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barbican

Barbican Corporate Narrative

The Barbican is a catalyst for creativity, sparking possibilities for artists, audiences, and communities. We're passionate about showcasing the most exciting art from around the world, pushing traditional artistic boundaries and helping us understand our lives in new and unexpected ways. Each year we present hundreds of different performances, events and exhibitions that entertain and inspire millions of people, create connections, provoke debate, and reflect the world we live in.

We're rooted firmly in our neighbourhood, collaborating with local communities to create joyful celebrations of the stories and places they care about, while putting the City of London on the map as a destination for everybody. Central to our purpose is supporting emerging talent, shaping opportunities that will accelerate the next generation of creatives.

As a not-for-profit, we rely on the generosity of individuals and organisations, including our principal funder the City of London Corporation. Every ticket purchased, every donation made, and every penny we earn supports our arts and learning programme and enables the widest possible range of people to experience the joy of the arts.

Focussed firmly on the future, we're working on ambitious plans to transform our building, reimagining what an arts centre can be and doing our part to address the climate crisis. Through our work on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, we will ensure the Barbican becomes a place where everyone belongs – where creativity, enterprise, and learning coexist, and everybody can achieve their fullest potential.

Opened in 1982, the Barbican is a unique and audacious building, recognised globally as an architectural icon. The Centre was part of a visionary plan to radically transform how we experience the urban landscape. As well as our theatres, galleries, concert halls and cinemas, we are home to a large conservatory with over 1,500 species of plants and trees, a library, conference facilities, public and community spaces, restaurants, bars, and a picturesque lakeside oasis.

We're proud to be the home of the London Symphony Orchestra, and a London base of the Royal Shakespeare Company. We regularly co-commission, produce and showcase the work of our other partners and associates: the Academy of Ancient Music, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Boy Blue, Britten Sinfonia, Cheek by Jowl, Drum Works, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and We Are Parable.

Barbican Values

We want to ensure that creativity, inclusion, community, and enterprise are an essential part of the Barbican's future development. By underpinning everything we do with our organisational values, by being inclusive, connected, and daring, by operating sustainably, and by creating moments of joy, we hope that being part of the Barbican community will become a positive, life-enhancing experience for everyone.

Barbican Change Programme

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| Barbican Renewal Programme | <p>The Barbican Renewal Programme is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to radically reimagine what an arts centre can be. Through it, we'll unlock the potential of this area of the Square Mile for generations to come. At forty years, our building is beginning to show its age, and needs investment to future proof our spaces so they meet the expectations of audiences and artists for the next forty and beyond.</p> <p>Our goal is to care for the things people love about the Barbican, while delivering improved public and creative spaces and facilities. We're working with an award-winning design team to deliver a sustainable development that will bring underused spaces into new creative use, all without adding a single square metre of extra building.</p> |
| Equity, Diversity & Inclusion | <p>We're on a journey to becoming a more diverse and inclusive organisation, spurred on in part by the publication of Barbican Stories in 2021. We're clear that we want to be a place where everyone belongs, a place of fairness and equity; and to be an organisation that reflects the diversity of our community.</p> |
| Sustainability | <p>We believe that the arts have the power to inspire us to collectively imagine a better future and to unite us in tackling the climate crisis. We provide a platform for artistic work that responds to the ongoing breakdown of our climate, to highlight its importance and encourage us to shape a positive future.</p> <p>We take our responsibility to reduce our impact on the environment seriously and have established clear targets to achieve this. Our Sustainability Strategy sets out the actions we are taking to reduce carbon emissions from our own operations to net zero by 2027. By 2040 this will also include our supply chain.</p> |
| Creative Vision | <p>Our eclectic programme features the most exciting, relevant and varied artists and companies from London, the UK, and the world. Through our creative vision, we aim to create better access to the arts, increase representation and ensure the Barbican uses its unique position and platform to unleash the power of creativity in everyone.</p> <p>We'll combine our exceptional arts programme with a sector-leading education programme for young people; provide the resources needed to support creative enterprises to flourish from within our building; and take artists on a journey from studio space to main stage, creating a talent pipeline that will help produce the next generation of UK artists.</p> |