

## **Arts and Culture Commissioning Programme 2013 - 2014**

### **Appendix 2: Culture service commissioning priorities**

#### **1. Our Strategic Aims**

The services commissioned contribute to enabling the Council to achieve its overarching Vision of a Fairer Future which is supported by Environment and Leisure. It also contributes to the Children and Young People's Plan 2010/2013.

1.1 Southwark Council's core overarching strategic aims are outlined in Southwark's Vision and the Fairer Future Principles of:

- Being more transparent.
- Creating a fairer borough.
- Making Southwark a place to be proud of.
- Realising potential.
- Spending money as we would our own.
- Transforming public services.

1.2 The Environment & Leisure Department's key aims and objective is:

"To make Southwark's neighbourhoods great places to live, that are clean, safe and vibrant and where activities and opportunities are accessible to all"

In order to contribute to achieving the Department's mission the Culture, Libraries, Learning and Leisure division (CLLL) will assist in delivering four of E&L's six priorities:

- Providing vibrant, safe and high quality parks and public places.
- Making Southwark's neighbourhoods great places to live where good quality services are provided right first time.
- Providing positive life opportunities through sports, libraries, learning and culture.
- Protecting and enhancing the health of the community.

CLLL will seek to achieve these priorities through

- Working in partnership and at a neighbourhood level.
- Investing in our assets and infrastructure.
- Focusing on all our customers, recognising and celebrating diversity.
- Delivering sustainability, quality, design and creativity in all we do.
- Having fun.

1.3 Supporting the Council's priorities

Culture, Libraries, Learning and Leisure is directly responsible, as a major component of Environment and Leisure, for managing and delivering frontline services, which make a real and positive difference to every resident's quality of life. The delivery of a quality environment, supported by high quality services is our core business.

All our services firmly support the Cabinet's vision of a fairer future for all: our services enhance the everyday lives of all residents, providing opportunities to be involved, to learn, to help and enjoy. Our aim is to make Southwark's environment clean, safe, sustainable, happy, healthy and uplifting, and help all residents to be involved, to care and to achieve.

We will do this by transforming our services to make sure they make the best use of the money available and deliver the services that are really needed by our residents and enhance the lives of all in the Borough.

We are transforming and investing in the borough's assets: the new library at Canada Water opened in November 2011 and a leisure centre will open at Elephant and Castle in 2014/15.

#### 1.4 Children and Young People's Plan 2010/2013

- Thinking family.
- Succeeding into adulthood.
- Working together to keep children safe

## 2. The Needs of the Southwark Community

The Culture Service Commissioning Programme delivers a range of activities which meet the Council's priorities across the borough, and particularly in areas that have least cultural facilities and services. It aims to ensure that local communities have access to cultural provision in their local area, and that people are not excluded because of economic or other multiple deprivation factors. Southwark is an exceptionally creative and vibrant borough. The programme aims to build on this strength through ensuring equality of access, participation and activity across the borough.

The following factors will determine the commissioning priorities in 2013/14. Applicants to the programme will be required to demonstrate an understanding of Southwark's communities and identify target groups, specific needs, proof of consultation, expected benefits and outcomes, partnership working, impact measures and quality of service. Specifically, we will expect applications to demonstrate how proposed services and projects will address the needs, and applications will be assessed on these criteria.

### 2.1 Demographics and diversity<sup>1</sup>

Projects will be socially inclusive, and recognise the diversity and needs of Southwark's population. In 2007, it was projected by the GLA that the aggregated ethnic groups with the highest proportions in Southwark were White (62%) and Black African (16%). The aggregated ethnic groups with the lowest proportions were Pakistani (less than 1%) and Other Asian (1%).

### 2.3 Deprivation

There are contrasts of opportunity and different environments in the borough, with some of London's most deprived areas next to thriving and affluent areas. The

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<sup>1</sup> All statistics used are from Population in Southwark London Borough of Southwark, January 2009 and 'Southwark's Vital Statistics' compiled by Southwark Analytical Hub, 2007.

location of deprivation is in a broad band across north and central Southwark from south of the riverside developments to the borders of Dulwich. Cultural provision through the Commissioning Programme will take into account opportunities for unemployed people and socially excluded groups.

## **2.4 Health**

15% of residents are identified as disabled, and 9% in poor health. This is notable in Nunhead & Peckham Rye, Camberwell, Walworth and Peckham. This figure includes people with long-term mental illness, and we know that numbers of mental health service users are comparatively high, particularly amongst the younger population.

## **2.5 Children and young people**

Southwark has a higher percentage of children 0 – 4 years than the London average, 7.1% of the borough's population, whilst 5 – 19 year olds make up 15.5%. The number of children and young people living in families that are poor or out-of-work is significant. Teenagers in Southwark face a range of issues: teenage pregnancy rates are still above national average; a considerable number of young people are using illegal substances; and smoking and alcohol remain risky lifestyle factors for young people establishing patterns of behaviour that may persist long in to adulthood (Source: Young people aged 13 to 18 JSNA 2008/09).

Culture services contribute to the achievement of Young Southwark, which aims to improve the lives of local children and young people. Young people themselves value cultural activities but Mori Resident Surveys have identified the lack of local cultural activities and facilities for children and young people.

As well as creative expression and personal fulfilment, cultural activities offer young people mentoring and support, and provide role models, which may be lacking in other areas of their lives. Cultural activities, including music, media and performing arts, are positive activities. They promote social engagement, community cohesion, healthy lifestyles and encourage positive choices. They are also important diversionary activities, and are proven to contribute to a decline in local crime rates. Ensuring the diversity and choice of cultural opportunities in local areas in Southwark is crucial.

