Dear Resident,

Happy New Year!

It has been four months since we opened The White House as a new space for art and social activity on the Becontree Estate. We have held lots of exciting events and met some brilliant people. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the house so far, as it is the people that use the space that will continue to shape The White House.

The first artists who were in residence have now moved out, having completed their ambitious new art works in collaboration with people living in the borough. Chad McCail put on a humorous, irreverent socialist pantomime called *Jack, Jill and the Beanstalk*, at the Civic Centre and Patrick Goddard made an explosive new character-led short film *Tune in to Sanity FM!* with Ravindar Atwal, which premiered at Eastbury Manor House in Barking.

In the coming weeks two new artists will move in and begin their projects, meaning a whole new selection of exciting and interesting meetings, workshops and events for you to get involved in.

If you haven’t made it over to The White House yet, pop in and say hello!

Hope to see you soon,
all at Create
createlondon.org

Your New Neighbours

During her residency, artist Eve Chabanon will be working with teenage girls and young women to learn new skills. Turning her studio into a clubhouse, activities will range from starting a coding club, to learning how to make your own nail varnish. If you are ages 16 - 24 drop in and check it out!

Selected through an open call to the borough, and with the help of Creative Barking & Dagenham’s Cultural Connectors, we awarded Christina Ford with the fourth residency, for her proposal to work with single parent families. We met Christina through her work on Chad’s pantomime and were delighted that she applied for the residency. We are looking forward to seeing how her project develops.

Christina will be exploring the issues faced by and stigma’s attached to single parents to create a performance piece staged at The White House. She will be hosting evening meetings with Gingerbread Club (a nationwide charity for single parent families) as well as sessions you can bring your kids to. Keep an eye on the Facebook page or drop into the house for further details.

Quotes from local visitors

Aislinn Evans
‘The best thing about The White House is that it is really close to where everyone lives. It is so important for the arts to be in tune with the neighbourhood, the best art is in tune with its surroundings.’

Callum Excell
‘The White House makes the arts more accessible for people, it is free and anyone can get involved. We worked together on everything here. You come and it is generally a really nice vibe, everyone is really warm and friendly, it has a really nice atmosphere.’

Jimmy Lee
‘An amazing space to have in the borough. Instantly felt at home here when I visited, I’m sure it will blossom into a major venue in the borough to talk, make and display arts as well as making new friends, exciting.’
The Front Room

In addition to our artists’ programme, we host lots of regular drop-in activities in our front room.

Coffee Morning

Mondays 10am – 12pm, everyone welcome
Come and have a chin wag over free coffee and biscuits.

Dinner

Monday 6 February 6pm
Come and welcome the new artists and find out more about their projects. Bring something small to contribute.

Film Night

Tune Into Sanity FM! by Patrick Goddard
Wednesday 22 February 6pm

Jack, Jill & The Beanstalk of Chad McCail’s pantomime
Wednesday 29 March 6pm

What would you like to see in The White House? Send us your suggestions at whitehouse@createlondon.org and like @thewhitehousedagenham on Facebook to be kept up to date with all of our events.

Hardy Amies: A Dagenham Designer at Valence House

The British Tailor, Hardy Amies, lived in The White House as a child whilst the Becontree Estate was being built. Amies went on to design dresses for the Queen and for the 1966 World Cup winning team. Hardy Amies: A Dagenham Designer celebrates his life and connection to the borough. The exhibition is on until 25th of February, open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm at Valence House.

To accompany this there are free workshops and events programme inspired by Hardy Amies. To book email whitehouse@createlondon.org call 02082201172 or drop into the house.

Oral History Training with Eastside Heritage, Thurs 12th or Sat 14th of January, 10am – 4pm
Craft Workshop: Crochet, Tues 17 & Wed 18 January, 5pm – 7pm
Jimmy’s Becontree History Tours, Sat 21 January, 11am – 12noon or 2pm to 4pm
Craft Workshop: Needle Felt, Thurs 26 January, 2pm – 4.30pm
Film Screening: 2001: A Space Odyssey, Fri 27 January, 2pm – 4.30pm
Furniture Making Workshop at Blackhorse Workshop, 30 January – 1 February, 10am-4pm
Tour William Morris Gallery & Print Making Workshop, Mon 20 & Thurs 23 February, 10am-4pm