

Imagine Islington Culture Strategy

2024-2030

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Foreword

Culture is a powerful force for positive change. It enhances our well-being, reduces stress, and connects the communities we live in. It helps people to express themselves and feel empowered. It brightens the world around us, attracting visitors and investment. It provides jobs, gives entrepreneurs new opportunities, brings vibrancy to local high streets, and supports hundreds of supply chain businesses.

Islington is a cultural powerhouse, with more cultural organisations than almost anywhere else in the country. We have a huge diversity and richness of culture and communities, award-winning venues like The Almeida and Sadlers Wells, vibrant community organisations hosting a multitude of events and activities, restaurants serving cuisines from around the globe, and heritage woven into our streets, parks, and buildings.

In 2019, we launched the 11 by 11 commitment for every child and young person in an Islington school to have 11 inspiring cultural experiences by Year 11, and we have provided 48,675 cultural opportunities for children since then. In 2023, we secured accreditation for our first Creative Enterprise Zone as part of our wider support for the creative industries in Islington.

Despite this, Islington's children and young people are the most deprived in London for income deprivation and the borough has the fifth highest proportion of older people affected by income deprivation in England. Brexit, the pandemic, and the rising cost of living have threatened the survival of many of our cultural organisations and have widened the gap between the richest and poorest residents.

Cultural opportunities are out of reach for many local people. They tell us making ends meet is a constant struggle, leaving them with no room in their budget for the cultural experiences that others enjoy. And it's not just about money, it's also about time poverty, location, culturally appropriate activities and not knowing what is on.

As a council, our goal for 2030 is to make Islington more equal. Through this strategy, our ambition is to make the borough a place where everyone, no matter their age or background, can enjoy the benefits that culture can bring to their lives. That's why this strategy focuses on making sure that people from marginalised backgrounds or with low income can access the diverse range of cultural opportunities available in Islington.

Together, the Council and cultural organisations must work to make sure culture continues to define Islington, as a destination, attracting visitors from across the world, and, as a home, where people of all backgrounds and heritage feel they belong and can be creative.

Local people also want to make change happen, and together we need to make it possible for everyone to have a hand in shaping the places where they live.

Come join us on this journey to turn Imagine Islington into reality! Let's make our borough a place pulsating with creativity, full of inspiring spaces where everyone feels at home. Let's make this a place where culture enhances our society, and every day brings a chance to explore and express yourself.

Councillor Roulin Khondoker

Executive Member for Equalities, Culture, and Inclusion

One local person we spoke to puts it like this:

“Culture is something that is already in everybody's life – through cooking, through gardening, through telling their own stories – and no one needs to change who they are to get involved in cultural activities”.

Introducing Imagine Islington

What do we know about culture and creativity?

In this strategy, we take a broad view of culture and creativity, following the lead of the Let's Create Strategy by Arts Council England (ACE).¹ We believe that, by opening up our idea of what culture is, we can better reflect what local people want, how they identify and what they are passionate about.

What is culture?

Culture means different things to different people. It can mean doing things that let us be creative - like music, art, fashion - or enjoying the pleasure of other people's creativity. It can mean expressing and celebrating our ideas, identity, heritage, and traditions. Culture can also be about connecting with the world around us in a meaningful way and feeling safe, like we belong.

What is everyday creativity?

Creativity is how people use their skills and knowledge to imagine or make something new or do something in a different way.² Everyday creativity is something that everyone can be a part of, whether at home or in the outside world. You might have a hobby or passion, such as crafting or gardening, or you might enjoy telling jokes. Everyday creativity can make our lives a little more fun or help us find a solution to a difficult situation.

Like the Arts Council, we want to celebrate the creative lives of everyone and make sure that "the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish."³

Why does Islington need a culture strategy?

Why does culture matter?

In recent years, the Greater London Authority (GLA), the Local Government Association (LGA)⁴, Arts Council England (ACE)⁵ and the Centre for Cultural Values⁶ have all written about why they believe culture is vitally important.

The United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) [2020 Rome Charter](#) argues that culture is an essential tool to help fight poverty and strengthen communities as a driver of sustainable development⁷. The GLA's [Culture for all Londoners](#) strategy describes culture as something that brings all Londoners together, inspiring and helping people to live more satisfying lives.

"Culture is our city's DNA. It's the thing that binds us all together - both in times of crisis and in times of celebration. Culture is what makes the daytime thrive and the night-time come alive." – Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London

According to the GLA, art on prescription can lead to savings in patient treatment by reducing anxiety and stress, and music therapy has reduced the need for medicine in 67% of people with dementia.⁸ In other words, arts and culture can ease the pressure on healthcare services.

Culture can help local people to make changes in their lives and communities. Meeting people through cultural activities can help anyone, no matter where they come from, get a new job, volunteer in the community or just find more fun stuff to do. The more people know and feel connected to each other, the less they feel lonely and the more they feel like they belong.⁹ This can lead to less crime and more people getting involved in activities that can make Islington a better place for everyone.

What can culture do for Islington?

The cultural and creative sector is an important part of Islington's economy, providing 8% of jobs in the borough¹⁰, but, with increasing pressure from rising rents and the conversion of affordable workspaces into alternative uses, many artists and small businesses in Islington are being forced to relocate. The number of Arts Council England regularly funded organisations in Islington will have fallen from 36 in 2010 to 15 by the end of 2024.

Cultural organisations and the Council can work together to help the sector to thrive. We can grow audiences by encouraging more people from outside and inside Islington to find out about the great cultural experiences they could have in the borough. By working together more closely, we can make sure that a wider range of people get to experience cultural activities, especially those who haven't had many opportunities previously.

Although people often think of Islington as a place of great wealth, it is the 6th most deprived local authority in London, and 27.5% of the Islington residents are facing income deprivation, compared with 21.3% in London as a whole.¹¹ If someone isn't healthy or has a disability, it can be harder for them to do the things they enjoy, and they can miss out on the many cultural activities happening in the borough.¹² This plan is about making sure everyone in Islington, especially those from marginalised backgrounds, can get involved in activities that benefit them.

Cultural activities can help people of all ages and backgrounds learn transferable skills and get into employment in any sector, and we will improve the pathways for them to find jobs in the creative industries, if they wish. Our vision for culture in Islington matches the GLA's ambitions to invite more diverse people into experiencing and creating culture, to invest in creative Londoners, especially young people, and to help cultural organisations grow and thrive.¹³

What is the vision?

Our vision is for a more equal and connected Islington, where everyone can celebrate the joy of everyday creativity and experience the cultural activities they love.

The lives of Islington people of all ages are enriched every day by culture and creativity reflecting who they are, where they come from and who they could become.

When we create together, we make links which bridge generations and communities and make positive changes happen.

What does the Imagine Islington vision mean for you?

If you live in Islington, this means that you will have more opportunities to do things you love and be creative. You will also be able to learn about different cultures, their heritage and traditions, and you will be able to feel safe and welcome in Islington, no matter who or how old you are, or where you come from.

If you are an Islington cultural organisation or business, this means we can work together and support one another, to deliver accessible cultural and creative activity to all local people, particularly for those who need it most.

If you are a visitor to Islington, this means we will give you a reason to visit and re-visit our borough to enjoy its vibrant cultural scene, see amazing art, experience its diversity, try delicious cuisine and stroll through its rich history.