Children with disabilities and special needs, and looked after children, are least likely to access cultural services out-of-school hours, and there is a need to provide progressive, accessible and relevant services for these groups.

## **2.6 Out of school hours / leisure time**

The programme will commission services to benefit children and young people out-of-school hours, at weekends and at holiday times. It will not prioritise the commissioning of services in schools or as part of enriched curriculum provision as there is already significant provision available for schools in this area.

## **2.7 Older people**

About 9% of people in Southwark are over 65 years, and 81% of these are from white ethnic groups. Death rates have been reducing for the past twenty years and life expectancy at 65 in Southwark exceeds that for London and England (Older People's JSNA 2012). Culture services have focused largely on provision for children and young people but older people in the borough are increasingly requesting relevant provision. It is expected that some parts of the programme will deliver services that include older people, or cater exclusively for them. With a changing picture for care of the elderly,

culture has an even more vital role to play in creating a vital lifeline for older people and in keeping them physically and mentally healthy.

### **3. Cultural diversity in service providers**

Cultural diversity is reflected in the range of participants using arts, culture, and heritage services in the borough. However, it is not reflected in the range of cultural organisations currently receiving the most significant amounts of funding, or those delivering higher-profile services. This is a London-wide issue, but is particularly pertinent to Southwark. The rich heritage of Southwark's diverse communities also needs to be reflected in cultural activities.

### **4. National policy and papers that influences the Council's programme**

- Independent review (and Government response) by Darren Henley for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Education (DCMS).
- Culture at the Heart of Regeneration (DCMS).
- Cultural Strategy for London, Cultural Metropolis (GLA).
- Music Education Strategy, Making Music Matter (GLA).
- The Disability Discrimination Act which imposes obligations in terms of improving access to facilities and services.

### **5. Council Policies**

- Southwark Young People's Plan 2010/2013.
- The Southwark Compact and associated guiding principles.
- Southwark Equalities and Human Rights Scheme.

### **6. Our Priorities for Contracts 2013/2014**

#### **6.1 The service is delivered in the context of the following Southwark priorities for Culture services:**

The services will be commissioned under the following themes. Services will be expected to address selected, not all, objectives under themes 1, 2, and 3. Theme 4 concerns artistic quality and all aspects of management and governance and services will be required to address this in detail.

#### **Theme 1. Creating a Fairer Borough**

- Enjoyment of culture and leisure through accessible culture and opportunities for participation by Southwark residents
- Increased access and opportunities out-of-schools hours in leisure time for good quality cultural activities, including children and young people who are most at risk of exclusion, such as looked after children and children with disabilities.
- Valuing diversity and being active citizens, including services that promote community cohesion, cultural understanding and exchange, and ensuring that services meet the needs of Southwark's communities.
- encouraging a sense of community and residents' involvement through cultural activity, including participation from socially excluded groups

## **Theme 2. Realising the Potential of Local People**

- Contributing to the educational achievement of children and young people (0-19 years) in the borough and celebrating their talents
- Helping to achieve economic well-being through access to skills and employment
- Encouraging health and well-being

## **Theme 3. Making Southwark a Place to be Proud of**

- Improving the physical and social well-being of local neighbourhoods through cultural activity.
- Contributing to the locality and community mix
- Promoting a liveable public realm
- Contributing to a mixed local economy
- Promoting sustainable use of resources

## **Theme 4. Commissioned services will deliver quality services, be accessible, customer focused and efficient.**

Services will demonstrate how they:

- Ensure artistic quality and innovation in their programmes.
- Effective leadership in all aspects of management and governance.
- Ensure quality and accessibility for the general public, audiences and participants maintain quality in work with other agencies.
- Is moving toward becoming stronger and sustainable as an organisation.

### **7.0 Outcomes**

Organisations will be expected to measure and achieve specific outcomes relevant to the theme, and proposals will need to demonstrate how this will be achieved. Organisations will be expected to report quarterly and through a six monthly written report and monitoring meeting.

According to the Taking Part 2011/12 Quarter 4 Statistical Release, 77.4 per cent of adults had engaged in the arts. We wish to maintain and improve on our performance in mirroring this statistic, and commissioned services are a key factor in achieving this.

### **7.1 Specific outcomes for commissioned projects include:**

- Recorded evidence of positive impact of participation by individuals and groups, including personal, social, learning and health improvements.
- Evidence of satisfaction with the quality of services.
- Proof that the project is meeting the needs of a local area or specific community.
- Evidence that the project is positively addressing issues of cultural diversity.

### **7.2 Outputs**

Commissioned organisations are expected to report quarterly on the following outcomes:

1. Southwark Schools participating in local authority funded arts programmes.
2. Numbers of Southwark children and young people (0-19) participating in local authority funded arts programmes and workshops.
3. Number of local authority funded events and programmes.
4. Total attendances at local authority funded events.
5. Percentage of users from ethnic minority groups.

Organisations are subject to a full monitoring procedure at six months which occurs with a board member and the Director of each organisation.

## 8.0 The Current Culture Service Contracts 2012/2013

Contracts are offered within the terms of the Council's Contract Standing Orders and Procurement Strategy. The current contracts are as follows:

Contract organisations	
Bermondsey Artists Group / Café Gallery	Contract (to be renewed in April 2013, until March 2014)
Blue Elephant Theatre	Contract (to be renewed in April 2013, until March 2014)
London Bubble Theatre	Contract (to be renewed in April 2013, until March 2014)
Theatre Peckham	Contract (to be renewed in April 2013, until March 2014)
Carl Campbell Dance Company 7	Contract (to be renewed in April 2013, until March 2014)
South London Gallery	Contract (to be renewed in April 2013, until March 2014)