



Keats House Consultative Committee

Date: FRIDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2024
Time: 2.30 pm
Venue: COMMITTEE ROOM 1 - 2ND FLOOR WEST WING, GUILDHALL
Members: Munsur Ali (Chair) Steven Bobasch
John Griffiths (Deputy Chairman) Jim Burge
William Upton KC Alexandra Lavery
Wendy Mead OBE Nicholas Roe
Stephen Ainger

Enquiries: Jayne Moore
jayne.moore@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Ian Thomas CBE
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

Part 1 - Public Agenda

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**
3. **MINUTES**
To agree the minutes of the previous meeting held on 03 May 2024.

For Decision
(Pages 3 - 6)
4. **ACHIEVEMENTS AT KEATS HOUSE APRIL-SEPTEMBER 2024**
To view a presentation on achievements at Keats House April-September 2024

For Discussion
5. **UPDATE REPORT FOR KEATS HOUSE CHARITY, APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2024**
To review the report of the Executive Director of Environment.

For Discussion
(Pages 7 - 30)
6. **DEVELOPMENT OF A FIVE-YEAR BUSINESS PLAN FOR KEATS HOUSE**
To view a presentation on the five-year business plan for Keats House.

For Discussion
7. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**
8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**
9. **DATE AND LOCATION OF THE NEXT MEETING**
The next meeting will take place on 09 May 2025 at 2.30pm at Keats House

KEATS HOUSE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Friday, 3 May 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Keats House Consultative Committee held at Keats House, NW3 2RR on Friday, 3 May 2024 at 2.30 pm

Present

Members:

Munsur Ali (Chair)

John Foley

John Griffiths (Deputy Chairman)

Stephen Ainger

Steven Bobasch

Jim Burge

In Attendance

Officers:

Rob Shakespeare

Simon Glynn

Jayne Moore

- Department of Open Spaces

- Department of the Built Environment

- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alexandra Lavery, Nicholas Roe, and Jason Groves.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

On opening times information on the notice board outside the House: Members noted that a sign had been temporarily removed due to its unsuitability to wet weather, and a new notice board is expected to be delivered by the end of May 2024. The new signage will include a QR code (as before) together with written information.

A Member commented that while matters were discussed, the discussions were never expressed as a consultation which is the purpose of the Committee, as per the Committee's title.

RESOLVED, That the minutes of the meeting of 13 October 2023 be approved as an accurate record of the proceedings.

4. PROGRESS AT KEATS HOUSE APRIL 2023-2024

The Committee viewed a presentation on the progress at Keats House (KH) for the year up to April 2024 that included information on the 'Young Romantics in the City' exhibition entirely funded (together with a successful events programme) by Cardiff University as well as the wider events programme

including live-interpretation, creative writing workshops, nature painting workshops, and poetry readings.

On the transition from Culture Mile learning to Education Strategy Unit funding for special projects, the meeting noted that KH was involved in several projects including the Word on the Street (with LMA as a lead partner) and Poetry vs Colonialism, also Culturally Speaking and Young City Poets, both with a range of cultural partner venues and outputs, including online.

Members also viewed images of KH partnership work with the Hampstead Summer Festival, and noted the volunteer engagement.

Members viewed images of the consented new visitor entrance along with proposals for the new boundary wall.

Members noted that the latter has not yet been submitted for planning and listed building consent because elements of the KH proposal was (unexpectedly) not supported by the conservation officer, and the Committee noted that the support of other entities such as English Heritage and Historic England would be sought ahead of subsequent submissions. A Member noted that some elements which had been removed from the design to meet the conservation officers concerns should be considered for reinstatement, due to the unique character of the site.

RESOLVED, That Members agree to engage Historic England with the process, and that the proposed designs be circulated to key local stakeholders ahead of a further planning proposal to London Borough of Camden backed by support where relevant.

5. **END OF YEAR UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES AT KEATS HOUSE**

The Committee received the report of the Interim Director, Environment alongside the appendix 1 (draft report on activities at Keats House from April 2023 to March 2024).

Members noted the achievements at Keats House in 2023/24 and the way in which they support the priorities, aims and objectives outlined within the Corporate Plan 2018-23 and other key Corporate strategies, the Environment Department's primary and supporting aims and objectives, and the objectives of the Keats House Charity (number 1053381), the City Corporation acting as its sole trustee.

