



**DRAFT EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING STRATEGY**

**IN COLLABORATION WITH LONDON  
BOROUGH OF CAMDEN**

**JULY 2023**



*Photo: young people attending a National Saturday Club filmmaking course at London Film School*

## **1. Introduction**

1.1. This draft Employment and Training Strategy is submitted by London Film School (LFS) to accompany an application for full planning permission for the change of use of the site, 39-41 Parker Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2B 5PQ ('the Site').

1.2. Full planning permission is sought for the following description of development (herein referred to as 'the Proposed Development'):

*Change of use of part of the first floor and the second and third floors from office use (Class E) to a mixed education and office use (Sui Generis), together with incidental uses and associated works; and the change of use of part of the ground floor from office use to a mixed office and cinema/education use (Sui Generis).*

1.3. The proposals have been the subject to pre-application discussions with Camden officers.

1.4. This draft Employment and Training Strategy has been prepared by London Film School and details the School's proposed approach to supporting London Borough of Camden in achieving its aims and objectives in the fields of employability, skills development, and cultural development in light of the Proposed Development.

## **2. Context**

2.1. London Film School's proposed relocation to the Site comes at a pivotal time for cinema and the creative industries in the UK. The UK film sector alone is experiencing an unprecedented boom, with a record £5.6 billion spent on production in the UK in 2021, and 20 new studio sites in the pipeline meaning by 2025 the UK is forecast to have more studio space than Los Angeles.

2.2. However, behind the runaway success of UK production lies a stark challenge: professional skills across the production sector are sorely lacking and in soaring demand. According to one analysis, the UK industry will be lacking 40,000 workers to crew productions by 2025.

2.3. There is another side to the explosion in content creation of recent years. As streamers, studios, social media networks and broadcasters race to satisfy growing demand for content, they are seeking more and more new and original voices to write, direct, and produce the stories for tomorrow's audiences.

2.4. London Borough of Camden recognises both the challenges and the opportunities within the creative industries. The borough's own Camden STEAM strategy identifies the crucial role science, technology and creativity have to play in the employment and cultural landscape of the future. The strategy also recognises that the benefits of opportunity inherent within the STEAM agenda are not being felt by all young people in Camden. STEAM industries need diverse talent in order to thrive, and young people need the right skills to succeed.

2.5. London Film School is well placed to help bring new creative opportunities to young people, to train local talent and crew to help offset the chronic shortages in this booming and dynamic sector, and to develop the filmmaking and creative voices of the future. Taking up residence in the new and industry-standard surroundings at the Site will be the key to enabling this plan, as outlined below.

### **3. About London Film School**

#### 3.1. Key Facts

- A Higher Education provider recognised as a World-Leading Specialist Provider by the Office for Students – one of only 20 such institutions in the UK
- Named by the Hollywood Reporter as one of the Top 15 International Film Schools in 2021, and included in Variety's Best Film Schools list for 2019
- The oldest film school in the UK, established in 1956
- A charity as well as an independent company limited by guarantee
- Board chaired by former BBC Director General Greg Dyke and vice-chair Amanda Nevill (CEO of British Film Institute 2003 - 2020)
- Directly employs more than 60 full time employees plus more than 150 high-level industry professionals as visiting lecturers across the year
- More than 200 students graduate with MA's every year across filmmaking, screenwriting and film business
- Graduate films screened at 150+ film festivals every year around the world
- More than 50 short professional training courses per year attended by over 600 participants, including summer schools for first-time filmmakers
- Growing community outreach programme including Saturday filmmaking club for 13–16-year-olds, careers events, and more
- World-famous alumni include Mike Leigh, Michael Mann, Franc Roddam, Ron Peck, Ann Hui, Iain Smith OBE, and many more
- LFS alumni credits include *Batman Begins*, *Black Mirror*, *The Bourne Supremacy*, *Captain America: Civil War*, *Doctor Who*, *Game of Thrones*, *The Hunger Games*, *Killing Eve*, *Mad Max: Fury Road*, *The Mandalorian*, *The Night Manager*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Zero Dark Thirty*, *Paddington*, *Top Boy* and countless more

3.2. A once-in-a-generation opportunity exists for the world-leading London Film School to relocate from its current out-dated premises in Shelton Street, Covent Garden (Westminster) to Parker Street (Camden) in late 2023. Relocation would enable it to expand its world-class education offerings across postgraduate, skills-based short course, and community and schools outreach work.