Imagine Islington Aims

Imagine an Islington where everyone feels like they belong and where everyone has a fair chance to reach their full potential. Culture can play a key role in empowering all local people to realise their aspirations. This could be anything from feeling a stronger connection to their community and improving their health and well-being to learning new skills or getting a job.

We know that this is out of reach for many people in the borough. That's not fair, and we want to change that. We want to make sure that people who find it difficult to get involved in cultural activities, such as those from marginalised backgrounds, can enjoy creative experiences. This means tackling barriers like lack of money, lack of time to travel to and attend activities and not knowing what's on and where.

We've spoken and listened to the community and the culture sector, and this has helped us create a plan to enable everyone to have the opportunity to be creative, celebrate their own culture and enjoy other cultures.

At the heart of this strategy is the Council's Islington Together 2030 ambition to make Islington a more equal place. That is why we have organised the Imagine Islington aims into five themes which link to the five priorities of the [Islington Together 2030 plan](#): [Child-friendly Islington](#), [Fairer Together](#), [A safe place to call home](#), [Community Wealth Building](#) and [Greener, healthier Islington](#).

Imagine Islington Themes

1. Connecting Communities

We want people to come together to be creative or enjoy other people's everyday creativity, helping people from different backgrounds and heritage to learn from each other and understand each other better. We will support organisations to understand the needs of local people and have the resources to deliver in environmentally sustainable ways.

2. Health and Wellbeing

We want to help people improve their health and wellbeing through creativity. We want people to know about all the activities they can do, so they can find something that makes them feel happy and healthy.

3. Children and Young People

Every child and young person in Islington should have the chance to do whatever cultural activities they enjoy and discover new ways to be creative, both in school and outside of school. These activities help children to grow and learn about themselves and others and to develop the skills they need to succeed in life.

4. Inspiring Spaces

We want Islington to be filled with inspiring spaces – like venues, parks, community centres, libraries, and streets - where people can experience culture and their heritage. Our spaces should be low carbon, safe and welcoming for everyone and be accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

5. Creative Enterprise and Pathways

We want to make sure that Islington is home to an ambitious, dynamic and resilient creative sector, where organisations can grow sustainably through business networks and attract audiences from near and far. We want to help people of all ages and backgrounds to develop skills, improve their employment opportunities and create clear career pathways into the creative sector.

We will achieve these aims through **co-creation** and **partnership working**. We've made sure that local people, organisations, and businesses have had a say in shaping this strategy by talking to them and involving them in the writing, and it will be made real by everyone working in partnership, sharing ideas, plans and resources.

Understanding Islington

How have we developed this strategy?

We want to make Islington a fairer place for everyone, and we're determined to do that by working with and listening to our different communities. We want to understand their different experiences and heritage, so that we can come up with ideas together that will really make a difference. That's how we made this strategy, and that's how we'll put it into action.

The Centre for Cultural Values points out that often people talking about culture don't consider a wide enough range of views.¹⁴ So, we set out to talk to the people who live, work and study here in as many ways as possible. We went to people where they were, to make it as easy as possible for everyone to have their voice heard and listened to, and we paid particular attention to communities that aren't often heard.

We brought different groups in Islington together to work on this strategy. We asked people who help the community and people who work in arts and culture to join forces. They helped us make sure the strategy is right and that it works for everyone.

We held two online surveys for local people and businesses so they could tell us what they love to do and the barriers they face. We created spaces in more than 20 creative workshops for people to have fun while talking about what culture means for them. We chatted to people in community centres and libraries and at pop-up stalls across the borough from Chapel Market to Gillespie Park.

We also looked at regional and national evidence to help us understand what cultural organisations need to keep making creative things happen in the borough.

In total, we listened to what almost 1000 local people and organisations said about their hopes for culture and creativity in Islington to help us decide together the focus of Imagine Islington and what we need to do to make it reality. We know this is only a small proportion of the people that make up Islington, and this is just the start of our conversations with the community to learn about what they need and work out solutions.

What do we know about the borough?

Islington's population

Islington is a small, densely populated, inner London borough with a growing, diverse, and relatively young population. It's a borough of stark contrasts. On one hand, lots of people in this borough are struggling to make ends meet. They may be on benefits or out of work for a long time, and many of them are sick or have a shorter life expectancy. But there are also some much wealthier people in the borough, and many people see it as a place where celebrities live, with expensive shops and restaurants.

We are lucky that Islington is a place where lots of cultural and creative activities happen and people of all kinds of backgrounds can celebrate their identities and heritage, but we know that most residents in the borough struggle to do what they love, because of their circumstances, and this is what we want to change.

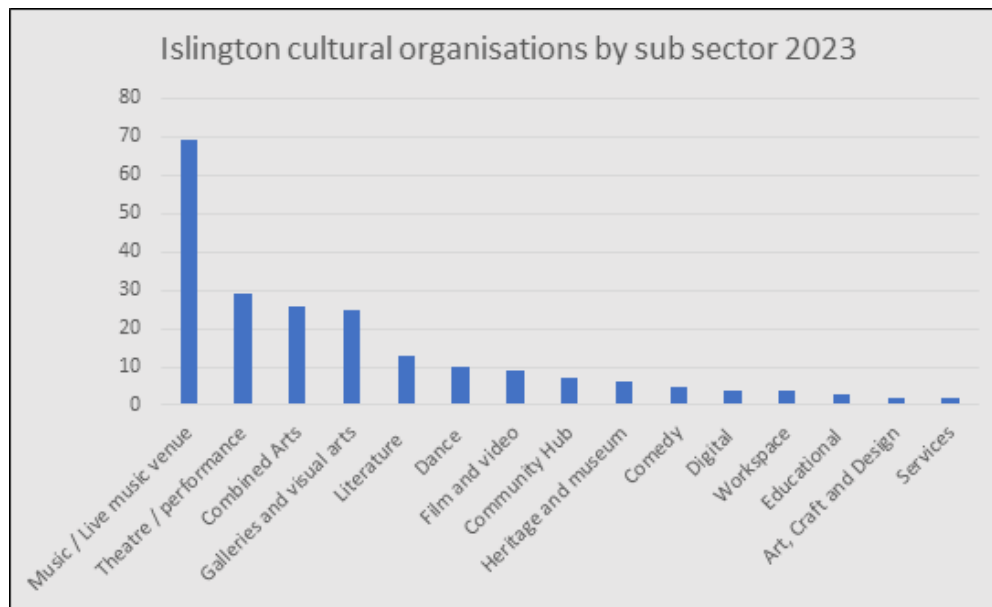
Key facts *(Infographics)*

- The population of Islington is estimated to be 247,463 in 2023. This is an increase of approximately 20% (41,178 people) since 2011.¹⁵
- Poverty is an issue in every part of the borough: 27.5% of the Islington residents are facing income deprivation, compared with 21.3% in London¹⁶.
- Islington is the most deprived borough in London for income deprivation affecting children, and fourth highest for income deprivation affecting older people.¹⁷
- 21% of Islington school pupils have some form of Special Educational Needs. This compares to 16% for London and 17% for England.¹⁸
- There are 3,925 people in Islington living with a serious mental illness.¹⁹
- Only 13% of the borough's land is green space, the second lowest proportion of any local authority in the country.²⁰

- 40% of Islington residents were born outside of the United Kingdom compared to 17% in England and Wales.²¹

What do we know about Islington’s cultural sector?

