



PRESS RELEASE

Arts Council England announces continued funding for Watermans for 2023-26.

We are overjoyed to learn that Arts Council England will continue to invest in our work through 2023-26.

This funding award enables Watermans to continue with its three key goals: building an engaging and interactive arts programme with West London communities; bringing communities together through cultural participation; and, encouraging engagement with innovative digital and new media arts practice.

Watermans pursues these three goals through its far-reaching activities across the diverse communities in West London and specifically through:

- **Presenting free, high quality events** that enrich the lives of people from all sectors of the community, the Watermans venue attracted 230,000 visits per year pre-pandemic.
- **Consistently offer free or low-cost events** such as £6 cinema tickets to the latest films, a unique offering in Hounslow that brings cinema within the reach of many more people
- **Being an inclusive family venue** where thousands of children from all backgrounds are exposed to exciting new creative experiences for the first time
- **Give hundreds of disabled children and their families the opportunity to enjoy the arts** giving families respite and supporting the wellbeing of both the children and their families.
- **Taking the Arts outside Watermans' venue, & developing community arts to support social cohesion:** Watermans leads several major projects across Hounslow and wider London:
 - **Creative People and Places:** In Feltham, Hounslow Town Centre and on Beavers Estate as well as in schools around the borough our CPP programme, with funding from the Arts Council, has enjoyed a staggering 650,000 attendees from Hounslow since its inception
 - **Circulate:** a consortium of venues from around London is led by Watermans to bring a programme of outstanding outdoor arts to neighbourhoods characterized by low arts engagement, and high instances of economic and social deprivation

- **Bell Square:** programmed and run by Watermans in partnership with London Borough of Hounslow we bring top national and international artists to Hounslow. This is a key driver to delivering economic regeneration in the town centre. Our fortnightly free Bell Square programme has attracted over 210,000 visitors since its inception in 2014. 83% of visitors said the event had made it more likely they'd visit the town centre again.

This funding presents an extraordinary opportunity for us to broaden and deepen our programme and connections with the local communities we serve and, in turn, it offers an opportunity to continue to transform the creative ecosystem of West London. We know from customer feedback that our work is highly valued:

'Brentford would be nothing without Watermans.' **visitor to London Green Public Exhibition**

'Bell Square's the best thing the council's ever done.' **Bell Square audience member**

Jan Lennox, Director Watermans, said:

"This is fantastic news for the local area. This funding, in an intensely competitive environment, is a real endorsement of our work. All of the Watermans team are motivated to deliver our goals by engaging our communities and making them better places to live. This funding ensures that we can deliver the breadth and depth of activities that are needed to achieve that."

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**London Borough
of Hounslow**



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