**Joint Agencies Report – November 2012**

A report by Arts Council England, London; Sport England, London; English Heritage London; and London Councils.

[1. Mayor of London’s Team London Libraries Project 1](#_Toc339292857)

[2. Big Dance 1](#_Toc339292858)

[3. Creative Employment Programme 2](#_Toc339292859)

[4. Funding Opportunities 2](#_Toc339292860)

[5. Sport England Contact Details 2](#_Toc339292861)

[6. London Libraries 2](#_Toc339292862)

[7. London Museums 3](#_Toc339292863)

## Mayor of London’s Team London Libraries Project

The start-up funding for this project from GLA Team London has now come to an end, although the partnerships are formally in place until 13 July 2013 to enable volunteering to become embedded and create a sustainable legacy. There was a high demand for the volunteering opportunities and the Team London Love Libraries Love Volunteering project successfully encouraged people to volunteer in libraries and supported library services to expand and develop the volunteering roles available in libraries. The project involved 13 borough library services and volunteer centre partnerships, together with Merton as the lead borough- volunteer centre partnership and has demonstrated that volunteering in libraries provides opportunities for local people to engage with and contribute to their local community and that the rewards and benefits to individual volunteering is also invaluable and an effective way to help improve health and wellbeing, reduce social isolation and enhance skills. Profile monitoring of volunteers revealed that all ethnic categories monitored were represented as were people ranging in age from under 16 to over 65 and people with disabilities. The project boasts some impressive results with **almost 3,000 people registered to volunteer** in libraries across London (against a demanding target of 2000), and over **50,000 hours** of volunteering being delivered to support libraries and local communities. This equates to well **over** **£300,000 worth of support** (calculated at the London Living Wage). 95% of volunteers’ surveyed think that volunteering in the library makes the local community better for people and 84% reported that volunteering in the library had helped them to meet new people with 68% thought that it helped them to meet people of different ages, ethnicities and backgrounds. Over 60% of respondents felt that volunteering in the library gave them a sense of purpose and made them feel happier and 73% reported that they were more likely to encourage other people to use the library and 75% were more likely to recommend volunteering to others. In line with CILIP[[1]](#footnote-1) guidelines the project explicitly did not allow for any job replacement and agreement from trade union and staff representative groups was sought prior to the introduction of each role. Volunteers supported their library service in a number of different ways and added value to what was on offer to the local community, enabling more and enhanced activities to be delivered and reducing the pressure on library staff. Over 20 different activities are now supported by volunteers in London’s library services, these fall into three main categories, supporting children’s and adult activities, supporting IT and learning and acting as a champion for the library, promoting it in the local community. Most of these activities would not be possible to the extent that they are delivered without the help of volunteers.

The evaluation report, and toolkit will be published in mid-November, in the meantime for more information and resources from the project so far visit: <http://www.london.gov.uk/lovelibraries> or contact project manager Sue Thiedeman : sue.thiedeman@gmail.com or Ben Cackett : ben.cackett@london.gov.uk

## Big Dance

* Big Dance took place between 18 May-9 September 2012, with the focus of Big Dance week happening 7-15 July 2012.
* Over 1,500 classes, workshops, performances, exhibitions, festivals and happenings took place in every London borough.
* The Big Dance Schools Pledge launched the 7-week countdown with a global Guinness World Record attempt for the ‘Largest Simultaneous Dance Routine – Multi-Venue’. Whilst, the record was not broken over 121,000 people in 22 different countries took part in the pledge to welcome the Olympic torch to the UK.
* East London Dance, Southbank Centre and Capital Age Festival filled the Queen Elizabeth Hall for Dancing Voices, Big Dance’s keynote older people’s project. Over 170 older people performed on stage during Big Dance Week.
* Wayne McGregor and over 30 dance groups from across London wowed onlookers in Trafalgar Square with a dance piece inspired by the Olympic Games.
* The Big Dance Bus made 28 stops in 19 London boroughs.
* Big Dance has made positive links with Brazil to hand-over the legacy for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
* Final audience numbers and a full evaluation is underway.

## Creative Employment Programme

As part of Achieving great art for everyone, one of the Arts Council priorities is to create fairer entry routes into the arts and cultural sector and increase workforce diversity. The Arts Council has launched the Creative employment programme to help young unemployed people find paid entry level work in the arts and cultural sector. The Creative employment programme is designed to provide unemployed people aged 16-24 (graduate and non-graduate) gain access to on the job training, skills and experience in the arts and cultural sector by creating up to 6500 new apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeships and paid internships. There is currently a skills shortage - more than a quarter of employers in the creative and cultural sector have had difficulty in recruiting due to a lack of experience and skills in applicants. The programme is designed to be responsive to the local community and economy working with employers, local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships, further and higher education institutions, youth services and the welfare to work infrastructure.

The successful applicant is due to be appointed in November 2012 and will receive up to £15 million to deliver the programme nationally, from December 2012 to March 2015. It follows the success of two initiatives: the Creative Jobs Programme, managed by the Royal Opera House, which launched at the end of May to coincide with the London 2012 Festival; and the DCMS Jerwood Creative Bursaries Scheme for new arts graduates, which ran from March 2010 to March 2012.

