

Press Release

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Pictured: The YPBOC Youth Board | Photo Credit: Matt Grayson

HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM'S YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOROUGH OF CULTURE LAUNCHES ITS FIRST PROGRAMMES

- **SCHOOL ARTS WEEK** will take place 13 – 17 July 2026 where every state primary and SEND school in the Borough will be offered a free creative workshop
- Applications are now open for the first round of the **OUR PLACE** participatory grant scheme, where young people in the Borough can apply for up to £3,000 to realise a creative project in their community

- Sixteen youth leaders from Hammersmith & Fulham have been appointed to the **YOUTH BOARD** to steer the direction of the programme over the next eighteen months
- Young People's Borough of Culture is a Where Culture Connects project led by Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, H&F Council, The Earls Court Development Company, DanceWest, Fulham Pier and Hammersmith BID
- Further information and OUR PLACE application details now available at www.ypboc.org

Hammersmith & Fulham's **Young People's Borough of Culture** today announces the first details of its programme, including July's **SCHOOL ARTS WEEK** and the launch of applications for the **OUR PLACE** participatory grant programme.

Taking place between Monday 13 – Friday 17 July 2026, **SCHOOL ARTS WEEK** will provide children across the Borough with a free creative arts workshop in their school, supported and delivered by Young People's Borough of Culture Delivery Partners. All Hammersmith & Fulham state and SEND schools will be offered a workshop which they can select from a wide range of disciplines.

The workshops include: Circus by **Turtle Key Arts**; Inclusive Dance by **Amici Dance Theatre Company**; Acting by **LAMDA**; Contemporary Dance by **DanceWest**; Devising by **White City Theatre Project**; Costume Design by **Lyric Hammersmith Theatre**; Comedy by **Care to Culture**; Pottery by **WEST Youth Zone**; Photography by **Sands End Arts & Community Centre**; Anime & Manga by **IDEA Design Hub CIC**; Storytelling/Creative Writing by **Bush Theatre**.

Applications are also now open for the first round of the **OUR PLACE** participatory grant scheme. Young people aged 13 to 25 who live or learn in Hammersmith & Fulham can submit an idea for a creative project they want to realise in their community. Successful applicants will be invited to present their idea at a live Voting Event in the Borough, where young people will vote on those projects they wish to receive up to £3000 in funding. Funding for Our Place grants is from the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Kings Coronation Youth Fund and the deadline for applications is Monday 14 September.

The theme for this round of Our Place is 'belonging', which was chosen by the Young People's Borough of Culture **YOUTH BOARD**. Sixteen young people who live and/or learn in Hammersmith & Fulham have been appointed for 18 months to steer the direction of the programme. These youth leaders will also be provided with training, mentorship and support throughout their tenure to ensure opportunities for skills development and future career pathways.

The Young People's Borough of Culture Youth Board are: **Aya** (18, lives in Brook Green); **Ayesha** (13, learns in Palace & Hurlingham); **Carina** (13, lives in Conningham); **Giacomo** (15, lives in Hammersmith Broadway); **Gus** (13, lives in Conningham); **Harshini** (25, learns in Lillie); **Henry** (15, lives in Brook Green); **Isaac** (14, lives in West Kensington); Vice Chair of the Board **Janani** (15, learns in Grove); **Jessica** (25, lives in Brook Green); **Joyce** (12, lives in West Kensington); **Mahithi** (13, lives in Munster); **Miamie-Rae** (14, lives in Brook Green); **Raghad** (17, lives in Wormholt), Chair of the Board **Samuel** (24, lives in Shepherds Bush Green); **Taraneh** (13, lives in Hammersmith Broadway).

Yesterday members of the Youth Board joined representatives from Hammersmith & Fulham Council, the Arts Council, the programme's principal partners and invited guests at a reception at the House of Lords to celebrate the official launch of the Young People's Borough of Culture.