Members noted the upcoming 'Hidden Histories' exhibition.

A Member asked for clarification on the term 'literary meeting place' from the charity's objective, and the meeting heard that the term covered a range of cultural activities designed to engage with a wide range of audiences, including younger people, with an emphasis on literary creativity and cultural learning.)

A Member asked for further information on progress with learning partners. The meeting heard that partnerships are in progress with a number of institutions including Dr Johnson's House, the Museum of the Order of St John, Guildhall Art Gallery & Roman Amphitheatre, and future funded projects include further work on themes around Poetry vs Colonialism and carbon literacy (including the creation of climate-resilient gardens).

A Member commented on the benefits of including audio content of poetry readings accessible via the website.

RESOLVED, That Keats House will contact A New Direction for partnership opportunities, as well as continuing to be responsive to partnership contacts.

6. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

Members noted that the response from Keats Community Library (KCL) to the option agreed at the most recent meeting of the Culture Heritage & Libraries Committee stated that the consultative process was viewed as flawed, and that KCL did not know how the matter was represented to the Committee in the non-public session. The Committee decision resulted in an above-inflationary increase in charges to KCL following a review of the costs of running and maintaining Ten Keats Grove.

The meeting noted that the evaluation was meticulously carried out and that the cost presented was apportioned in line with KCL use, though KCL disputes the fairness of and rationale behind the cost allocation, noting that KCL is unable to pay the full economic cost of the building and generates visitors to the site.

Noting the extensive and detailed consultation process over a two-year period that has included a range of options, negotiations, term extensions and delays, Members agreed that a prompt resolution is desirable for the benefit of all parties.

Members noted that a proposal from KCL would be forthcoming.

A Member noted that a major development project at a private dwelling opposite KH could be under way that could involve blocking the road for an unknown period of time to excavate a basement and re-build a house, noting that planning permission has not been received and that comments can still be made. Members agreed that consideration would be given to the matter.

Members noted that a maintenance and upkeep programme is under way.

A Member commented that the path to the House is unsafe when wet due to moss, and heard that a jet washer has been purchased. The Member was urged to report all incidents and near misses at the site.

8. **DATE AND LOCATION OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on 11 October 2024 at Guildhall at 2.30pm, preceded by lunch at Guildhall at 1.30pm.

The meeting ended at 4pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Jayne Moore
jayne.moore@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Agenda Item 5

Committee(s): Keats House Consultative Committee	Date(s): 11/10/2024
Subject: Update Report for Keats House Charity, April – September 2024	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse Engaged Communities • Vibrant Thriving Destination • Flourishing Public Spaces, • Providing Excellent Services • Leading Sustainable Environment.
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Katie Stewart, Executive Director of Environment	For discussion
Report author: Rob Shakespeare, Head of Heritage & Museums, Environment Department	

Summary

This report updates Members on achievements at Keats House for the period April – September 2024.

During 2024/25, Keats House is working to deliver the objectives identified in its annual Activities Plan, which in turn contribute to the achievement of Corporate and Departmental outcomes and priorities.

Members are asked to note the achievements of Keats House in delivering its services and programmes and the extent to which these support the objectives of the charity and contribute to Corporate, Departmental and wider outcomes.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members note achievements at Keats House in the period April to September 2024 as outlined below and how these support the priorities, aims and objectives outlined within the Corporate Plan 2024-29 and other key Corporate strategies and the objectives of the Keats House charity.

Main Report

Background

1. Keats House is a registered charity (number 1053381) with the City Corporation acting as sole trustee.
2. As a registered charity it is required to submit an annual report and financial statement, detailing its activities and to ensure compliance with the Charities Act 2011. The draft full year report will be prepared and presented for comment and approval to Keats House Consultative Committee and Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee in spring / summer 2025. This paper updates Members on activities at Keats House between April and September 2024 only.
3. Keats House continues to focus on delivering its core services of opening to the public, delivering school sessions, and devising and promoting a year-round exhibition and events programme. The staff based at the house (currently 2.4fte), supported by the Heritage Team (2fte), are also prioritising a number of key initiatives and longer-term projects to enhance physical access to its premises and virtual access to its collections, as identified in its Activities Plan 2024/25 (included at Appendix 1) and outlined below.
4. Through these it aims to rebuild its core services by increasing audience numbers and engagement, supporting a growth in income and increased contribution to a range of Corporate, Departmental and sector outcomes. It continues to work with internal and external partners to deliver creative and engaging programmes which contribute to a range of priorities, including access to culture, creative learning, wellbeing and community cohesion.
5. Keats House continues to reposition itself to better support the objectives of the Environment Department, the City Corporation and wider cultural sector. The development of a five-year business plan and retention of Museum Accreditation are seen as key to underlining the role Keats House plays in the cultural life of London and the nation, and beyond.

