



Frequently Asked Questions – Watermans Public Statement 20 March 2024

1. Who took the decision to close Watermans?

The trustees of Hounslow Arts Trust Ltd took the decision to close Watermans because of the significantly unsustainable costs of running the current building.

2. What will happen to the Watermans staff?

As the venue will be closing, unfortunately there will be almost no work in running events and activities there – this includes backstage and front of house work. Work that is focused on events taking place off site and as part of the Creative People and Place Hounslow consortium will continue.

3. How many redundancies will there be?

No decision has been made. We're reviewing the organisation's needs and will speak to affected staff individually in the first instance.

4. When will the new building be ready?

Hounslow Arts Trust Ltd is working with LB Hounslow and partners to create the new Watermans.

5. What will happen to tickets purchased for events due to take place after Watermans has closed?

All tickets for events taking place after Watermans has closed will be refunded.

6. What will happen to Watermans' Friends/Members?

Watermans Friends' members will have the chance to have their remaining membership suspended or refunded and are welcome to take up any outstanding benefits such as free cinema tickets until Watermans closes. Members with Parking may continue to use the car park.

7. What will happen to venue equipment owned by Hounslow Arts Trust?

All equipment will still be the property of Hounslow Arts Trust and will be retained for use by the continuing off-site programme and the new building, sold or re-purposed.

8. What will happen to The Guru restaurant?

The Guru restaurant is run independently of Watermans and Hounslow Arts Trust. Its future will depend on the plans of the business owners.

9. What will happen to French Impressions and Kino?

Hounslow Arts Trust hopes that both these popular cinema programmes will continue at the new building.

10. What will happen to the car park?

The car park will continue to operate when Watermans closes.

11. For how long can the public park in the car park?

The public can continue to park in the car park until Watermans returns the building to LB Hounslow. What happens after that will be a decision for LB Hounslow.

12. What will happen to the Watermans building?

Watermans will be closed and eventually will return to its owners, LB Hounslow.

13. When will the Watermans site be developed?

LB Hounslow will continue with plans to develop the site now that Watermans is closing.

14. Will there be a closing party?

Hounslow Arts Trust is currently in consultation with its staff and given the economic context for the Trust is focusing its resources on delivering its outdoor and community programmes alongside working towards the opening of a new building in collaboration with LB Hounslow.

15. How can we help make sure there is a new Watermans?

Hounslow Arts Trust will still own the Watermans brand and will continue to plan the relocation to a new building, working with LB Hounslow and Arts Council England to ensure Hounslow has a world class arts venue in Brentford. Keep in touch with the plans for the new building by remaining on the Watermans mailing list for future updates.