Who are our cultural organisations?



There are more cultural organisations in Islington than in almost any other area of the country.²² The council’s database of 214 culture organisations gives a snapshot of the cultural sector in the borough.²³ The diagram below shows how those organisations break down according to

type of artform. Music-related organisations are the biggest category – there are almost 70 live music venues, clubs and recording studios. There are also lots of theatres, galleries, museums and combined arts organisations.

Islington has many Arts Council England regularly funded National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs) and Investment Principles Support Organisations (IPSOs); only Camden, Southwark, Hackney, Tower Hamlets, and Westminster host more NPOs/IPSOs. You can see the full list of current NPOs and IPSOs below:

Almeida Theatre Company
 Aurora Orchestra
 Company Three
 Contemporary Art Society
 Crafts Council
 Cubitt Artists Limited
 Film London
 Libraries Connected
 Marsm
 National Assoc. for Gallery Education

National Youth Jazz Collective
 National Youth Theatre of Great Britain
 Paines Plough
 Poet in the City
 Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Ltd
 Sadler's Wells
 Serious Events Limited
 Sinfonietta Productions Limited
 ZooNation: The Kate Prince Company Ltd

We should be careful not to take for granted the cultural wealth in Islington. We need to bear in mind that the number of ACE regularly funded organisations in Islington has fallen dramatically from 36 in 2010 to 19 at present. That number will fall still further to 15 in 2024, when Libraries Connected, National Association for Gallery Education, National Youth Jazz Collective and Paines Plough move out of the borough as part of the Arts Council funding shift out of London to meet the government's Levelling Up objectives.

The shift of ACE funding out of London is likely to mean that marginalised people in Islington have less opportunities to get involved in cultural activities. We want to make sure that everyone in Islington has the same chances, no matter what their background, and we will stand up for local people to make sure that the government and other organisations continue to pay attention to the stark inequalities that exist in the borough.

Key facts *(Infographics)*

- Islington's cultural sector attracts £81m p.a. to the borough.
- In 2023, ACE invested over £11.4 million in Islington arts and cultural organisations via various grants, including £10.2 million for National Portfolio Organisations, £625,000 in National Lottery Project Grants and £550,200 in Strategic Funds.
- In 2022, 6,029 of the 216,589 jobs in Islington were in the Arts, Recreation and Entertainment sectors. A further 12,650 jobs exist in the creative sector.
- Current evidence indicates the overall cultural workforce reflects Islington's population, but the ACE 2018/19 annual survey showed only 11% of Islington's NPO's were led by leaders from Black and Minority Ethnic groups, and only 4% were led by someone from the LGBTQ+ community and the disabled community.
- Individuals and organisations receiving ACE Lottery Project grants are more diverse, with Black, Asian, or other Minority Ethnic groups, women, LGBTQ+ and disabled led individuals and organisations receiving a more proportionate amount of funds relative to the demographics of Islington.

What are the challenges facing cultural organisations?

Rising costs and falling income

A survey²⁴ of Islington arts and culture organisations in Summer 2023 found that they face lasting problems which have got worse because of the COVID-19 pandemic and rising costs. It's getting harder for local arts and culture organisations to raise money because more and more funding is going to places outside of London.

Skills gap and unclear pathways

It's difficult for arts and culture employers to find and keep skilled workers. They often have to look outside of Islington to find the best people with the skills needed to work in the sector. Employers may also be hesitant or unable to take on apprentices because apprenticeship programs are complicated and it takes a lot of resources to train new people in their workplaces. Pathways for people to get into the sector are unclear and need to be easier to find.

Leadership is not diverse

Although it seems the diversity of people working at Islington cultural organisations generally reflects the people who live in Islington, we need to find ways of improving opportunities to progress into senior leadership roles for people with protected characteristics.

Not enough affordable spaces

It's a constant struggle for arts and culture organisations to find and keep affordable places to work and do their activities in Islington. This has led to some organisations closing and others moving to another borough.

All these challenges have been made worse by a lack of local networks and knowledge about the sector.

The Islington Culture Sector Survey 2023²⁵ report says that cultural organisations need support in the following areas:

- Stronger local networks
- Support to access funding
- Support on data and impact measurement
- A regulatory environment (licensing, planning, street closures etc) that nurtures cultural businesses and the night time economy, encouraging experimentation and a broader reach into Islington's communities.

Who attends cultural events in Islington? (Infographics)

We don't know exactly who makes up the audience for cultural activities in Islington, but we do know that, nationally, people who have health problems or come from poorer families are less likely to get involved in arts and culture.

We talked to people in Islington in Spring and Summer 2023, and we heard that one of the biggest reasons people don't get involved in cultural activities is because they can't afford it. We need to keep talking to people to learn more about this and build our evidence. In the meantime, if we assume that Islington audiences are similar in make-up to London's as a whole, the comparison will look like this:

London Audiences	Islington Population (ONS)
83% over 35	46% over 35
16% Black, Asian & Ethnically diverse	31% Black, Asian & Ethnically diverse
8% Disabled	10% Disabled

Almost 47% of the Islington population spent time doing a creative, artistic, theatrical or music activity or a craft in the last year, with only the City of London and Richmond-upon-Thames residents being more active. Almost 69% of the borough's residents attended a cultural event, performance, or festival in the last year, with only the City of London, Richmond-upon-Thames and Hammersmith and Fulham attending more. 44.4% had used a public library service in the last year, 70.6% had attended a museum or gallery and 30% had been to a dance performance.²⁶

What have we heard from our communities?

To get a better idea of what a shared vision for culture in Islington might look like, we decided to explore what culture and creativity really feels like for local people. Through the Imagine Islington engagement programme, we delved deeper into what culture means to Islington people and what helps and stops people doing what they love. We asked people for ideas of how we could work together to build a place where everyone can enjoy the benefits of culture and creativity.

From surveys and workshops to singing sessions and theatre, we listened to people in our communities. You can find out more about our full engagement programme and methodology in Appendix A.

We surveyed 300 local people to find out a sample of what cultural, creative and leisure activities you love to do (*infographic/visual*).

- Survey respondents told us they enjoy a **wide variety of different activities**, with the most common responses being:
 - **Outdoors or nature activities (41%)**
 - Drama and theatre (25%)
 - Museum, galleries, or archives (25%)
 - Cinema (23%)
 - Music (22%)
 - Sports e.g., Physical activity or sporting events (20%)
- The most frequent responses for **why** survey respondents do activities were:
 - **Supporting physical and mental health (83%)**
 - Spending time with friends and families (64%)
 - Developing skills and knowledge (54%)
 - Connecting with people across communities (47%)
- The biggest **barriers** to cultural activities overall were people **not knowing what is available** (40%), activities being **too expensive** (35%) and people **not having enough time** (32%).
- Most commonly **people do activities at home** (72%), at **cultural organisations** like museums and theatres (64%) and in **parks and adventure playgrounds**. Libraries, and community centres were also key locations.

