

Create London, in its tenth anniversary year, announces its most ambitious year of programming to date

- **North Woolwich Railway Line** – a re-development of derelict land around North Woolwich Station with muf architecture/art
- Building begins on **A House for Artists**
- The second edition of the long-term research project around social mobility in the arts, **Panic!**
- A new three year curatorial programme on one of the UK's largest industrial estates, **Old Oak and Park Royal**
- **Making Places**, a borough-wide public commissioning programme
- The launch of a new **young people's programme, We Can Create**
- The start of a new garden at **The White House**, Dagenham

The award-winning arts organisation Create London, now entering its tenth year, today announces its most ambitious year of projects to date, including three major new capital projects and the release of the Panic! papers which extend the 2015 survey on the issue of social mobility in the arts. Its upcoming projects represent its continued work around the edges of art, architecture and society and its commitment to establishing long-term projects which are spurred by some of London's most pressing social issues: affordable housing, access to art and questions around social mobility in the creative workforce.

At a time when life in London for artists and communities feels as precarious as ever Create London's work is increasingly focused on working with artists to explore and respond to some of the city's biggest challenges. A theme running across each of Create's projects this year is the art of infrastructure and the infrastructure of art. A key issue for London is finding secure and sustainable spaces for creative production and exchange - and for these places to include, provide access to and involve people from backgrounds which reflect the diversity of our city. Create's work in 2018 will concentrate on its goals to develop long-term projects which establish new kinds of infrastructure for artists to work in productive exchange with local communities.

Among the projects being announced today is a major capital project, the **North Woolwich Railway Line**. Based around an abandoned Victorian railway line in the Docklands, Create has partnered with art and architecture practice **muf**, with the people of North Woolwich and the Greater London Authority to make the end of the line into a new beginning. This project will renovate the former railway line from the west of Store Road to Pier Road in the east, starting with the building of a beer-brewing factory at the west end of the site, headed up by Newham resident and award-winning brewer Jenn Merrick. The brewery, called Earth Station, will train and employ local people to work in an industry which typically suffers from a lack of diversity despite rapid growth over the past five years.

The project has been awarded funds as part of the Mayor of London's London Regeneration Fund with a further funding contribution from Crossrail, and the project is being delivered in collaboration with the London Borough of Newham. The land has been leased for the next 20 years from TfL.

London's growth has too often delivered private profit at the expense of residents' quality of life and access to opportunity. North Woolwich is a prime example of this process - its eight thousand residents are surrounded by large infrastructure projects, which isolate the community while bringing little in terms of local value. muf and Create are working to reverse the trend, by finding a way to make every element of the renovation of the line deliver real benefit to local

people. Other aspects of this twenty-year project will include a new public garden, new spaces for artists, for local people and for social enterprise. After two years of research and planning, building works will start this spring.

Announced last year, this spring also sees the first open call for artists wanting to take up residency in the pioneering **A House for Artists**, a new 12 apartment building in Barking and Dagenham. The scheme has been designed by the young London-based architectural studio **Apparata**, in collaboration with the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham and with support from the GLA. The idea for the project stems from two major issues facing London: the lack of affordable housing for artists and a lack of funding for social spaces and community centres. The new building integrates work and community spaces where the artists will, as part of their tenancy, collaborate to develop and lead a public programme of activity responding to the context of local residents in Barking Town Centre. It aims to make a positive contribution to local infrastructure for art, to embed a long-term and sustainable space for arts engagement and education within the local community and to introduce the principle of more active affordable tenancies for skilled workers in London.

Following on from the inaugural edition in 2015, **Panic!** returns this Spring with the release of a major paper, written by Dave O'Brien, Orian Brook and Mark Taylor from the University of Edinburgh and the University of Sheffield, in collaboration with Arts Emergency and the Barbican and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, sharing the data gathered from the Panic! survey Create initiated back in 2015. It is the first time that sociologists have compared large-scale national datasets on social mobility with industry-specific information, offering new insights into the tastes, values and engagement of cultural workers compared to the rest of society, along with a series of talks, the release of the papers and a new art commission by artist and activist Ellie Harrison.