Young People's Borough of Culture also today announces the programme's Delivery Partners, all creative and cultural organisations working in Hammersmith & Fulham: **Action on Disability**; **Amici Dance Theatre Company**; **Ballet Black**; **Bush Theatre**; **Care to Culture**; **DanceWest**; **The Earls Court Development Company**; **Fulham Pier**; **IDEA Design HUB**; **Imperial College London**; **LAMDA**; **Lyric**

Hammersmith Theatre; Olympia; Sands End Arts & Community Centre; Tri-borough Music Hub; Turtle Key Arts; Urban Partnership Group (UPG); WEST Youth Zone; White City Theatre Project.

Harris Bokhari OBE, Chair of Where Culture Connects H&F Cultural Compact said: *"The Young People's Borough of Culture brings to life our collective ambition to be a Borough where children and young people can achieve their full potential. By aiming high and working with a true spirit of collaboration, the business, education and cultural partners in H&F have designed a programme that establishes the conditions for all our young people to flourish as creators, audiences, participants and leaders. There is so much opportunity and talent here, we just need to connect the two."*

Samuel, Chair of the Young People's Borough of Culture Youth Board, said: *"I'm tremendously excited to work with the council, our amazing staff and all the extraordinary young people that make up the Board. As the world seems more and more desperate to move online, to have a programme so dedicated to local community action that prioritises the voice and needs of our youth has never been so important. I anticipate great things for the Board and hope that it sets an example far beyond Hammersmith and Fulham."*

Further details, including programming news and the line-up for the October festival, will be announced Summer 2026.



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LISTINGS

Young People's Borough of Culture TM

A Where Culture Connects project led by Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, H&F Council, The Earls Court Development Company, DanceWest, Fulham Pier and Hammersmith BID.

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Where Culture Connects is a stakeholder partnership supporting cultural development, launched by Hammersmith & Fulham council. It follows the model established by Arts Council England for a cultural compact and brings together leaders from the cultural and creative, private, public, voluntary, education and health sectors to mobilise an ambitious vision and cultural strategy for the Borough. Where Culture Connects is the umbrella for our Destination Management Partnership (VisitH&F), Heritage and Inclusion Partnership and Creative Pathways Partnership, and supports a Cultural Forum of over 80 members dedicated to building capacity of our local cultural and creative industries.

PARTNER BIOGRAPHIES

ACTION ON DISABILITY

Action on Disability is a Deaf and Disabled People's Organisation based in Hammersmith and Fulham and led by Disabled people. Founded in 1979, we support over 4,500 Deaf and Disabled people each year across West London. Our work includes youth services for Disabled young people, supported

internships, Direct Payments support, welfare benefits advice, training, consultancy, co-production and wider community-based support. We are committed to removing barriers and increasing inclusion, independence, choice and participation for Deaf and Disabled people.

Website: <https://www.aod.org.uk/>

AMICI DANCE THEATRE COMPANY

Amici Dance Theatre Company is a pioneering inclusive company that brings together disabled and non-disabled performers in innovative performance. Founded by Wolfgang Stange in 1980, they have had a global impact through their productions and workshops, challenging perceptions of disability in the arts.

Website: <https://www.amicidadance.org/>

BALLET BLACK

Ballet Black, founded in 2001 by Cassa Pancho, is Europe's first Black professional neoclassical ballet company. An Olivier Award and Black British Theatre Award winner, we champion diversity on stage, commission new work, and create lifechanging career pathways for Black and Asian dancers and creatives. To date we have produced 70 new ballets and are recognised as a leading force in reshaping British ballet and its audiences.

Website: <https://www.balletblack.co.uk/>

BUSH THEATRE

The Bush Theatre is an internationally renowned champion of playwrights, a vibrant venue, a community space for Shepherd's Bush, a bar and café, and so much more. Our work in the community offers free creative experiences to individuals, schools and young people's groups in Hammersmith and Fulham, and the surrounding West London area.