Current Position

6. Keats House is open to the public on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays, 11am–1pm and 2–5pm.
7. The Hidden Histories of Keats House exhibition, which opened on 15 May 2024, tells the stories of the people who lived at the house after Keats's departure and before it opened to the public. The exhibition bridges the period and themes of our programming during Keats200 with those for the upcoming Keats House 100 celebrations in 2025. The exhibition will run until March next year and provides

the overarching theme for our programming in 2024/25.

8. To date, over 4,200 people have visited the house and Hidden Histories of Keats House exhibition in the first six-months of the year. This is similar to the number of visitors in the same period 2023/24 and remains below pre-pandemic levels.
9. From April to September 2024, a total of 17 different public events have been delivered to date, including poetry readings, talks and literary workshops. In recent months, Keats House have initiated a number of special events for young families, including exclusive opening for parents with children under 5 years old. Over 430 people have attended our 2024/25 events programme to date, with the usual high levels of audience satisfaction shown in feedback forms.
10. The annual Keats Foundation conference was hosted in May and the Shelley Conference 2024 in June. These multi-day conferences are attended by delegates from academic institutions around the world, helping promote Keats House and our collections to specialist audiences and researchers. The organisers of the Shelley Conference co-curated a special display of Shelley related items from our collections for the summer programme.
11. Keats House continues to offer a broad range of learning sessions to teachers and students of all ages (particularly KS4 & 5) visiting in formal education, home-schooled and community groups. Our involvement in delivering three special projects, funded by the City Corporation's Education Strategy Unit (ESU) through their Cultural & Creative Learning Fund, has helped broaden our learning offer, partnership working and learning outcomes (see Appendix 2), and our annual Summer School enables students to immerse themselves in creative writing during four days at Keats House.
12. Between April and September 2024, a total of 26 sessions have been delivered to 566 students from 24 different schools. This includes four sessions delivered for Culturally Speaking at Keats House, which engaged over 100 students from high pupil premium schools in a cultural visit and oracy workshop delivered by Speakers Trust. Summer School 2024, on the theme of 'The Outer Limits' engaged a further 36 students from five schools, three of which were high pupil premium schools which had not visited Keats House in the current year. This four-day programme resulted in 133 instances of engagement with the arts, including two days of workshops with published writers.
13. From April 2024, Keats House increased charges for its core learning offer to bring it in line with the Natural Environment Learning Team's charging structure. We are monitoring the impact of this and mitigating any potential negative impact by offering free sessions funded through the Creative & Cultural Learning Fund and School Visits Fund.
14. Ongoing collections research projects are preparing our catalogue records for online access, informing temporary displays and exhibition development for Hidden Histories of Keats House and Keats House 100 in 2025/26. Updating policies and processes to ensure we are ready for our Museum Accreditation submission, now expected in 2025/26, is also a key focus of our non-public work

throughout the year.