We heard about a rich, diverse range of experiences from local people through the survey, alongside targeted creative workshops and focus groups. Several key messages emerged, including (*infographic/visual*):

- Most people we asked **agree that Islington is a place where everyone can enjoy cultural activities**, but some people felt **excluded** from doing what they love or celebrating their culture.
- Many people **don't know what opportunities are on offer** or **can't afford them**.
- **Disabled people, people from low socio-economic backgrounds and migrants** said key barriers to getting involved were **mental health and anxiety, feelings of safety and belonging** and **a lack of support and connection** – for example transport, time, language and childcare.
- Local people, the council and cultural and community organisations said that culture was key to support **physical and / or mental health and wellbeing**. People also highlighted the **importance of greenspaces and outdoor cultural activity**.

- Children and Young People of school age have good cultural opportunities, but there are **gaps in delivery for those under 5 and over 26**, particularly for those from **more marginalised groups**.
- **Identity and belonging are key** when people talk about culture and what they want to see happen, particularly for specific **age groups, ethnicities, and disability access**.
- We need more **relationship building and joined up working** between council services as well as with cultural and community partners.

A snapshot of Islington stories

“I took part in the Jazz, funk, fusion and afrobeat band hosted by Music Education Islington. I saw fliers up in my school about them and one of my friends had gone already so I knew a little bit about what the experience would be like.

I would say the band had a pretty big impact on my life. It boosted my confidence and self-esteem in performing in front of crowds and just people in general. I also learned different types of scales and got training you wouldn't really experience in other clubs/bands. The band taught me the experience of performing with other players and band etiquette that you can only learn from experience, it helped me to make new friends, learn about new people, instruments step out of my comfort zone and overall was just so much fun.”

Anonymous, Islington Young Person participating with Music Education Islington

“I came to Mind because of a road accident. A friend encouraged me to come to Mind. It helped me to get out of the house and to get involved with art and creativity.

I've done painting, drawing and have been learning the piano.

It has made me feel good. It has helped me to get out of the house and be active. After the road accident I was mainly at home. Taking part in the art activities enabled me to feel part of the group and to connect with other people. I have socialised, which has been really nice, because I have felt welcomed.”

Anonymous, Islington Resident participating with Islington Mind

Tony participates in *Well Versed*, an All Change weekly creative programme with older people. The group collaborate with professional artists, write and perform poetry, take part in improvisation, dance and music. They have performed original work at local venues such as Almeida Theatre and Arsenal's Emirates Stadium. They curate and host Rub-A-Dub Caribbean socials and Block Parties in care homes; and take part in intergenerational projects with UAL students, local young women, children at local adventure playgrounds, and beyond.

"The most significant change for me, within and without... is that my 'Celebrity Status' – both in my 'local' pub and the wider community, has improved significantly – although I refuse to give autographs! I feel closer to my niece, friends, and neighbours – because they have been invited to come along – to see me perform and join in. I bump into some of the people who I have performed with and that means something special to me."

Tony's Story



How to make culture part of everyone's life

Islington's vibrant cultural scene is full of potential but making it truly accessible to everyone requires collaboration. Cultural organisations are eager to get more local people involved in their activities, particularly those from marginalized communities. However, they need support to do this effectively.

Working together is key. The Council, cultural groups and community organisations need to collaborate closely to strengthen the cultural sector and make Islington a destination, which will attract visitors and give businesses the resources they need to thrive.

A thriving cultural sector can put more energy into making cultural activities a natural part of all local people's lives, more than just an occasional visit. Together, we need to make sure cultural organisations have the information, support and connections they need to reach more marginalized communities.

By working together, we can create a richer, more inclusive culture for everyone, where everyone has a chance to participate.

Priority Programmes

Connecting Communities

What do we want to achieve?

We want people to come together to be creative or enjoy other people’s everyday creativity, helping people from different backgrounds and heritage to learn from each other and understand each other better. We will support organisations to understand the needs of local people and have the resources to deliver in sustainable ways.

In the words of local people and a local organisation:

<p>“Need to publicise not just on the internet, but important to talk to people, go to places to engage with people and let them know what is available.”</p>	<p>“Sadlers Wells is always broadening its reach in the community, from our work with schools, working with special educational needs groups through Breaking Convention and our Company of Elders, an older people’s dance group. But post-pandemic recruitment has remained a challenge.”</p>	<p>“If activities are local and cheap or free, there is nothing that stops me. I can't do things that are expensive or far away.”</p>
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What are we already doing?

- **Islington Life** – An online and print magazine which features blog posts about Islington people and organisations as well as a ‘Things to Do’ page listing upcoming events.
- **Find Your Islington** - An online directory bringing together local support, services, and things to do in your community, whether you are living, visiting, or working in Islington.
- **Equality Events** - A year-round celebratory and commemorative public events programme led by Islington Council, for all residents and specific communities.
- **Arts on the Estates** - A programme that helps local people engage in arts activities close to where they live in community centres and partner venues on Islington estates.
- **Heritage Service Events and Community Engagement** - Islington’s heritage brought to life with local people exploring stories of our communities, which are preserved in buildings, in traditions or songs, in documents and objects.

What else will we do?

- **Love Your Islington** - We will talk to people who live in Islington to find out how they hear about things happening around them, and then we'll make it easier for everyone to get the information they need to get involved in local activities.
- **Growing Culture Funding Pot** - A new programme to give money to residents, artists and organisations to run free events and activities, especially those aimed at people who may not have had many chances to get involved in arts and culture.
- **Connections** - A new programme to help Islington Council staff and key workers understand how culture and creativity can help the local people that they work with.
- **The Imagine Islington Network & Roundtable** - A new network open to anyone interested in culture and creativity, where people can gather, share information and plan how to make even more exciting work together.

Health and Wellbeing

What do we want to achieve?

We want to help people improve their health and wellbeing through creativity. We want people to know about all the activities they can do, so they can find something that makes them feel happy and healthy.

In the words of local people:

“There's a big issue of loneliness and social isolation and being supported to attend activities and events in the community would help with that.”

“Separate classes made specific to cater to the needs of those with disabilities so they can feel included in community activities that also will help them meet people similar to them.”

“Having regular, free/low-cost access to services would drastically improve wellbeing and maybe even prevent going to the GP in the first place. I'm not saying GPS can't prescribe activities, it just shouldn't be the only way to access them”.

What are we already doing?

- **Parks for Health Strategy** - The Council invests in parks and works with voluntary and community organisations and health partners to offer a range of different programmes including Green Social Prescribing.
- **Active Islington Strategy** - Focusing on the borough's least active residents, supporting groups who are traditionally less likely to take part in physical activity, and promoting physical activity to support mental health and help people prevent or manage long-term conditions.
- **Islington Libraries: Books for Health** - Islington's libraries provide a comfortable environment for residents to read, select books, access information, study and take part in a range of free regular activities which support their health and wellbeing.
- **Bright Lives** - An early help service where adults can get 1-1 coaching support for up to six months to build resilience, independence, and wellbeing.
- **WE Heal Fund** - A grant programme for individuals and organisations to deliver participatory arts which aim to improve the mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing of Islington women and children who have experienced violence.

What else will we do?

- **Pop-up Arts at the Park** - We are bringing more cultural activities to parks and green spaces to add to the existing Green Social Prescribing offer and other Parks for Health activities like walks and gardening.
- **Islington Creative Health Zone** – We will make Islington a Creative Health Zone to help local people to improve their health and wellbeing through creative early intervention, working together with the Islington Borough Partnership and leisure partners, alongside Islington Public Health, Adult Social Care and Children's Services.
- **Targeted programmes for Arts, Health and Wellbeing** - Local people and organisations will be able to apply for funding through the Growing Culture Funding Pot to do arts and cultural activities aimed at people from marginalised groups.