The papers will be released in early March, with a sector-based event at the Barbican to reflect on the papers on 1 May inviting key industry figures during the day, and opening up to the public for discussion in the evening. Whilst the papers shed light on the issues and challenges of entering the arts professions, they, along with the event, aim to make a significant step to change the conversation within the industry and how we might take action to affect real change in the creative economy.

Create today also announces its involvement as the Creative Programming Partner for the **Great Place Scheme**, funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, Arts Council England and Historic England, and taking place in and around one of the UK's largest regeneration and development project in **Old Oak and Park Royal**, west London, an area that will see significant levels of investment and development over the next 30-40 years. Park Royal is home to London's largest industrial estate, housing over around 1,700 businesses including McVities and a diverse range of smaller makers and factories. Part of Create's role will be to positively integrate art, heritage and local communities into the planning process for future development which includes a new HS2 and Crossrail Station and 25,500 new homes. The goal is that the plans for the area will be informed by a greater appreciation of the contribution that industry and manufacturing brings to this part of London. As well as an artist residency programme in local communities and businesses, the programme will see a major series of annual art commissions, food projects, open days, history and nature walks, school workshops and a grants programme for groups.

Making Places is a new project where artists, architects and landscape designers and have been invited to deliver public realm improvement works in partnership with Waltham Forest Council, bringing one new project to every ward in response to local residents' suggestions.

It aims to bring back design and artist-led approaches to enhancing the public realm of the borough through 20 new site-specific public improvement projects. Each project will take place at an ‘unloved’ site chosen in response to suggestions by local residents. These places include parks, street corners, forest schools, library gardens and other public spaces where long-term interventions will help support local communities’ engagement with the varied landscapes of the borough.

Finally, collective practice **They are Here** have been working with local residents in Dagenham over the past year to establish Beacon Garden a new outdoor space for the White House. Currently a disused car park, it will be transformed over 2018, into a site for food growing, non-human architecture and knowledge exchange. Central to the process is an ongoing dialogue with local residents of the Becontree Estate, once the largest social housing estate in the World.

Create was founded ten years ago to develop and curate a cultural legacy for the 2012 Olympic Games in East London. Create is behind long-term projects including the Blackhorse Workshop, Open School East and Company Drinks as well as some of the most striking and effective art and culture commissions East London has seen over the last ten years, including *You Me Bum Bum Train*, Station House Opera’s international hit *Dominoes*, and Assemble’s *Folly for a Flyover*. Create continues to work in a multi-disciplinary way and explores where the work of artists meets other disciplines including urbanism, architecture, municipality, entrepreneurialism and design.

Hadrian Garrard, Director of Create London said:

“Reaching 10 years means that we have a moment to reflect on what we’ve learned from working with some amazing artists and the many communities of east London. We’ve helped set up a public maker-space, *Blackhorse Workshop*, and east London’s largest free community arts festival *Walthamstow Garden Party*, an art school, *Open School East*, a community drinks company, *Company Drinks*, a soft play centre, *The Idol* and a job brokerage programme for young people, *Create Jobs*. It’s amazing to see some of the projects we’ve been involved with continue to thrive and we’re excited about starting a series of new, long term initiatives in 2018 which we hope will still be around in another 10, 20 and 30 years time.”

For all press enquiries, please contact annalie@createlondon.org

About Create

Create London is a charity that exists to explore the ways artists can contribute to the lives of people in cities. Its work is primarily focused in east London, home to more artists and art organisations than anywhere in Europe, and one of the most economically deprived parts of the UK. Create helps artists to connect more closely with communities through an ambitious programme of projects. Unlike a gallery or theatre, Create has no fixed public space, preferring to work in the places people encounter every day.

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