15. Volunteers help deliver the outcomes of the team through a variety of roles, including visitor tours, poetry readings and collections care. In summer 2024, Keats House supported a Natural Environment student work experience placement and an under-graduate who supported our front of house offer.
16. Keats House was again able to support local community partner events for Hampstead Summer Festival, which benefits two local charities: Keats Community Library and Hampstead School of Art. The annual Art Fair and Family Garden Party in particular see hundreds of people enjoying their local cultural and community offer, with a knock-on impact on the number of people visiting the house seen on those days. Keats House again took part in Open House Festival 2024, with 387 people visiting the house for free on Sunday 15 September.
17. The garden continues to be maintained by a dedicated group of Heath Hands volunteers. The agreement under which this service is provided is currently being renegotiated with the aim of providing continuity of care for the foreseeable future. Our involvement in 'Green Changemakers' – an ESU funded project to create a more climate resilient garden – along with planned access improvements to the grounds will also help enhance the heritage of the house and its story and maintain this much-loved, tranquil space for our visitors and local people to enjoy long into the future.
18. We are actively working with City Surveyors to schedule reactive, cyclical and planned preventative maintenance projects for both the Grade I listed house and garden and the Grade II listed Ten Keats Grove (library building). Works to improve the security of Keats House were completed in June, with the house closing to the public for three days, and work to improve safety around entrances and exits to Ten Keats Grove is also being undertaken. Further works to improve security and safety within Ten Keats Grove will be scheduled as soon as possible in 2024/25.
19. The new, five-year agreement for Keats Community Library (KCL) to continue to operate their local library service from Ten Keats Grove, as approved by Members of the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee on 29 January 2024, is close to being finalised and signed by both parties.
20. As a condition of the premises licence for 10 Keats Grove, Keats House Consultative Committee receive a twice-yearly report of licensable events held at the House, to ensure that the operating schedule and conditions are being upheld. To report that no activities involving the sale of alcohol have taken place to date in 2024/25 under the terms of Keats House's premises licence. Hampstead Summer Festival events which involved the sale of alcohol and other licensable activities were covered by TENs obtained by the organisers. Complimentary alcoholic drinks were served at three of the Keats House events referred to above and, at no cost to Keats House charity, at the Keats Foundation and Shelley Conferences, which also made use of the garden in the early evening. One Keats House events which included live music took place in the Nightingale Room within the conditions of the licence. Although these did not

involve the sale of alcohol they are reported here for completeness. The Premises Licence for 10 Keats Grove was recently renewed until September 2025 at a cost of £180.00.

Proposals

21. Members indicate their continued support for the activities and priorities of Keats House in delivering the Charitable Objectives, as well as contributing to Corporate, Departmental and wider strategic and community outcomes.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

22. The activities, projects and works outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of Corporate Plan 2024–29 outcomes as shown in Keats House Activities Plan, 2024/25 (Appendix 1).
23. Keats House continues to support the Environment Department to Shape Sustainable Future Environments through its Primary and Supporting Aims and Objectives and contribute to the outcomes identified in the Natural Environment Division's strategic framework.
24. The activities of Keats House are also designed to contribute to the aims and outcomes of the City Corporation's Education, Creative Learning and Skills Strategies, which are currently being reviewed and revised.

Conclusion

25. Keats House is open to the public and has delivered its major exhibition for 2024/25. It continues to devise, develop and deliver a programme of public events, formal learning sessions, special projects, and volunteer opportunities which provide for life-long learning and engagement with arts and culture.
26. Once developed and approved, the five-year Business Plan and other policies required for Museum Accreditation will allow for a sustainable future for the charity, particularly in the lead up to the 100th anniversary of the house opening to the public, which we will celebrate in May 2025 and is a major opportunity to engage with our current and potential audiences.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 –Keats House Activities Plan, 2024/25
- Appendix 2 – Culturally Speaking Impact Report 2023/24

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Image: Silhouette of Fanny Brawne by Edouart. K/PZ/01/234

Keats House Charity

Activities Plan 2024/25

The origins of Keats House Charity date back to the 1920s, when a public appeal raised the money to acquire the house and collections for the public. The charity was registered in March 1996 (no. 1053381) and, since 1 January 1997, has been provided by the City of London Corporation as part of its contribution to the cultural life of London and the nation.

The object of the Keats House Charity is:

'to preserve and maintain and restore for the education and benefit of the public the land with the buildings known as Keats House as a museum and live memorial to John Keats and as a literary meeting place and centre.'

About Keats House today

Keats House is a Grade I listed Regency villa, which was built between 1814 and 1816. It is open to the public as an Accredited Museum (no. 097) and delivers a programme of exhibitions and events, provides formal and informal learning opportunities for all ages and abilities, as well as supporting volunteer, work, creative, and research placements.

The garden is closely linked to the history of the site and today is an important part of the visitor offer.

Also within the grounds of the property at 10 Keats Grove stands a Grade II listed building known as Ten Keats Grove. This was first built as the Keats House Museum and Heath Library, which opened in 1931. Today, it functions as a volunteer run library operated by Keats Community Library (registered charity number 1146702), which is registered as an Asset of Community Value by the London Borough of Camden. The Nightingale Room within Ten Keats Grove acts as an events and private hire space managed by Keats House, including its use by KCL as a Children's Library and for their own fundraising events.