## Funding Opportunities

• [Protecting Playing Fields](http://www.sportengland.org/funding/protecting_playing_fields.aspx) Round 4 - 10th Dec-18th Feb. We do want more applications from London. Please contact Joel Brookfield or Stuart Makepeace if you are thinking of submitting an application

* [Inspired Facilities](http://inspiredfacilities.sportengland.org/) Round 4 - 4th March 2013-29th April 2013.
* [Small Grants](http://www.sportengland.org/funding/small_grants.aspx) and [Sportsmatch](http://www.sportengland.org/funding/sportsmatch.aspx) grants are still available for 2012/13. The assessment criteria have been amended to bring them into line with our new strategic priorities. Sportsmatch in particular is undersubscribed so please look to see if any of your sports clubs could benefit.
* Community Sport Activation Fund – opening January 2013. £40m revenue funding aimed at local participation opportunities developed in partnership.

## Sport England Contact Details

If you wish to contact any of the Sport England London Office team, we’d be delighted to hear from you. Your local Relationships Managers are:

• Joel Brookfield (Local Government) joel.brookfield@sportengland.org; 020 7273 1959

• Stuart Makepeace (Facilities and Planning) stuart.makepeace@sportengland.org; 020 7273 1736

• Julie Edwards (Community Sport) julie.edwards@sportengland.org; 020 7273 1541

• Hannah Bladen (Strategic Lead) hannah.bladen@sportengland.org; 020 7273 1562

## London Libraries

* **Envisioning the Library of the Future:**

The Arts Council is engaged in a programme of research and debate that will help us to develop a long-term vision for public libraries in England. This work builds upon Culture, knowledge and understanding: great museums and libraries for everyone, a framework for our decision making for museums and libraries from 2011 to 2015.

You can find out more about this work by visiting the Arts Council website [here](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/supporting-libraries/libraries-consultation/).

The Arts Council is now in phase three of the research. This phase will test the public view of the purpose and value of public libraries. This phase has two elements: a series of workshops and an online survey.

Recent research by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council England (MLA) has provided comprehensive evidence on what the public currently want from public library services, particularly what people think of the range of services available at their local libraries, and factors which influence their use of these.

This piece of research however will explore the public's appreciation of public libraries in more detail - not as individual consumers or non-consumers of library services, but rather as citizens who fund public library services

* **Grants for the arts Libraries fund**

The Grants for the arts Libraries fund will invest £6 million of the Arts Council's Grants for the arts National Lottery money in projects delivered by public libraries or library authorities working in partnership with cultural organisations across all art forms. It is hoped that the Grants for the arts Libraries fund will inspire ambitious, innovative partnerships between libraries and arts organisations, and encourage library users and those living locally to take part in artistic and cultural activities. Public libraries can apply for grants of between £1,000 and £100,000 covering activities lasting up to three years. The fund opened to applications on 27 September 2012 and will run until March 2015.

* **Community managed and community supported libraries research**

We are currently working on a piece of research with the Local Government Association to explore the different ways in which communities are involved in the delivery of library services. The research will aim to provide a current picture of community managed or community supported library provision in England - mapping current community involvement, and examining existing evidence and practice. Through this research project we will be able to suggest guiding principles to support local authorities who are reviewing delivery of their library services or thinking about new ways of involving and working with their communities. The work is being undertaken by Locality working with Sue Charteris, an independent national expert on library services, with other partners including Cabinet Office, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Communities and Local Government. The findings from the research will be announced in November 2012.

* **Public Libraries Information Offer**

The Public Libraries Information Offer was a pilot project developed in partnership by the Society of Chief Librarians and Arts Council England. The project set out to show how libraries, as trusted community spaces with frontline staff trained as digital champions, are one of the key partners in delivering government online services. This is demonstrated in their expertise in providing information and assisted digital support for people to build their digital skills to access services at a local level. The outcomes and findings from the project have been set out in a report, published in June 2012, which is available to read and download from the Society of Chief Librarians' website.

## London Museums

One year since taking on the responsibilities that the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council had for Museums the Arts Council has now completed the roll out of all of the various strands of the Renaissance funding programme. In London, Major Partner Museums have been successfully identified; these are the Museum of London and the Horniman Museum, they will receive funding of £3.95m and £3.14m respectively for the period up to March 2015. The Geffrye Museum and the London Transport Museum are former Renaissance Hub Museums, they are both receiving Transition Funding for 12/13 to help them adjust form Hub Museums as they are not Major Partner Museums.

A grant of £650,190 has been awarded to the Museum of London to run the Museum Development service for London and Renaissance Strategic Support Funds have been awarded to eight London projects, with a further application round underway and four London Museums have been awarded Designation Development Fund awards.

The Department for Education has granted the Arts Council £3.2m grant in aid to deliver a Museums and Schools Programme from 2012-2015. This programme will work in 10 locations across England with regional museums, national museums, Bridge Organisations and schools to increase the numbers of high quality educational visits by schools to Museums. The London programme is called “London Links” and is a partnership led by the Jewish Museum with Valence House, the Imperial War Museum and A New Direction. The programme will particularly target museum visits by pupils from Barking & Dagenham, Hackney and Tower Hamlets.

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Contacts

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London Councils

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1. Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals [↑](#footnote-ref-1)