

Press Release

Tuesday 1 October 2019

IMAGES CAN BE DOWNLOADED [HERE](#)

Website: www.wfculture19.co.uk / www.artfund.org/assembly

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ONE-DAY FESTIVAL ANNOUNCED TO EXPLORE HOW ART CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND CHANGE LIVES

- **ART ASSEMBLY WILL TAKE PLACE IN WALTHAM FOREST ON SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER**
- **THE ONE DAY FESTIVAL WILL GATHER LEADING ARTS ORGANISATIONS FROM ACROSS THE UK TO EXPLORE THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF ART ON INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES**
- **FEATURING ARTS CATALYST, GRIZEDALE ARTS, HEART OF GLASS MIDDLESBROUGH INSTITUTE OF MODERN ART, SYNERGY THEATRE PROJECT AND MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED**
- **ART ASSEMBLY IS PRESENTED BY ART FUND AND WALTHAM FOREST LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE 2019**

This November Art Fund and the Mayor's first ever London Borough of Culture in Waltham Forest present a new festival – Art Assembly - that will explore the ways in which art can have a positive impact on the lives of local communities. Art Assembly will bring together leading socially engaged arts organisations to explore a range of inspiring projects through participation, performance and workshops.

Art Assembly gathers together artists and organisations that are using art and culture to examine and consider challenges facing communities. The featured organisations are all implementing innovative approaches to bring communities together and encourage positive social change.

London-based **Arts Catalyst** has invited artist duo ***a place of their own*** (**Sam Vardy** and **Paula McCloskey**) to consider approaches to climate change and the environment. Lake District based **Grizedale Arts** will construct an outdoor classroom and host a series of workshops with partner villages from across the globe - including self-build, fermentation and bakery. **Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art (MIMA)** will present a series of projects showcasing their innovative community engagement processes and projects, which reflects the voices, stories and experiences of the extraordinary people they serve.

Two of the organisations will tackle serious issues facing communities across the UK. Known for their work with prisoners, ex-offenders and young people 'at risk', **Synergy Theatre Project** will present two performances of their new play *To My Younger Self*. The play will explore knife crime and feature a Q&A with the cast and crew. St Helens-based **Heart of Glass** will work with artist **the vacuum cleaner (James Leadbitter)** to bring a elements of their *Madlove Take Over Festival* to Bangs Hair Salon. Artists from the festival will share their work whilst those in most need of care and pampering enjoy free haircuts, styling and mini manicures.

Art Assembly will showcase a range of activities and initiatives taking place in Waltham Forest as part of the festival. The day will explore homegrown projects from the borough that have been part of the London Borough of Culture programme and beyond.

During the festival visitors will also be able to see *Pioneers: William Morris and the Bauhaus* at **William Morris Gallery**, an exhibition showcasing objects made at the Bauhaus side-by-side with objects from the Arts and Crafts movement. William Morris, an advocate for art being available to all, believed passionately that art had the potential to enrich everyone's lives. This makes William Morris Gallery a particularly fitting focus for the festival activities.

Art Assembly takes place on Saturday 23 November in Walthamstow as part of the Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture 2019 programme. The free event will offer opportunities for arts professionals, educators and artists to make connections and find new ways of working.

Art Assembly will be taking place on the same weekend as the Mayor of London's disability arts festival *Liberty*, which is coming to Waltham Forest in partnership with London Borough of Culture 2019. Taking place on **Saturday 23** and **Sunday 24 November**, Liberty will be a weekend of ground-breaking work from Deaf and disability artists in spaces around Walthamstow. Full programme to be announced.

-ENDS -

For further information please contact The Corner Shop PR on 020 7831 7657

LISTING

ART ASSEMBLY

Saturday 23 November

Various venues and locations, Walthamstow, London

FREE

www.artfund.org/assembly

NOTES TO EDITORS

Art Fund

Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. In the past five years alone Art Fund has given £34 million to help museums and galleries acquire works of art for their collections. It also helps museums share their collections with wider audiences by supporting a range of tours and exhibitions and makes additional grants to support the training and professional development of curators. Art Fund is independently funded, with the core of its income provided by 151,000 members who receive the National Art Pass and enjoy free entry to over 240 museums, galleries and historic places across the UK, as well as 50% off entry to major exhibitions and subscription to Art Quarterly magazine. In addition to grant-giving, Art Fund's support for museums includes Art Fund Museum of the Year (won by St Fagans National History Museum near Cardiff in 2019) and a range of digital platforms.

Find out more about Art Fund and the National Art Pass at www.artfund.org

Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture 2019

Waltham Forest is the Mayor's first London Borough of Culture. The award, the flagship programme in his culture strategy, was a major new initiative launched by Sadiq to put culture at the heart of London's communities. More than 15,000 people backed Waltham Forest's bid, which aims to inspire 85% of households to participate in the cultural year, engage every school in the area in arts and culture, and to attract over half a million new visitors to the borough.

The year will explore the themes 'Radicals', 'Makers' and 'Fellowship' in a collaboration between local residents, artists and creatives creating a once in a life time celebration of the place we call 'home'. Waltham Forest, London Borough of Culture 2019 will shine a light on the character, diversity and cultures of the borough, the things we have in common and the things that make us different, a year-long celebration of the real cultures of London by the people who live here.

Funding for London Borough of Culture

The two winning London Boroughs of Culture (2019 and 2020) will receive a guaranteed fund of £1.35 million.

This comprises of £1.25m pledged

by City Hall with additional support from the City Bridge Trust of £100,000. In addition, a total of £1,004,000 has been allocated to up to six additional boroughs for individual landmark projects – the Mayor's Cultural Impact Award. This comprises £904,000 from City Hall and £100,000 from the City Bridge Trust. The winning boroughs will also be supported to bid for funds that have been agreed by external partners Paul Hamlyn Foundation and Heritage Lottery Fund. The Heritage Lottery Fund and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation will work with the winning boroughs to help them secure further funding for bespoke cultural projects that will help bring real change to local boroughs. Boroughs are expected to provide at least 30% match funding (25% in cash, 5% in kind).

About the City of London Corporation

The City of London Corporation is the governing body of the Square Mile dedicated to a vibrant and thriving City, supporting a diverse and sustainable London within a globally-successful UK www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

About City Bridge Trust

City Bridge Trust is the City of London Corporation's charitable funder. It is London's biggest independent grant giver, making grants of £20 million a year to tackle disadvantage across the capital. City Bridge Trust has awarded more than 7,700 grants totalling over £370 million since it first began in 1995. It helps achieve the City Corporation's aim of changing the lives of hundreds of thousands of Londoners.

Airbnb

Airbnb is supporting the London Borough of Culture with funding to promote healthy tourism. Airbnb's Community Tourism Programme, will support the Mayor's winning boroughs – Waltham Forest and Brent – by funding innovative local community project 'Listen Local'. This will place writers in Waltham Forest and Brent to work with local creative talent and their communities to uncover hidden stories about local people and places.