In 2023/24, Keats House continued its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic and social changes impacting on the cultural and tourism sectors. While most measures showed positive improvement, Keats House is yet to return to pre-pandemic visitor numbers and income.

Important priorities within 2024/25 include the launch of our 2024/25 exhibition – 'Hidden Histories of Keats House', the culmination of the Fanny Brawne to Fanny Keats letters project, work to prepare for the launch of our collections catalogue online and Museum Accreditation application, and planning for the 100th anniversary of the opening of the house to the public in May 1925.

Through these over-arching priorities and its day-to-day operation and activities, Keats House continues to demonstrate how it can **conserve the past while being relevant to the lives of people today**, and work in partnership to make a positive impact on the cultural life of London and the nation.

Our achievements in 2023/24

Between April 2023 and March 2024, we:

- **Delivered the 'Young Romantics in the City' exhibition and events programme**, supported by funding from Cardiff University's 'Innovation for All' programme.
- **Devised two new object displays** in partnership with London Metropolitan Archives, the British Library and Cardiff University, featuring rarely seen material, including the first display in this country of 'The Woman of Colour' and ballad pamphlets in Welsh and English, alongside material from our own collections.
- **Collaborated with London Metropolitan Archives for Folio400**, displaying Keats's treasured facsimile copy of Shakespeare's folio in the Heritage Gallery, Guildhall.
- **Delivered 36 different events**, including poetry readings, talks, book launches, family and literary workshops, **attended by 878 people**.
- **Hosted the Keats Foundation annual conference** in May, on the theme of 'Conversations with Keats', attracting speakers and delegates from all over the world.
- Devised and **delivered Summer School at Keats House, engaging 30 young people aged 16 -19 from six different schools** in four days of creative writing.
- **Supported the learning of 949 students and 131 teachers / assistants**, through 48 taught sessions delivered at Keats House.
- **Collaborated with key partners** including Poetry Versus Colonialism, the Education Strategy Unit, London Metropolitan Archives, Speakers Trust and National Literacy Trust and cultural partner venues to deliver 'Word on the Street' Festival, 'Culturally Speaking' and 'Young City Poets' and.
- **Secured funding from Art Fund to deliver 'The Wild Escape'**, engaging young people with nature through museum collections, including a special event for Earth Day with Hampstead School of Art and the Natural Environment Learning Team.
- **Supported events for Hampstead Summer Festival**, raising funds for two local charities: Keats Community Library and Hampstead School of Art.
- **Supported 713 hours of volunteering by 18 individuals**, who delivered tours and poetry readings for our visitors, as well as helping with front of house, collections care and events.
- **Opened Keats House** to the public on 200 days **receiving 7,338 visits in person**.
- Completed work to migrate our business records and prepare our collections records ready to import into our new Collections Management System – ContentIndex+.
- **Maintained our online engagement**, including social media, web presence and the publishing online of three letters from Fanny Brawne to Fanny Keats.
- **Worked with City Surveyor's to improve the safety and security of our premises**.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our activities and outcomes during the year. Your creativity, time and commitment has helped Keats House Charity to deliver a creative and engaging programme for its visitors from London and around the world.

Our governance and strategic context

Keats House operates as a registered charity (no. 1053381) with the City of London Corporation as its sole Trustee. It is managed within the City Corporation's Environment Department and reports to the Cultural, Heritage & Libraries Committee. The Keats House Consultative Committee, which acts as an advisory body, meets twice a year and includes representatives from the City Corporation and local community / sector stakeholder groups.

Our activities are developed within the framework of the City Corporation's Corporate Plan and the Environment Department's business plan. Keats House is managed within the Culture & Projects Section of the Natural Environment Division and helps deliver its vision, mission and four key strategies. We also support wider City Corporation strategies, including for Climate Action and Education, Skills, Cultural & Creative Learning, as well as contribute to a wide range of heritage initiatives, led by organisations such as Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Keats House supports all and directly contributes to five of the six outcomes in The City of London Corporation's new Corporate Plan 2024-29:

Diverse Engaged Communities, Dynamic Economic Growth, Vibrant Thriving Destination, Flourishing Public Spaces, Providing Excellent Services and Leading Sustainable Environment.

