

| Theme | 2024 | | |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| | Jan – Mar | Apr – Jun | Jul – Sept |
| Connecting Communities | | The Imagine Islington Network Online | |
| Health and Wellbeing | | | |
| Children and Young People | | | 11 by 11 Plus |
| | | | North London Music Hub |
| Inspiring Spaces | | Public Art Policy | Easy Events |
| | | | Made In Islington Festival |
| Creative Enterprise and Pathways | Archway Creative Enterprise Zone (began before 2024) | | |
| General Delivery | Present to Executive | Imagine Islington Culture Strategy Launch | Fundraising |
| | | | Governance begins (including Roundtable) |

| 2025 | | | | |
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| Oct – Dec | Jan – Mar | Apr – Jun | Jul – Sept | Oct – Dec |
| Love Your Islington Comms Approach | Growing Culture Funding Pot | | Connections | |
| | Targeted creative programmes for Arts, Health, and Wellbeing | Pop Up Arts in Parks | | Islington Creative Health Zone |
| A Creative Family Friendly Islington | | | | |
| | Creative Places | | Community Festivals Development Programme | |
| Creative Learning for Adults | Escalate Creative Careers programme | Creative industries strategic framework | | |
| Monitoring and Evaluation Framework | | | | |

Imagine Islington Culture Strategy Action Plan - Mid Level

Last Updated: 04/03/24

| Programme | Objective | Action | Timescale | Lead Services (internal) | Lead Organisations (external) |
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| 1. Connecting Communities We want people to come together to be creative or enjoy other people's everyday creativity, helping people from different backgrounds 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. | | | | | |
| 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"> Planning with internal services Consult residents | Nov 23 - Dec 24 | Communications, Culture, Strategy and Engagement Teams | n/a |
| | | Phase 2 - Improving our approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop internal events calendar Coordinate campaigns for internal events Develop one stop shop for free and affordable events and activities Promote Islington as a destination | Sept 24 - Jun 25 | Communications, Culture & other Council Teams delivering events | External Organisations delivering events |
| 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 supporting cultural and community organisations and artists to deliver free projects. | Phase 1 - Growing Funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify internal income for funding pot Develop external funding streams Develop fund distribution systems and processes | Nov 23 - Aug 24 | Councillors, Culture, Planning, Community partnerships, Refugee and Migrant Team, other services | tbc |
| | | Phase 2 - Launching the Growing Culture Funding Pot <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure programmes prioritise marginalised communities Commission public art Culture Shoots grants for large strategic projects Create logging system for council funded cultural activity | Jan-25 | Culture, Refugee and Migrant teams, Other services tbc | To be confirmed through grant applications process |
| | | Phase 3 - Launching the Growing Culture Roots Grants (Small projects) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culture Roots grants for small projects | Sep-25 | Community Partnerships | tbc |
| 1.3 Connections | Help Islington Council staff and key workers understand how culture and creativity can help the local people they work with who find it difficult to take part due to their circumstances. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPD programme and network for Council services and key workers Curate event menu for specific council services | Sept 25 - Jul 27 | Culture, Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Public Health | tbc |
| 1.4 The Imagine Islington Network & Roundtable | Improve how the council, community and cultural sectors and residents work together by launching a new Imagine Islington culture network. | Phase 1 - Cultural and Community Sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bi-annual roundtables, training and information and exchange of best practice Provide latest data and insights Support joint purchasing, procurement and fundraising Support the development of joint initiatives e.g. employment, skills and training | May 24 - Ongoing | Culture supported by ad hoc involvement from a range of council services | Culture Organisations, Community Organisations, Freelance Artists |
| | | Phase 2 - Residents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural Connectors programme | Apr 25 - Mar 27 | Culture, Community Partnerships, Access Islington Hubs | Residents, TRAs, Estate Drop ins, Estate Champions |
| 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. | | | | | |
| 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"> Link cultural organisations to parks and green spaces Encourage welcoming and accessible outdoor activities for all ages | Apr-24 | Parks and Greenspaces, Culture | Cultural Organisations |

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| 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, | Phase 1 - Consultation and Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with Health and Adults Social Care stakeholders • Identify Creative Health Champions • Secure fundraising | Apr 24 - Sept 24 | Culture, Public Health, Adult Social Care, Childrens, Heritage, Libraries | GLA, Primary Care Networks, North London Integrated Care System, Islington Partnership Board, Age UK, Help on your doorstep, Manor Gardens, Islington Mind, Cultural and Community organisations |
| | | Phase 2 - Delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural menu, map and organisation list for social prescribers • Develop Community of Practice and training programme | Mar-25 | | |
| 2.3 Targeted creative programmes for Arts, Health, and Wellbeing | 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate Growing Culture Funding Pot streams for people from marginalised groups | Sep-24 | Culture | To be confirmed through grant applications process |

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.

