts Service gives information and advice to people who want to run arts projects.

By getting people to pay for using Lewisham as a location when they are making films, money has been raised to support local film makers.

The cost of buying or renting property is going up and this makes it hard for artists to find spaces to work in. The Council will balance getting money in at a realistic price with giving artists extra help to find work spaces they can afford.

Creative Process is an organisation that gives advice to and trains local people working in arts industries in skills to make their businesses grow stronger.

The Council will work with the London Development Agency to make sure that Creative Process keeps going.

*Heart n Soul film I Like the Bass in Lewisham Photo: John Spaul*



# Creativity and skills



**Encourage people to take part in the arts and to support adults and children to be creative and to learn new skills.**

Lewisham Council thinks that the arts are an important part of education. We have had a lot of success with this, and with young people taking part in the arts outside of school.

The arts have been used to help improve communication between young people and the police, and to give opportunities to young refugees, disabled people and young people not allowed to go to school (excluded) in Lewisham.

LEAN is the Lewisham Education Arts Network. It is an independent organisation that supports arts in education

It is also good for adults to take part in the arts. It makes them feel happier and gives them the chance to meet other people and learn new skills.

Lewisham's 'Taking Part' project, July 2008. *Photo: Elina Jokipii*



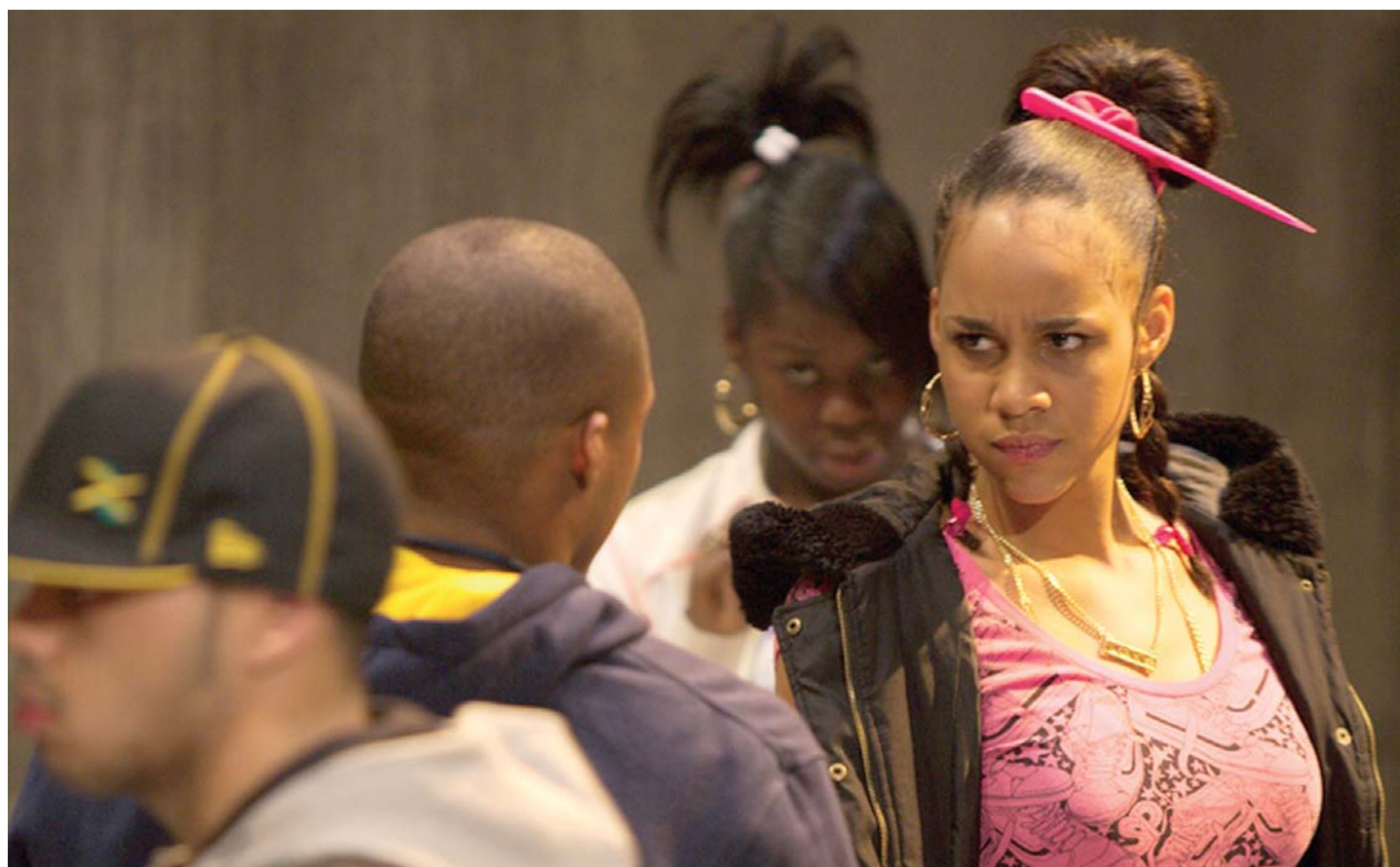




This is what we will work on:

- 1 We will find a way to make sure that there is fair access to arts in education in every area and for everyone. At the moment there are places with gaps and places where lots of things are going on.
- 2 We will work together with LEAN and the Children's and Young People's Directorate to decide how to spread out our projects fairly.
- 3 We want to use the power of the arts to help us achieve some of the goals of the government plan called 'Independence, Well Being and Choice'. The arts can help with things like improving people's health, quality of life and chance of making a positive difference. We want to be sure that everyone living in Lewisham can take part in the arts, including disabled and older people.
- 4 We will make sure that people know about the many arts activities going on in Lewisham. We will invest in communications (marketing).