Keats House aims to support the Environment Department's vision to **Shape Sustainable Future Environments** through its Primary and Supporting Aims and Objectives, particularly:

- Provide excellent frontline services
- Deliver key strategies (climate action and volunteering)
- Support sustainable growth, vibrancy, heritage and culture
- Provide thriving, biodiverse, relevant spaces
- Financial, Information and Talent Management, Innovation, Engagement & Collaboration and Inclusivity.

The main objectives of Keats House Charity in 2024/25 are to:

- **Implement the projects and activities identified in this Activities Plan for delivery in 2024/25**
- **Deliver maintenance and access improvement projects at Keats House**
- **Develop a five-year Management Plan for Keats House, to ensure the future sustainability of Keats House charity and its operating model.**

The resources we have to deliver our objectives in 2024/25 include:

Staff based at Keats House reporting to the Head of Heritage & Museums:

Keats House Supervisor – 1 fte

Interpretation Officer (Programming) – 0.5fte

Interpretation Officer (Learning) – 0.43fte

Visitor Services Officer – 0.4fte plus vacant 0.6fte to be recruited to in '24.

We also provide, and benefit from, volunteer opportunities in five main roles: front of house; tour guides; poetry ambassadors; collections care; and event support. Approximately 15 individuals give their time and experience to support our work throughout the year.

Financial:

In 2024/25, the City Corporation will deficit fund Keats House through its City's Estates Fund as follows:

Category:	Annual budget:	Description:
Staff costs:	£250k	Officer salary and on-costs, inc. training.
Revenue costs:	£73k	To pay for the running costs of the premises and our programmes.
Income target:	-£114k	Generated through admissions, shop sales, private hire, events & learning programmes, and licences.
Net budget:	£209k*	* In 2024/25 spend may exceed this amount to fund Keats200 legacy projects and other priorities from the Charity's Reserves.
Other costs covered:	£230k(+)	Support services / maintenance works (+ indicates that additional funds may be available to address the backlog of building maintenance works).

Between April 2024 and March 2025, we plan to support Corporate Plan outcomes by:

Diverse Engaged Communities

- Actively engaging with young people through Cultural & Creative Learning funded partnership projects, specifically 'Culturally Speaking' and 'Change the Record'.
- Continuing to support, develop and diversify our workforce by providing a range of paid and volunteer opportunities, including for young people aged 16 - 18.
- Making our collections more accessible by launching our new collections management database, including an online, searchable catalogue.
- Collaborating with our major partners (The London Archives, Keats Foundation, Poetry Versus Colonialism and Keats Community Library) and establish new partnerships, to enrich and diversify our cultural offer.

Vibrant Thriving Destination

- Delivering the 'Hidden Histories of Keats House' exhibition and three changing displays of rarely seen items from our collections.
- Devising and delivering a year-round events programme, including talks, live interpretation, creative workshops, and special events.
- Publishing online the final letters from Fanny Brawne to Fanny Keats on the 200th anniversary of their writing.
- Researching and developing a new exhibition and events programme for 2025/26, celebrating the 100th anniversary of Keats House opening to the public in May 1925.
- Supporting strategic partners and local community stakeholders to deliver cultural events, including the Keats Foundation Conference 2024 and events for Hampstead Summer Festival.

Flourishing Public Spaces

- Supporting City Surveyor's to improve the appearance, safety and security of our premises at 10 Keats Grove.

Providing Excellent Services

- Working with our governing body and all stakeholders to develop a sustainable and deliverable Management Plan for the period 2024 – 29.
- Reviewing and developing our policies to support applications for Museum Accreditation and Visit England's Quality Assured Visitor Attraction Scheme.
- Developing our retail offer and income streams, including private hires, creative project grants and charitable donations.
- Continuing to support formal learning in primary, secondary and higher education institutions, by providing taught sessions at Keats House and Summer School 2024.

Leading Sustainable Environment

- Conducting research to better understand our climate impact and areas of agency.
- Working with Heath Hands volunteers and the Learning Team to maintain and enhance the garden at 10 Keats Grove and deliver 'Green Changemakers'.

To find out more and follow our progress visit:





City of London Culturally Speaking Annual Report 2023/24

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“Even our most reluctant students were empowered to deliver a speech at the end of the day and all students were filled with pride following the session..”

St Mary Magdalene CofE School

This report highlights the outcomes of Culturally Speaking in the City of London, which is funded through the Cultural & Creative Learning Fund.