Website: <https://www.bushtheatre.co.uk/>

CARE TO CULTURE

Care to Culture is a Theatre based production company that delivers workshops and paid training opportunities for those who have been without a primary care giver or are care experienced. Established in 2020 our aim is to offer practical knowledge on theatrical business practises, create and archive stories by and for care experienced people and create a safe space to learn and earn. We develop stories and artists, specifically working with those who are care experienced, those without a primary caregiver and those who have been left in the margins of the artistic world in trauma informed and care focused ways, looking to develop work in a way that allows sustainable access for young CE artists. We deliver workshops, financial literacy training and paid artistic training to young people with care experience or experience of being estranged aged 14-30.

Website: <https://www.caretoculture.co.uk/>

DANCEWEST

Our mission is to engage people of all ages and abilities in high quality dance activity, improve the mental, physical health and wellbeing of all people through dance. We believe that dance enriches lives and is the catalyst for positive change in our community. Simply dance for everyone and everybody. We provide free & low cost dance, health and wellbeing activities co-designed with participants and partners. Transforming the health and wellbeing of vulnerable and diverse communities. Our sole aim is to keep our community healthy and happy by participating in dance.

Website: <https://www.dancewest.co.uk/>

THE EARLS COURT DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

The Earls Court Development Company (ECDC) is an Earl's Court-based business responsible for the transformation of the c.40-acre, former Earls Court Exhibition Centre, site on behalf of the Earls Court Partnership Limited – a joint venture formed in December 2019 between Delancey (on behalf of its client funds), the Dutch pension fund manager APG and Transport for London. The transformational plans for the redevelopment of the site will deliver up to £3 billion a year and 23,500 jobs to the national economy once complete, research by Arup has revealed.

Website: <https://www.earlscourt.com/>

FULHAM PIER

Set directly on the River Thames between Hammersmith and Putney Bridge, Fulham Pier brings together the very best of London leisure, from dining, culture, wellness and hospitality. Fulham Pier offers a constantly evolving programme of events, from live music, secret film screenings and comedy nights to creative workshops, fitness sessions and family activities. The destination is also home to a critically acclaimed restaurant, elegant cocktail bars and a vibrant riverside food hall, alongside a boutique hotel, an exclusive private members' club, and Sael Spa, a forthcoming spa with a rooftop pool offering unparalleled views.

Website: <https://www.fulhampier.com/>

HAMMERSMITH BID

Hammersmith BID has been working for Hammersmith since 2006. A Business Improvement District (BID), we are committed to the growth and transformation of our town centre, the hub of West London. We are a not-for-profit, business-led organisation, working to make Hammersmith a greener, more resilient, more welcoming and desirable place to work, live and visit. Our programme of events and festivals has entertained thousands over the years, helping to forge new partnerships and strengthen our local community.

Website: <https://hammersmithbid.co.uk/>

IDEA DESIGN HUB

IDEA Design Hub CIC is a creative education studio that combines art, design thinking, and hands-on learning to help children and young students build confidence, creativity, and essential life skills. Through both local projects in London and international initiatives, IDEA goes beyond the classroom, encouraging young people to solve real-world problems, think critically, and engage with global perspectives. Its mission is to empower students to become creative, confident, and socially aware individuals ready to shape a better future.

Website: <https://www.ideaproject.design/>

IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

The Centre for Societal Engagement: we collaborate with civic organisations, community groups and public participants to make STEM opportunities more inclusive of the societies of which they are a part. At Imperial, we're putting engagement into practice across our nine campuses as well as at schools, hospitals and cultural and community spaces. This builds on a proud legacy of civic engagement: Imperial has always been deeply rooted in London life and our pioneering research has brought benefits to wider society since 1907. We've found a real sense of momentum for engagement amongst the Imperial community and we're committed to supporting it.

Website: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/>

LAMDA

Founded in 1861, the London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art (LAMDA) is the oldest drama school in the British Isles and a founding member of the Federation of Drama Schools, based in Hammersmith. Our notable alumni include Benedict Cumberbatch, Brian Cox, Ruth Wilson and John Lithgow. We offer conservatoire training through undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes, as well as short courses, workshops and corporate training. LAMDA Exams is one of the UK's leading awarding bodies, reaching over 120,000 learners each year across schools, youth theatres and community settings worldwide, building confidence, communication skills and creative expression in young people from all backgrounds.