*Gone Too Far by ATC/Royal Court Theatre at The Albany Photo: Marc Brenner*

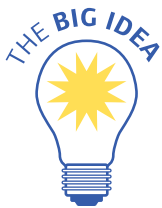


# Neighbourhoods coming together

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*Do Your Own Thing sessions, Heart n Soul Photo: Caroline Purday*



**Use the arts as a way of helping neighbourhoods live happily together and feel safe.**

We can use arts like street theatre and carnival to bring people together in a celebration of their neighbourhood. Downham Celebrates Day run by Neighbourhood Management has done this very well.

Festivals like Refugee Week and Pensioners Day bring different people

together and make everyone think about treating people with respect. Lewisham's arts organisations put treating people with respect at the heart of what they do all year round.

By having arts activities, more people come out into our town centres at night, making people feel safer and less alone.

The arts can also be used to look at issues like gun crime and to help take away the fear of crime.



Over the next five years, we will work on:

- 1 making festivals in Lewisham stronger, using the money and know-how we already have. We can do this by helping with grants, advice on funding and marketing support.
- 2 getting better at communicating and listening to what people in Lewisham need.
- 3 joining forces with the people who are working to bring down crime, and get involved in projects that give people who might get into trouble creative things to do
- 4 working closely with health services to put forward the arts as part of a healthy way of life, and making sure that people know about arts activities in Lewisham
- 5 making the most out of the chances the 2012 Cultural Olympiad will bring for young people and people from all backgrounds to join in with the arts

## How we will check our progress

Lewisham Arts Service has written an action plan that lists the things that need to be done to make this plan work.

Every year we will check to see that all these things are going well. We will list new things that need to be done to make this plan work.

This information is on our web site at [www.lewisham.gov/arts](http://www.lewisham.gov/arts)



**If you want to ask questions  
or find out more, please contact**



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[www.lewisham.gov.uk/arts](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/arts)

You can get a full version of this plan (strategy)  
from Lewisham Arts Service.