Speakers Trust recruits students aged 13-14 from 20 schools with over 25% Free School Meals within the 12 central boroughs to visit one of the City of London's cultural partners. This visit is led by cultural sector staff, who guide young people to explore the venue and identify the themes of the space relevant to them. Following their visit, participants take part in a full day public speaking workshop delivered at school by Speakers Trust, helping them explore and deliver a speech on one of these themes.

Our training helps everyone who takes part in the project to become better communicators, with a greater awareness of cultural spaces and why they are relevant to them. This improves education and employment prospects and instills the desire to use the power of their voice to bring positive change. Once participants see that they can overcome their fear of public speaking and use their voice to effect change, they are empowered to achieve across a range of areas, with benefits spreading to the school, home and workplace, enabling social mobility.

Culturally Speaking In Numbers

5

Cultural venues

20

Cultural visits

423

**Students
participated**

20

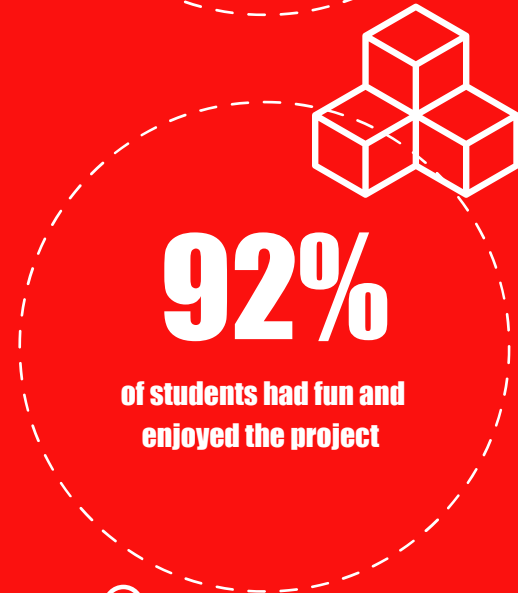
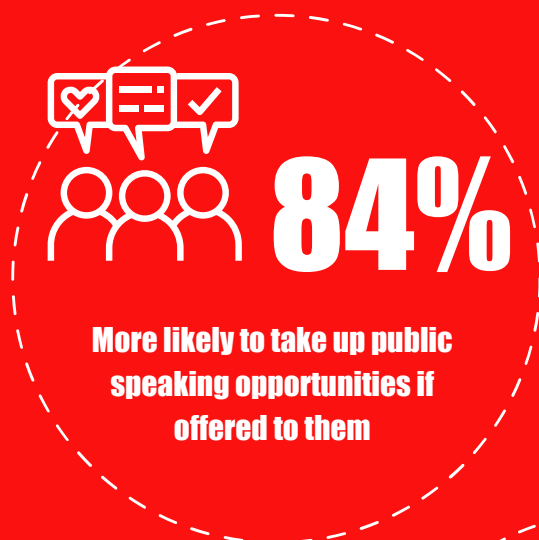
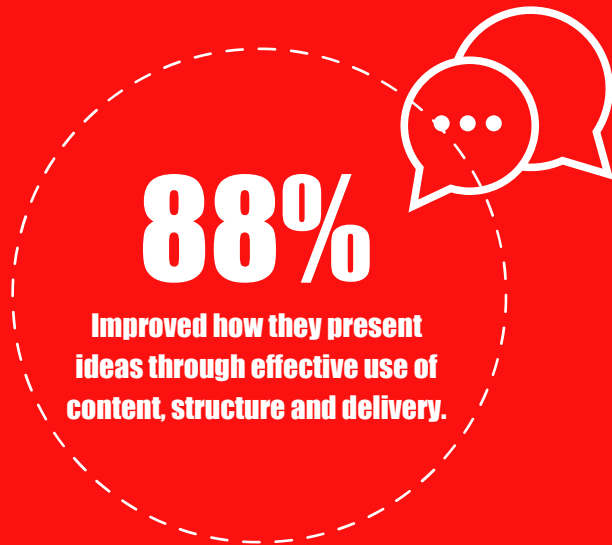
**Workshops
delivered**

20

**Schools
worked with**

Impact and Evaluation

At Speakers Trust, we focus on making a real difference to young people's lives. We gather this by measuring individual impact data daily. By the end of July, we had received data from all 20 workshops of academic year 2023/34. The outcomes we measured at the end of the workshop were exceptional with participants reporting increases in confidence, empathy and connection to culture, that are significantly higher than we record on similar projects in other regions.