Website: <https://www.lamda.ac.uk/>

THE LYRIC HAMMERSMITH THEATRE

The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre produces bold and relevant world-class theatre from the heart of Hammersmith, the theatre's home for 130 years. Under the leadership of its joint CEOs, Artistic Director Rachel O'Riordan and Executive Director Amy Belson, it is committed to being vital to, and

representative of, the local community. A major force in London and UK theatre, the Lyric produces adventurous and acclaimed theatrical work that tells the stories that matter. The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre has a national reputation for ground-breaking work to develop and nurture the next generation of talent, providing opportunities for young people to discover the power of creativity and to experience the life changing impact of theatre.

Website: <https://www.lyric.co.uk/>

OLYMPIA

Olympia is a historic West London landmark reimagined as a dynamic cultural destination, bringing together world class venues, arts, entertainment, hospitality and public realm. It is a place where culture, creativity and community meet, championing what's new while supporting emerging talent and contemporary experiences.

Website: <https://www.olympia.co.uk/>

SANDS END ARTS & COMMUNITY CENTRE

Sands End Arts & Community Centre (SEACC) is a vibrant, inclusive hub in the heart of Fulham, dedicated to enriching the lives of local people through creativity, connection and community. We are a registered charity committed to supporting individuals of all ages and backgrounds, offering accessible and affordable opportunities. We support artists and charities with free and low-cost space to help make their projects a reality, alongside running our own workshops, events and drop-in sessions including health and wellbeing activities, intergenerational projects and seasonal celebrations.

Website: <https://www.seacc.uk/>

TRI-BOROUGH MUSIC HUB

The Tri-borough Music Hub (TBMH) is the award-winning lead organisation that oversees the delivery of music education in the three West London boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, and the City of Westminster. We work with schools, pupils, music educators and the community to provide engaging music activities for children and young people across the three boroughs. We are a centralised Local Authority service which receives core funding from the Department for Education via Arts Council England. We operate a shared-services model across three Local Authorities to deliver an expansive programme of musical learning, in and out of school.

Website: <https://www.triboroughmusichub.org/>

TURTLE KEY ARTS

Turtle Key Arts produces and devises original, inclusive art to entertain and inspire. They believe that access to the arts helps to improve the quality of life by bringing people together, offering creative opportunities and social inter-action. They produce a number of innovative performance companies and run free participation arts projects for disabled, disadvantaged and socially excluded people.

Website: <https://www.turtlekeyarts.org.uk/>

URBAN PARTNERSHIP GROUP (UPG)

Urban Partnership Group supports a diverse range of residents across Hammersmith and Fulham, with a particular focus on individuals and families experiencing social, economic, or educational disadvantage. Our aim in all cases is to create a friendly and supportive environment where centre users can feel a sense of belonging. We have 4 buildings in the central area (a nursery, a family hub, and two multi use community centres)

Website: <https://www.upg.org.uk/>

WEST LONDON YOUTH ZONE

WEST Youth Zone is a purpose-built space for West London's young people offering 30+ activities each session ranging from sports, climbing wall and media to skating, drama and music production. WEST Youth Zone is a purpose-built space for West London's young people aged 8 – 19, and up to 25 for those with additional needs. As part of the OnSide Youth Zones network, young people from

across the borough and beyond have access to fantastic facilities for just £5 for an annual membership and 50p per visit.

Website: <https://www.westyouthzone.org/>

WHITE CITY THEATRE PROJECT

White City Theatre Project is a West London charity that uses drama and performance to empower young people, particularly those facing disadvantage. Founded in White City, it delivers in-school workshops, community projects, and productions, and runs the White City Youth Theatre at the Bush Theatre. Its work especially supports schools and young people living and studying in Hammersmith and Fulham. Through these programmes, young people build confidence, creativity, and communication skills while gaining opportunities to perform and express themselves.

Website: <https://www.whitecitytheatre.com/>