Children and Young People

What do we want to achieve?

Every child and young person in Islington should have the chance to do whatever cultural activities they enjoy and discover new ways to be creative, both in school and outside of school. These activities can help children grow and learn about themselves and others and develop the skills they need to succeed in life.

In the words of local people:

“Generally, you're really stuck if you don't know what's happening for children and young ... We need to make it easier for families to know what's happening.”

“All children should be offered extra-curricular activities in every state school not just a select few”

“Have more intergenerational events. Connect more with the community and work with them to make Islington a fun place where we learn together.”

What are we already doing?

- **11 by 11** - A commitment for all children and young people attending a school in Islington to have 11 outstanding cultural experiences by Year 11. It also provides activities for targeted groups of young people in more challenging circumstances up to age 19.
- **Youth Offer** - Islington has a range of facilities and services for young people, including 12 adventure playgrounds, youth hubs, and loads of clubs and groups.
- **Music Education Islington** - The Music Education Hub for the London Borough of Islington, led by Islington Council and Guildhall School of Music & Drama, in partnership with Music in Secondary Schools Trust and leading arts organisations and funders.
- **Children in Need programme** - Together with the Virtual School, the Council delivers targeted creative projects for children and young people with allocated social workers.

What else will we do?

- **11 by 11 Plus** - We will widen what 11 by 11 does, improving the links between secondary schools and youth providers to help get children motivated to attend school and learn. We will expand provision for early years settings, working with children 0–5 years old.
- **North London Music Hub** - Music Education Islington will join a wider partnership of London boroughs – Camden, Haringey, Enfield, and Barnet – to create a North London Music Hub with more opportunities for children and young people to progress in learning.
- **A Creative Family Friendly Islington** - We will help families, particularly those who might have a harder time getting involved in arts and culture, to do free and affordable activities, supporting the Council's 2030 goal of a borough-wide Child Friendly Islington.

Inspiring spaces

What do we want to achieve?

We want Islington to be filled with inspiring spaces – like venues, parks, streets and leisure centres - where people can experience culture and their heritage. Our spaces should be low carbon, safe and welcoming for everyone and be accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

In the words of local people:

“Help to make more use of underused spaces - including churches and chapels.”

“Giving more space to smaller community-based festivals. Don't know where to start to organise something myself - finding out about those things as they are happening is difficult. Finding venues to run things...everything is high cost for people to book as community groups.”

“Such a lovely Borough... could put so much more on display!”

What are we already doing?

- **Islington Community Festivals Fund** - A three-year grant fund for borough wide arts-led festivals to deliver innovative, community-focused events where people of every background can participate and celebrate together.
- **Islington Council Venues Community Free Hire Scheme** – A yearly programme of free hires of Islington Assembly Hall and Town Hall Rooms for Islington community groups, schools and colleges, arts, and cultural organisations.
- **Islington Film Office** – The Film Office promotes Islington as a location for internationally renowned production companies to shoot TV programmes and films.
- **Supporting the night-time economy** - Islington Licensing and the Local Economies team work to support local businesses to thrive, as well as be compliant and well-regulated, run safely and inclusively, working in partnership with the council and the community to make a positive contribution to our Borough.

What else will we do?

- **Public Art** - New guidelines for people who want to commission public art, with funding dedicated to creating safer, more connected communities, enhancing local environments and heritage and making Islington neighbourhoods nicer places to live.
- **Creative Places** - Affordable spaces for artists, studios and events will fuel a vibrant creative scene. Partnerships with creative, culture and leisure organisations will boost Islington's day and night-time economies, attract visitors and create places where people of all backgrounds can relax, have fun and feel safe.
- **Easy Events** - We'll collaborate across Council departments to streamline event planning for residents and organisations, so they can host safe, inclusive and sustainable events.
- **Made in Islington Festival** - Local cultural organisations will lead an annual month-long festival of arts and culture featuring work made by, with and for local people.
- **Community Festivals Development Programme** – We'll build on the existing Community Festivals programme to help local people become Community Producers, supporting them to start and develop their own community events and festivals.

Creative Enterprise and Pathways

What do we want to achieve?

We want to make sure that Islington is home to an ambitious, dynamic and resilient creative sector, where organisations can grow sustainably through business networks and attract audiences from near and far. We want to help people of all ages and backgrounds to develop skills, improve their employment opportunities and create clear career pathways into the creative sector.

In the words of local businesses and people:

“At National Youth Theatre, we develop opportunities for young people. With many accessing our provision from challenging backgrounds, this means focusing on pastoral care as much as it does on skills.”

“I'd like to see more affordable short courses where people can come away with new learning. Getting something out of it. There's not as much adult education as there used to be.”

What are we already doing?

- **World of Work** – Working with schools and colleges to support young people aged up to 18 to explore career paths in the creative industries, through workplace visits, careers talks and work experience.
- **Local Economies** – Working with businesses to organise events and promote activities in Islington town centres which showcase the best of local talent and bring communities and visitors together to experience cultural activities
- **LIFT** - Islington, Camden, Hackney, and Tower Hamlets councils work together to support residents from underrepresented backgrounds to find jobs and training, and start and grow businesses in the thriving creative, tech and science sectors, including digital media and gaming.
- **Cultural employment partnerships** - Working in partnership with National Youth Theatre to develop a careers carousel programme supporting young people who are NEET and with Small Green Shoots to give 18–25-year-olds eight weeks of bespoke training, workplace visits and an Arts Award qualification.

What else will we do?

- **Escalate Creative Careers** – We'll work with employers and training providers to help local people of all ages in Islington to find mentors, training great jobs and careers in arts, culture, and heritage organisations, using platforms like the iWork employment portal and our Youth Employment Hubs.
- **Creative Learning for Adults** – Through Islington's Adult Community Learning platform and centres in libraries and hubs, we'll support local people looking for jobs in the creative sector by providing training, practical support and learning resources.
- **Archway Creative Enterprise Zone** - Islington Council will receive £70,000 from the GLA, matched by approximately £200,000 of its own funding, to support the creative sector in the Archway area – with a focus on grassroots organisations.
- **Creative industries strategic framework** – Islington Council will develop a business-focussed strategic framework for the creative industries, identifying where we can work together to support, strengthen and promote the sector in Islington and beyond, to ensure that its economic and social benefits are sustained and can grow.

Our next steps

Delivery Plan

We'll be rolling out our plans for Islington's cultural transformation over the next six years. We've broken it down into three two-year phases, with Phase 1 starting in January 2024 and ending in December 2025. After each phase, we'll talk to local people about how it is going so far and make any adjustments needed for the next phase. All of the projects will be up and running by June 2025. Check out the diagram below to see when each program will start.