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| 3.1 11 by 11 Plus | 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion pathway for secondary schools • Link secondary school and youth providers • Expand provision for early years • Targeted programmes for marginalised CYP • Diversify range of providers and content | Apr-24 | Culture, School Improvement, Young Islington | Cultural and Community Organisations, Music Education Islington, Upward Bound, Active Row, Education Settings, Youth Providers, |
| 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 progression paths and opportunities for children and young people | Apr 24 - Sept 26 | Culture | Music Education Islington, Guildhall School, Camden, Haringey, Enfield, and Barnet Music Hubs, Arts Council England, Islington Schools, Youth Settings |
| 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"> • Communicate free and affordable activities through council services • Support unused ticket distribution programmes | Jul-24 | Culture, Communications, Young Islington, Bright Start, Family Hubs, Access Islington Hubs, ACL, Libraries | Culture and Community Organisations, Education Settings, Youth Providers, Parent Champion, Angel Bid, Music Education Islington, Guildhall School |

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.

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| 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"> • Launch Public Art Policy and Guidelines • Commission Public art addressing council priorities: community cohesion, environmental sustainability, liveable neighbourhoods, antisocial behaviour, community safety, fly tipping, littering • Bi-annual art and heritage trails | Apr 24 onwards | Culture, Heritage, Planning, Community Safety, Licensing, Net Zero | Cubitt Artists, UP Projects |
| 4.2 Creative | Provide affordable spaces for artists, studios and events. Facilitate partnerships with creative, culture and leisure organisations to boost Islington's day and night-time | Phase 1 - A more fun safe Islington <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamline processes to support residents and organisations to put on safe, inclusive and environmentally sustainable events • Support co-promotion and sharing of data and intelligence to promote daytime and nighttime economy | Jul 24 - Jul 26 | Culture, Licencing, Climate Action, Equalities, Inclusive Economy | Cultural organisations, community organisations, residents, Angel BID |

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| Places | 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 | Phase 2 - Creative Spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up bi-annual Creative Spaces Group Develop process for external organisations to locate spaces | Sep-24 | Culture, Affordable Workspaces, Local Economies, Community Partnerships, Planning, Properties, Business rates | tbc |
| 4.3 Easy Events | Improve the way of working to deliver events across the Council. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamline council processes for internal events management and for external providers to organise indoor and outdoor events. Create one stop shop for people to find out about council delivered events | Jan 24 - May 24 | Equalities, Community Partnerships, Licensing, Parks, Local Economies, Other services delivering events | n/a |
| 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"> Amplify Made in Islington festival led by cultural organisations | Jun-25 | Culture, Equalities Communications, Community Partnerships | Islington Cultural and Community Organisations, local businesses, education settings |
| 4.5 Community Festivals Development Programme | Supporting local people to start and develop their own community events and festivals. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shape and launch a new approach to Community Festivals Fund | Jan 24 - Sept 25 | Culture, Community Partnerships | Residents, Community organisations |

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.

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| 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"> Work experience carousel Mentoring and training to develop sector specific skills Information and guidance about roles in the creative industry Provide pathways into the cultural and creative industries for marginalised young people Youth Employment Hubs and World of Work Film Service employment opportunities iWork Employment Portal | Sep-24 | Inclusive Economy and Jobs, Culture | National Youth Theatre, Small Green Shoots, Music Education Islington, Guildhall School |
| | | | Apr-24 | Youth Progression, World of Work, Culture | Music Education Islington |
| | | | Apr-24 | iWork, Culture | tbc |
| 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"> Creative training and resources for adults Signposting and development pathways into the cultural and creative industries | Sep-24 | Adult Community Learning, Culture Youth Progression, iWork | Guildhall School, Live Music Now |
| 5.3 Archway Creative Enterprise Zone | Support the creative sector in Archway | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support grassroots creative sector organisations Creative internships | 23 - 26 | Local Economies, Culture | tbc |
| 5.4 Creative industries strategic framework | Ensure that Islington's creative industries economic and social benefits are sustained and can grow | <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, to ensure that its economic and social benefits are sustained and can grow. | Apr-25 | Inclusive Economy and Jobs, Culture | tbc |