Teachers also saw the benefits of the workshop:

We could not deliver our programme without the support of the teachers in each school. We have been delighted with the feedback received from schools about their experience with the training, please see below some of the feedback we collected from teachers.



Success Stories

We asked teachers to share any moments that stood out to them, this is just some of what they shared.

“L is a very quiet student who has been identified as someone who can get easily lost in a busy classroom. She struggles to make friends and finds social situations tricky. During the visit to the gallery she shared her thoughts on a painting and the look on her face when she realised her voice was being heard was a picture in itself! When I shared with staff that she had stood up in front of the group to share her speech they were so pleased for her and her English teacher said she has since put her hand up more in lessons.” - Aimee, City of London Academy Islington

“One student suffers from a lot of anxiety at school. During the workshop, she was upset and did not think she could speak in front of the others. At the end, with Vanessa's praise and interest in what she had to say, gave her speech from her chair in front of the group. A real success story on the day.” - EGA School

“One student who never speaks in class and can hardly say good morning. She begged me (although even that was non-verbal it was just head shaking!) not to speak but she did it under the gentle guidance of the facilitator and Swanlea staff.. We acknowledged what a huge thing this was at an oracy rewards tea party with the headteacher where she recieved an oracy prize. I've since seen a smile that I've never seen before.” - Swanlea School

Every student who completed the workshop showed incredible resilience powering through their anxieties! The workshop really uplifted the students and in the words of one of our students when asked how they found the workshop 'showed them they were capable of whatever they put their minds to'. Cumberland Community School

Success Stories

The project was delivered in partnership with five of the City of London's cultural partners, the Education Strategy Unit and Speakers Trust

"Working with Speakers Trust has been a fantastic experience. Students enjoyed having the freedom to explore Keats House, forming connections with the house and expressing how Keats's story inspired them."

Michaela, Keats House

"It has been wonderful to see how young people have connected with the spaces and seen themselves in the art, exhibitions and history around us. Their speeches have been so moving and insightful."

Russell Findlay, CEO Speakers Trust

"Our staff have used this project as an opportunity to invite new conversations and perspectives surrounding the narratives told by the historic buildings and collections. It has helped us reconsider our interpretation and ways to make the spaces more inviting and relevant to young people."

Amie, Museum of the Order of St John

Delivery

Participating Schools

Haberdashers Askes Borough Academy
Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School
Saint Mary Magdalene Church of England School
Our Lady's Catholic High School
The John Roan School
William Ellis School
Highbury Fields School
Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Secondary School
Regent High School
George Green's School
The Halley Academy
Plumstead Manor School
Central Foundation Girls' School
St Michael's Catholic College
St Aloysius RC College
Westminster Academy
Trinity Academy Brixton
Saint John Bosco College
Burntwood School

Participating cultural partners

Keats House
The London Archives
London Museum Docklands
Guildhall Art Gallery
Museum of the Order of Saint John

Budget

The project spend was as expected, resulting in a total cost per student of £47.

Item	Cost	Unit	Total	Comment
Speakers Trust Workshop Delivery	£ 750.00	20	£15,000.00	All workshops delivered as projected
Work material design and print	£ 1.50	600	£900.00	Workbooks printed within budget
Venue hosting costs	£ 100.00	20	£2,000.00	Venues claimed this amount
School Costs	£ 100.00	20	£2,000.00	Schools claimed this amount to support with any additional costs of running the project (e.g. additional staff time)
Total project spend			£19,900.00	As per project budget

Legacy

Overall the project was a huge success with all anticipated outcomes achieved and witnessed by participating teachers. In addition to the predicted outcomes additional benefits were also reported such as students participating more in class, students having greater connection with their own cultures and teachers learning oracy and facilitation skills they will implement in their own practice moving forward.

We look forward to delivering this project again in the 2024/25 academic year, when the project delivery model will remain the same. However, we will be adding an additional session for all cultural partners before we begin delivery in schools, to ensure everyone is fully briefed and has all the information that they need. We would also like to add an additional introductory teacher session to share advice and experiences, leading to a network of best practice around oracy and cultural capital.