Imagine Islington Programme Start Dates:

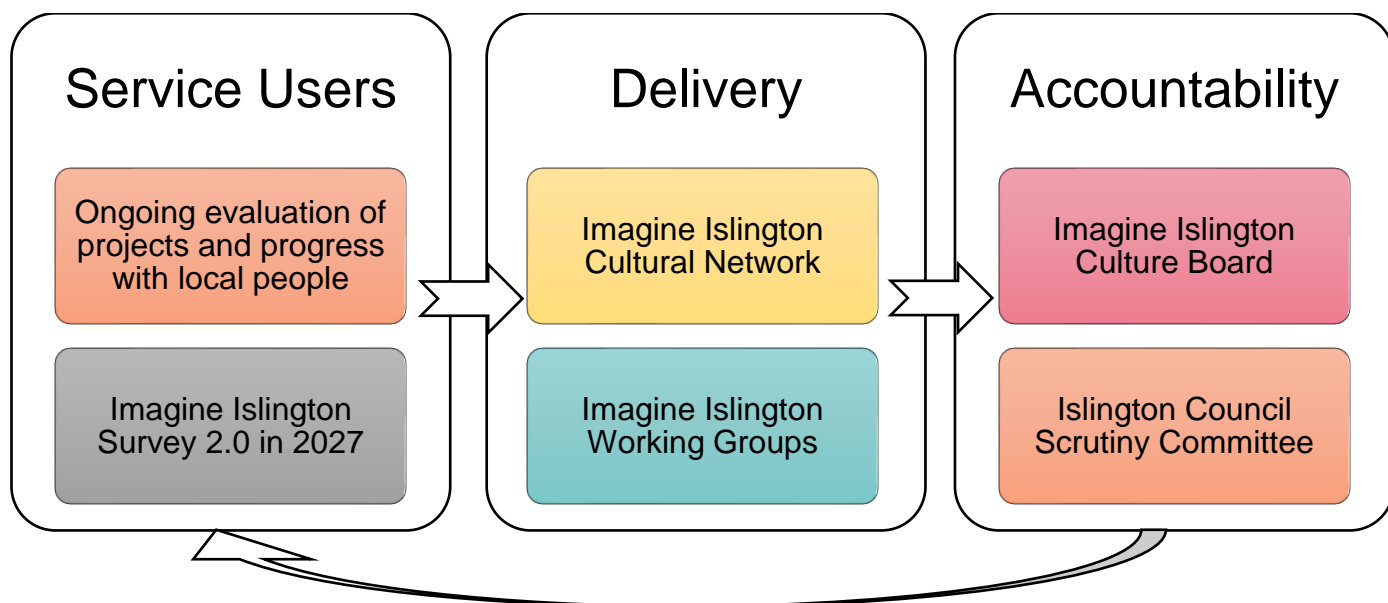
Theme	2024				2025			
	Jan – Mar	Apr – Jun	Jul – Sept	Oct – Dec	Jan – Mar	Apr – Jun	Jul – Sept	Oct – Dec
Connecting Communities		The Imagine Islington Network Online		Love Your Islington Comms Approach	Growing Culture Funding Pot		Connections	
Health and Wellbeing					Targeted creative programmes for Arts, Health, and Wellbeing	Pop Up Arts in Parks		Islington Creative Health Zone
Children and Young People			11 by 11 Plus North London Music Hub	A Creative Family Friendly Islington				
Inspiring Spaces		Public Art Policy	Easy Events Made In Islington Festival		Creative Places		Community Festivals Development Programme	
Creative Enterprise and Pathways	Archway Creative Enterprise Zone (began pre 2024)			Creative Learning for Adults	Escalate Creative Careers programme	Creative industries strategic framework		
General Delivery	Present to Executive	Imagine Islington Culture Strategy Launch	Fundraising Governance begins (including Roundtable)	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework				

How will we monitor progress and be accountable?

This strategy will always be a work in progress. It's meant to get us all on the same page, make sure we're doing what we said we would do and help us track our progress.

We know that keeping up with the conversations and working together, like we did to write this strategy, will be important for understanding how it's affecting local people and organisations in Islington. We'll use meetings, forums, and evaluations to make sure we're on track with our planned programmes.

The picture below shows how we'll manage our strategy and make sure it's working. We'll keep checking in on the strategy to make sure it meets everyone's needs over the next seven years.



Ongoing evaluation of projects with local people

We will create an evaluation plan to see how well the Imagine Islington priority programmes are doing and help us understand how they are affecting people in Islington. We'll use this plan to listen to people and find out what they think about the projects, so that people are getting the most out of them.

Imagine Islington Survey 2.0 in 2027

In 2027, halfway through the delivery period, we will survey local people and organisations again to see how well we have been doing since 2023.

Imagine Islington Culture Network

The network is a forum for the all people interested in developing culture – residents, cultural organisations, community organisations and Anchor Institutions - to come together to share good practice and discover new ways to collaborate.

Imagine Islington Working Groups

We will create five workstreams to oversee the delivery of the five priority themes. These groups will meet twice a year and will report to the Imagine Islington Culture Board.

Imagine Islington Culture Board

This is the main strategic governance group for the Strategy and will meet twice a year. Membership will include people from the community sector as well as the cultural sector, along with representatives from Islington Council and education settings. Members will be recruited through an application process.

Islington Council Scrutiny Committee

We will report on this Strategy to one of the Islington Council's Scrutiny Committees.

Getting Involved

We want people in Islington to help us make this strategy work. We want to hear from people of all ages and backgrounds, so we will be talking to them regularly and asking them to get involved in making decisions.

If you would like to stay up to date, please visit [our webpage](#) for the latest information about the strategy and our actions.

If you have any questions or would like to speak to the Cultural Enrichment team, you can contact us via email at culture@islington.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix A – Action Plan

Connecting Communities

What do we want to achieve?

We want people to come together to be creative or enjoy other people’s everyday creativity and build new connections across communities. We will support organisations to understand the needs of local people and have the resources to deliver in sustainable ways.

Action Plan:

Programme	Objective	Action
1.1 Love your Islington	Make it even easier for people to find out what, when and where cultural and creative events and activities are happening in Islington.	Phase 1 - Listening to people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan with internal services how we will deliver phase 1 and 2 Speak and listen to local people to understand the needs of a new communications approach for cultural activity in Islington
		Phase 2 - Improving our approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a regularly updated calendar of key cultural and creative events from internal services Coordinate campaigns for internal events and festivals across a range of platforms and newsletters, such as Estate Electronic Noticeboards Develop and promote a simple way for people to find out about cultural and creative events, based what we hear the needs are from local people, so everyone has access to the information they need to take part Promote Islington as a destination through amplification of external provider activity
1.2 Growing Culture Funding Pot	Provide more free and affordable activities for local people, particularly those from marginalised groups, through a new grant programme	Phase 1 - Growing Funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work alongside councillors and council services to grow this fund from the existing allocation of Film Service income to include potential income from areas such as S106, CIL (Nov 2023 - ongoing) Align with existing funding sources such as LIF and Islington Giving and new council funding sources such as the new Sanctuary Grant scheme and Community Partnerships micro grants. Work with external funders e.g., City University to develop streams within the growing culture funding pot. Develop systems and processes to deliver the funding programme, which includes Targeted creative programmes for Arts, Health, and Wellbeing

