

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Culture, Heritage and Libraries	22/10/2018
<b>Subject:</b> Cultural Services in Town Clerk's: celebrating diversity in our cultural programming	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Peter Lisley, Assistant Town Clerk and Culture Mile Director	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report authors:</b> Nick Bodger, Head of Cultural and Visitor Development; and Geoff Pick, Director of London Metropolitan Archives	

### **Summary**

This report summarises the work that has been undertaken in recent years by the Cultural Services teams in the Town Clerk's department to develop more inclusive and diverse programmes, working in partnership with many communities and individuals. It provides significant examples in a number of key areas but does not aim to cover every aspect of the teams work around diversity and inclusion.

### **Recommendation(s)**

Members are asked to note the report

### **Main Report**

#### **Background**

1. At a meeting of this Committee in May 2018, Members discussed the City Corporation's cultural offer in the context of its inclusiveness and emphasised the need to ensure engagement and participation among the City's, and London's, diverse communities, in particular in and around Aldgate Square and the eastern area of the City.
2. This report outlines some of the key programmes delivered by the Cultural Services teams in the Town Clerk's department and how they have developed from a long-term commitment in this area. It has grouped information under service areas but it is acknowledged that these are not mutually exclusive and there are many crossover links throughout.
3. It should also be noted that this report does not cover every initiative undertaken, particularly in the area of formal and informal education, and that it does not cover matters such as physical infrastructure or staffing.

#### **Current position: London Metropolitan Archives**

4. London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) has led and hosted an annual LGBT+ archives and history conference since 2003 and has had a presence at the Pride

Festival since the same year; it also co-hosted the major international conference 'Without Borders' in 2016; was awarded in 2015-16 a major grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for its contemporary oral testimony (and award-winning) project 'Speak Out – Diversity City'; and is currently partnering with the London Borough of Haringey on an HLF funded Speak Out offshoot project.

5. In 2005, the archives of Jessica and Eric Huntley were deposited at LMA. The Huntleys are Guyanese-born campaigners, political activists and publishers, who have lived and worked in London since the 1950s and founded the publishing company Bogle-L'Ouverture Publications and the associated Walter Rodney Bookshop.
6. Since 2006, there has been an annual Huntley conference at LMA led by members of the African-Caribbean community and focusing on issues such as education, identity through the generations, and the arts and activism.
7. LMA has run a disability history conference, working with a range of disability organisations, for several years and, in 2017, was able to welcome as the keynote speaker Lord Blunkett, the former Home Secretary. It also offers multisensory tours for blind and visually-impaired visitors. It is currently exploring a major HLF bid with the Open University and the Rix Centre around learning disabilities.
8. Major recent projects for LMA have included Lottery-funded work on the archive of Cy Grant, the Guyanese actor, musician, writer and poet who was one of the first Caribbean RAF officers in the Second World War. It has also recently been awarded £108,000 by the Wellcome Trust to work on the archive of Mollie Hunte, one of the very few Black African Caribbean psychologists working with children in the Black community in the second half of the last century.
9. LMA and Guildhall Library have long established relations with London's Jewish community and LMA hold one of the largest collection of Anglo-Jewish archives in the UK, including the Office of the Chief Rabbi, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and World Jewish Relief. It also works actively with the community including participation in the European Days of Jewish Culture festival in 2017.
10. Guildhall Library has recently acquired the library of Evelyn Rose, the leading Jewish cookery writer and long-time columnist in the Jewish Chronicle.
11. LMA also partners frequently with organisations and communities wishing to celebrate their own culture and history in London and recent projects have included the Iranian Association, the Ming Ai Institute (Chinese community) and London Gypsies and Travellers.

### **Current position: Guildhall Art Gallery**

12. Working with LMA, there was also a major Heritage-Lottery-funded exhibition at the Guildhall Art Gallery (GAG) in 2015-16 titled *No Colour Bar: Black British Art in Action 1960–1990*. The exhibition and its associated events programme took its impetus from the life and work of the Huntleys (see item 5) and celebrated

Black British cultural identities and heritage, and the creative voices of Black British artists struggling to have their voices heard. It was the first exhibition of its kind in the UK.

13. A year later, the GAG hosted the artwork *A Fighters' Archive* by Wijnand de Jonge which commemorated the contribution of the Black Women's Movement to the civil rights movement in London during the 1970s and 80s. The artwork was formed of 15 bronze fists, cast from women who were active within the Movement.
14. The GAG has also hosted a number of exhibitions on an LGBT+ theme:
  - *Fierce: Portraits of Young Black Queers* (2013), an exhibition of portraits by Ajamu X of a "...new generation of Black and proudly-out young, emerging and established talent"
  - *Money and Power* (2016), a photography competition and resulting exhibition delivered through the Gay Photographers Network which celebrated LGBT+ culture in the context of money and power
  - *Nature Morte* (2017/18), an exhibition about still life in contemporary art that explored LGBT+ narratives.
15. The GAG is currently working with History Oniks on an exhibition and associated events programme for Guildhall Yard during this autumn. *The British-Barbadian Nursing Revolution* (2018) explores the role of Bajan nurses within the NHS – one of the earliest pioneering professional groupings among the 'huddled masses'. The exhibition is both part of *Black History Month* and the *Women, Work and Power* programme.
16. For its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019, the GAG is seeking to acquire four significant works for its collection, to go on permanent display. They include photographs from Liz Johnson-Artur, a Ghanaian-Russian photographer based in London. Documenting the lives of Black people from across the African Diaspora, Johnson-Artur will be the first female artist of mixed heritage to be represented in the permanent collection and the GAG will be the first public collection to acquire her work in the UK. A sculpture by Jamaican-born Modernist Ronald Moody is also to be acquired.
17. The GAG has an established relationship with the Islington Refugee Centre who regularly use the space as a welcoming and safe venue for workshops to encourage refugees to improve their English and communication skills and help boost their confidence in relating to and socialising with others.