	<p>supporting cultural and community organisations and artists to deliver free projects.</p>	<p>Phase 2 - Launching the Growing Culture Funding Pot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shape programmes which bring together generations and communities to celebrate local heritage. • Commission public art in Islington to inspire local people and reflects their shared history and communities. • Promote and deliver Culture Shoots grants for larger projects with a more strategic focus. A resident panel will help to decide who gets the grants. <p>Develop a database of people receiving money for cultural activities will be hosted on the Council website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out ongoing conversations to grow the fund and allocate money within other existing funds for cultural and creative activities. <p>Phase 3 - Launching the Growing Culture Culture Roots Grants (Small projects)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and deliver Culture Roots grants for small projects with a very simple application process and quick turnaround time.
<p>1.3 Connections</p>	<p>Help Islington Council staff and key workers understand how culture and creativity can help the local people that they work with who find it difficult to take part due to their circumstances.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme and network for Council services and key workers • Deliver 4 training sessions annually for key workers to increase their understanding in confidence of the benefits of culture and creativity • Develop a SharePoint site which advertises opportunities for internal key workers such as social workers and youth workers to know what targeted opportunities are available for the local people they work with • Evaluate and review process to ascertain future needs and delivery.
<p>1.4 The Imagine Islington Network & Roundtable</p>	<p>Improve how the council, community and cultural sectors and residents work together by launching a new Imagine Islington culture network.</p>	<p>Phase 1 - Cultural and Community Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver bi-annual roundtables • Provide training and information for individuals and organisations to know what resources are available to support their work • Set up a system for the exchange of best practice • Set up a system to provide latest data and insights on Islington population • Support organisations to give and receive mentoring • Support joint purchasing, procurement and fundraising • Support the development of joint initiatives e.g. employment, skills and training <p>Phase 2 - Residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch the Cultural Connectors programme, made up of representatives from the local community who will act as ambassadors for culture, channelling the voices of their communities to make sure local people stay involved in how culture is shaped in the borough, including how this strategy is put into action.

Health and Wellbeing

What do we want to achieve?

We want to help people improve their health and wellbeing through creativity. We want people to know about all the activities they can do, so they can find something that makes them feel happy and healthy.

Action:

Programme	Objective	Action
2.1 Pop-up Arts at the Park	Improve residents Health and Wellbeing by bringing more cultural activities to parks and green spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring more cultural activities to parks and green spaces, to add to the existing Green Social Prescribing offer and other Parks for Health activities like walks and gardening. • Make more connections between cultural and community organisations and Parks' teams • Encourage forest schools for all ages, touring performances, and seasonal activities, so people across the borough can get involved in activities close to where they live, at times which are easy for them to schedule. • Work with local people and the Equalities, Heritage, and Community Safety teams to make parks more welcoming and accessible to everyone.
2.2 Islington Creative Health Zone	Make Islington a Creative Health Zone, working together to help local people to improve their health and wellbeing through creative early intervention,	<p>Phase 1 - Consultation and Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with Public Health, Children and Adolescent Health and Adult Social Care stakeholders to develop a stage plan for delivery of Islington Creative Health Zone • Map the current Islington cultural social prescribing offer and identify gaps in provision • Identify Creative Health Champions for Islington in the Council, North London Mental Health Partnership, North London Integrated Care Board, and the main social prescribers in the borough. • Secure fundraising for delivery of Creative Health Zone
		<p>Phase 2 - Delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help cultural organisations to promote activities which can be available to people through a social prescription menu • Launch and mobilisation with Health and Social Care practitioners • Create a Community of Practice and training programme for people interested in creative health, e.g., personalised care workers, artists, cultural and community organisations, health and social care providers, patients, and researchers. • Create Arts, Health and Wellbeing map to support personalised care workers to help local people easily find out about activities and opportunities near them which they can access through social prescribing

<p>2.3 Targeted creative programmes for Arts, Health, and Wellbeing</p>	<p>Provide more opportunities for local people from marginalised groups to benefit from free cultural activities tailored to their needs that support their Health and Wellbeing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate part of the Growing Culture Funding Pot specifically for arts and cultural activities that support Health and Wellbeing outcomes for people from marginalised groups • Prioritised the following groups, based on the Council’s Challenging Inequality findings and other national data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care experienced children and young people • Carers • LGBTQ+ people • Muslim women • Older Adults • People from Black Caribbean, Turkish, Turkish Cypriot and mixed White and Black Caribbean backgrounds • People with a disability and/or impairment • Refugees, Migrants and Asylum Seekers • Review priority groups are every two years and make changes as needed to help more people in our communities.
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Children and Young People

What do we want to achieve?

Every child and young person in Islington should have the chance to do whatever cultural activities they enjoy and discover new ways to be creative, both in school and outside of school. These activities can help children grow and learn about themselves and others and develop the skills they need to succeed in life.

Action Plan:

Programme	Objective	Action
<p>3.1 11 by 11 Plus</p>	<p>Widen the scope of 11 by 11 by improving the secondary school progression pathways to help prevent children from becoming NEET and expand provision for early years settings working with children from 0–5 years old.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve secondary school progression through the Inclusion Pathway to help prevent children from becoming NEET • Make links between schools and organisations providing out of school activities. • Expand provision for early years settings working with children from 0–5 years old • Deliver additional projects for targeted groups of young people up to age 19, such as care experienced children and young people. • Continue to develop new relationships with a wide range of providers • Encourage organisation to hire artists from a wider range of backgrounds • Increase number of activities led by community organisations and cultural heritage groups.

3.2 North London Music Hub	Develop more opportunities for children and young people to progress in learning through a wider partnership of London boroughs – Camden, Haringey, Enfield, and Barnet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve accessibility and inclusion withing MEI provision, staffing, leadership and governance • Ensure MEI delivers provision which responds to the changing needs of schools and students • Ensure there are clear progression paths and opportunities for children and young people • Develop and implement a plan to sustain MEI delivery through changes in funding ecology • Agree areas of coordinated activity and plan joint projects across the 5 boroughs (including EDI) • Establish quality framework within MEI and across the 5 boroughs
3.3 A Creative Family Friendly Islington	Support the 2030 goal of a borough-wide Child Friendly Islington by helping families, particularly those from marginalised groups, to get involved in creative and cultural activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure that families who can't afford or are from marginalised groups can engage in cultural activities together. • Make it easy for families to find out about activities that are free or affordable, particularly at the weekend • Link up with Council services working with families across generations. • Listen to and include vulnerable young people and families, such as those with care-experience, SEND and those experiencing poverty. • Send out regular communications about free and affordable activities for parents and carers through council services • Work with cultural partners to support unused ticket distribution programmes

Inspiring spaces

What do we want to achieve?