### **Current position: Cultural and Visitor Development**

18. Annual support (financial 2012-17, and in-kind 2018) has been given by Cultural and Visitor Development for the Mayor of London's Gigs programme, London's biggest busking competition which aims to support young musical talent from across the capital by providing performance platforms at iconic locations.
19. In-kind marketing support (expertise, collateral and campaign delivery) has been provided by the same team for the *Huguenots of Spitalfields* festival annually

since 2013. This month-long festival promotes public understanding of Huguenot heritage and culture in Spitalfields and beyond through tours, talks and events.

20. The team coordinates in-kind support from across the City Corporation for the Mayor of London's London Borough of Culture programme which is set to see Waltham Forest (2019) achieve the ambitious target of getting 85% of local households to participate in its programme (diversity is identified as a key strength of their bid); and Brent (2020) which will establish a new trust for delivering culture in the area with 50% of the trust's board being both from the local community and under the age of 30.
21. As part of its regular offer, the City Information Centre delivers a warm welcome to foreign language visitors in London, offering advice in 13 languages, including British Sign Language. International visitors represent about 65% of the total footfall, with 24% of customers aged 65 or over.

### **Current position: Outdoor Arts Programme / Guildhall Yard**

22. Since April 2015, the Guildhall Yard's monthly lunch markets have attracted a growing crowd of City workers eager to sample the wide range of world cuisine served up; in July 2018, a one-off lunch market from Fat Gay Vegan (FGV), delivered in partnership with the City Centre as part of a wider initiative (*Mindful City*) tapped into FGV's 120k plus followers across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, bringing a new audience to the Yard.
23. In 2016, the City Corporation engaged Artichoke to deliver *London's Burning* (marking the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London). As part of a list of aims, it sought to target disengaged young people who are vulnerable, excluded or at the risk of offending; unemployed young people, NEETs (young people Not in Education, Employment or Training); and schoolchildren in Camden, Hackney, Islington, Newham, Southwark and Tower Hamlets. Overall, the programme saw 18 primary schools' workshops; nine pre-engagement training sessions at local youth groups and employment centres; four CNC cutting workshops; 40 design cutting and construction workshops; 32 CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) trainees engaged; five Trainee Assistant Producer placements; and 356 volunteering opportunities.
24. The launch of the City's Outdoor Arts Programme in 2017 saw a programme of activities (*Londinium*) that explored the City's Roman past. The major "hero" piece was *Blood Rite* in Guildhall Yard which, working with Guildhall School students and Hip-Hop dance group Boy Blue Entertainment, delivered an audience comprising 21% aged under 24, 29% from ethnically diverse backgrounds and 38% City workers (an unusually large engagement for this group). Overall, the programme of 33 directly-commissioned events attracted an audience of which 33% were aged under 34 (a younger profile than the London population base which stands at 16%).
25. In 2017, working with the departments of Community and Children's Services, and the Built Environment, the Outdoor Arts programme co-financed and is supporting *Our Aldgate*, a pilot crowd-funding platform that will enable local

people to seek support and deliver events within Aldgate Square, drawing expertise from the programme's production staff.

26. Support of the London Games Festival's cosplay events in Guildhall Yard in 2017 and 2018 has seen significant interest from a youthful gaming audience with a 94% uplift in attendance across years and significant coverage in the world's most-read 'newspaper', Daily Mail Online.
27. The 2018 Outdoor Arts Programme celebrates women's rights and achievements under the banner *Women: Work and Power*. Comprising over 70 events, headlines include support for *Sculpture in the City* delivering an equal number of women sculptors as men for the first time in its eight-year history and the engagement of Artichoke to work with the communities of Middlesex and Mansell Street Estates to deliver a women-themed event in Aldgate Square in October – seeking their engagement on home turf, in a place where most feel comfortable.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

28. The work described above aligns with the City's Corporate Plan 2018-2023 under the overall aim to "Contribute to a flourishing society", and specifically delivers against Outcome 3 "people have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential".
29. This work also aligns with the City's Cultural Strategy 2018-2022 and in particular Objective 7 (Widening Audiences) in that it demonstrates how we "better promote our world-class cultural offer and use our wealth of outdoor spaces to widen our appeal to a more diverse audience, enabling communities in the City and beyond".

### **Conclusion**

30. This report provides evidence of the wealth of initiatives and partnerships that Cultural Services are delivering to foster and promote inclusion and diversity. The examples highlighted indicate a firm long-term commitment and a robust basis on which to build and develop future programmes.

### **Appendices**

- None

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