We want Islington to be filled with inspiring spaces – like venues, parks, and streets - where people can experience culture. Our spaces should be low carbon, safe and welcoming for everyone and be accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

Action Plan:

Programme	Objective	Action
4.1 Public Art	Use public art to create safer, more connected communities, enhance local environments and heritage and make Islington neighbourhoods nicer places to live.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a new Public Art Policy and Guidelines (Jun - Nov 2023). Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informing people on the process for applying for planning permission and where permissions is needed for public art • Inform commissioners on how to understand the needs of local people through council evidence, such as our Challenging Inequality programme priorities. • Use public art commissioning to address council priorities: community cohesion, environmental sustainability, liveable neighbourhoods, antisocial behaviour, community safety, fly tipping, littering

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop bi-annual art and heritage trails across the borough offering artists, cultural organisations and community groups the opportunity to showcase artworks to a wider public through displays in venues, shops and local businesses. (March 2025)
4.2 Creative Places Programme	<p>Provide affordable spaces for artists, studios and events. Facilitate partnerships with creative, culture and leisure organisations to boost Islington's day and night-time economies, attract visitors and create places where people of all backgrounds can relax, have fun and feel safe</p>	<p>Phase 1 - A more fun safe Islington <i>To help businesses make Islington's night-time economy even more exciting and diverse, encouraging tourism and shaping places where people want to live.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Parks, Highways, Licensing, Housing and Climate Action teams to streamline processes to support residents and organisations to put on safe, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable events. (Apr 2024-Sept 2024) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support cultural organisations and the Imagine Islington Network to develop joint initiatives for co-promotion and sharing of data and intelligence around the daytime and nighttime economy. (Sept 2024-April 2026) <p>Phase 2 - Creative Spaces Programme <i>Develop a process for artists, creatives and cultural organisations to find affordable spaces to use e.g., offices, studios, workshops, performance spaces, retail outlets and galleries.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up bi-annual Creative Spaces Group • Provide a range of spaces suitable for one off events, meanwhile use, shared rental, long-term leases, or purchase. Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend free hire scheme which currently includes four Islington Assembly Hall hires a year and 4 Islington Town Hall Committee Room hires a year to include selected community centres and the Black Cultural Centre to provide a safe space for residents from African and Caribbean heritage to come together and feel at home. • Through the Archway Creative Enterprise Zone, develop new creative affordable workspaces, increasing the number of creative businesses in the area around Navigator Square.
4.3 Easy Events	<p>Improve the way of working to deliver events across the Council.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a consistent way of working across the Council, particularly for small-scale events by regularly bringing Council teams together to collaborate and share their knowledge and resources in environmentally sustainable ways. (Jan 2024 - April 2024) • Create one stop shop for people to find out about council delivered events (See Love Your Islington comms approach) (May 2024) • Streamline council processes for external providers to organise indoor and outdoor events.

4.4 Made in Islington Festival	Bring together communities to create a more equal borough through an annual month-long festival of arts and culture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the delivery of Made in Islington, an annual month-long festival of arts and culture, led by arts and cultural organisations, through comms support and fundraising support and intelligence on Islington communities
4.5 Community Festivals Development Programme	Support local people to start and develop their own community events and festivals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with council services and community and cultural organisations to shape a new approach to community festivals fund • Redesign framework for Community Festival fund (Jan 24-Jan 25) • Pilot programme to support community producers - individual residents and small community organisations - to start and develop their own community events and festivals (July 2025) • Launch new Community Festival Fund (Sept 2025)

Creative Enterprise and Pathways

What do we want to achieve?

We want to make sure that Islington is home to an ambitious, dynamic and resilient creative sector, where organisations can grow sustainably through business networks and attract audiences from near and far. We want to help people of all ages and backgrounds to develop skills, improve their employment opportunities and create clear career pathways into the creative sector.

Action Plan:

Programme	Objective	Action
5.1 Escalate Creative Careers programme	Support local people of all ages who are looking for roles in the cultural and creative sector to find out about the employment and training opportunities available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a collaborative internship programme across a range of cultural and creative employers • Ensure provision of mentoring, training and masterclasses from industry professionals to develop sector specific skills • Provide information and guidance for local people about the types of roles available in the creative industry • Support cultural organisations to provide employment opportunities and pathways into the cultural and creative industries for marginalised young people • Focus on groups identified through Challenging Inequality objectives, Imagine Islington engagement and Adult Social Care evidence, particularly people with learning disability and mental health needs. <p>Youth Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Islington young people and adults' information, advice and guidance, employment support and training opportunities through the Youth Employment Hubs • Deliver cultural sector and industry specific World of Work activities and employment opportunity events in partnership with businesses and organisations

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure provision of employment opportunities through Film Service contract
		<p>iWork Employment Portal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a connection point for employment and training opportunities from our cultural partners, sharing these through the existing iWork employment portal
5.2 Creative Learning for Adults	Develop the skills, confidence and wellbeing of local people seeking roles in the creative sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce creative training opportunities and learning resources for adults of all ages • Provide signposting and development pathways into the cultural and creative industries
5.3 Archway Creative Enterprise Zone	Support the creative sector in Archway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support grassroots creative sector organisations in Archway • Assist young people to access opportunities in creative careers. • Provide 50 per cent match funding for a creative internship in Archway each year for three years. The focus will be on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping local people to start and develop their own creative enterprises. • Upskilling self-employed creatives, freelancers and SME cultural organisations and supporting them to take advantage of the resources that are on offer. • Providing information for organisations on recruitment/careers resources, and space hire.
5.4 Creative industries strategic framework	Develop a business-focussed strategic framework for the creative industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a business-focussed strategic framework for the creative industries, • identifying where we can work together to support, strengthen, and promote the sector in Islington and beyond, • Ensure economic and social benefits are sustained and can grow.

Appendix B - Endnotes and Further Resources

- ¹ Arts Council England, Let's Create Strategy (2020). <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/lets-create>.
- ² Arts Council England (2020, pg.12) define creativity in their 'Let's Create' strategy as "the process through which people apply their knowledge, skill and intuition to imagine, conceive, express or make something that wasn't there before."
- ³ Arts Council England, Let's Create Strategy (2020, pg. 14) <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/lets-create>.
- ⁴ Local Government Association, Cornerstones of Culture report (2022); [Cornerstones of Culture: Commission on Culture and Local Government Summary Report](#)
- ⁵ Arts Council England, Let's Create Strategy (2020). <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/lets-create>.
- ⁶ Centre for Cultural Value, Vision Paper: Culture, health and wellbeing (2023). <https://www.culturehive.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Health-Vision-Paper.pdf>.
- ⁷ United Cities and Local Governments Culture 21, [2020 Rome Charter](#)
- ⁸ All-Party Parliamentary Group on Arts, Health and Wellbeing (2017) Creative Health: The Arts for Health and Wellbeing
- ⁹ GLA (2018) Mayor of London Social Integration Strategy
- ¹⁰ ONS Business Register and Employment Survey 2022
- ¹¹ The English indices of deprivation, 2019.
- ¹² GLA (2018) Mayor of London Health Inequalities Strategy
- ¹³ Greater London Assembly, Culture for all Londoners (2018). https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2018_culture_strategy_exec_summary_final_1.pdf
- ¹⁴ Centre for Cultural Value, Vision Paper: Culture, health and wellbeing (2023, pg.10). <https://www.culturehive.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Health-Vision-Paper.pdf>.
- ¹⁵ GLA 2020-based housing-led population projections
- ¹⁶ The English indices of deprivation, 2019.
- ¹⁷ The English indices of deprivation (2019, p19); [The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
- ¹⁸ Department of Education: Special educational needs in England, 2023; [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2022/23 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](#)
- ¹⁹ Quality and outcomes framework, 2021-22; [Quality and Outcomes Framework, 2021-22 - NHS Digital](#)
- ²⁰ Islington Grounds Maintenance Team, 2023
- ²¹ ONS Census, 2021
- ²² To add statistic on number of organisations v geographic area and head of population
- ²³ To add reference for further information e.g. date, website link
- ²⁴ Islington Culture Sector Survey 2023
- ²⁵ Islington Culture Sector Survey 2023
- ²⁶ To add reference for further information e.g. data, website link