### **4. Our outreach work to date**

4.1. Our outreach programmes take many forms, from short weekend or week-long intensive boot camps to longer programmes over the course of a school term. Recent examples include a week-long Art Department course which saw 10 participants undertake production design, technical drawing, model-making and set-building classes. Three of those participants were subsequently chosen to take traineeships at the world-famous Pinewood Studios where they were involved in the production of the latest James Bond blockbuster, *No Time to Die*.

4.2. Outreach programmes we have recently delivered include:

- In June 2023 we offered a work experience placement to a student from Acland Burghley School and hope to build our work experience offering in future years. We also ran a filmmaking club with the Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children, situated in Camden borough, in 2021.
- In July 2023 we participated in the Camden Spark STEAM work experience programme where participants created filmed pieces which were then available

for them to continue working on after the session, as well as signposting to next steps and resources for young people looking to enter the creative industries.

- Similarly, we are offering a week-long course in filmmaking and visual storytelling techniques as part of the Camden Summer University, in July 2023: <https://www.cmdn.co.uk/courses/54/film-media-and-ict/943/film-project-with-london-school-of-film/>
- Another recent example is our new Saturday filmmaking club, run as part of the National Saturday Club Trust programme. The club is aimed at young people aged 13-16 and sees up to 20 young people from the local area attend lessons in our cinema before heading out in small groups to complete filmed exercises in or around the school. Our first Saturday Club in Camden started earlier in 2023 and we hope to continue building this programme in future years.
- As part of our outreach programme, we also run and participate in numerous careers events at local schools and colleges, most recently in partnership with ScreenSkills (the UK body for skills in the film and television industries), RTS Futures (part of the Royal Television Society), and the BBC Academy. We would be very happy to devise a new partnership with secondary schools in Camden offering training in aspects of film production.

4.3. LFS also runs a year-round programme of short professional training courses aimed at those entering the film industry or looking to upskill. Courses cover a full range of training needs across production, post-production, film business and distribution. We have plans to introduce direct industry relationships to connect talented and skilled crew people with live opportunities on productions.

## **5. London Film School in Camden**

5.1. The following sets out some of our initial thinking around the impact LFS can have in supporting the London Borough of Camden across employability, skills development, and cultural development. Our plans build on our existing work and the opportunities for expansion presented by our relocation to the borough.

Importantly, we see these plans as a starting point, rather than the finished article. We have enjoyed positive and fulsome engagement with the council in our early discussions and we would hope to continue these on an ongoing basis to ensure our plans and activities align with the borough's wider aims and objectives, as well as allowing LFS to offer insight to the borough from our position as a world-leading specialist provider of higher education

5.2. At a minimum we expect to:

- Continue running our National Saturday Club film programmes (up to 20 young people per programme);
- Partner with Camden Spark (with which we have already signed up as an education partner), bringing filmmaking workshops to schools across the borough;
- Attend careers fairs;
- Provide work experience opportunities in partnership with Camden STEAM
- LFS will sign up to the Camden STEAM pledge, to become a Camden STEAM employer with nominated STEAM ambassadors;

- In partnership with our new co-residents, The Garden Cinema, we also hope to bring new cinema programming to the local area. These could include LFS mini community festivals in school holidays to showcase work by young people in the area, and regular screenings of age-appropriate British, heritage and world cinema (both feature films and shorts) as part of our educational offer.
- 5.3. As part of our commitment to providing new employment opportunities within our own footprint we plan to recruit up to 10 apprentices each year across the School's marketing, digital, finance and technical departments.
- 5.4. We are also redeveloping our professional short course unit to provide a more diverse range of courses covering a wide range of skills gaps within the booming film industry, with priority places offered to Camden residents when the programme is up and running in 2024.

## **6. Next Steps**

- 6.1. LFS is committed to making the most positive impact on the local community with its relocation to the Site in 2024. We have already made great connections within London Borough of Camden, Camden Spark, Camden STEAM and beyond.
- 6.2. We will continue to develop and hone our employment and training plans as our relocation draws nearer. This will include regular and ongoing discussions with key departments within the council to ensure our thinking remains aligned with the aims and objectives of London Borough of Camden.
- 6.3. We welcome feedback on these outline proposals during the course of our planning application, which can be shared with Dan Lawson, Chief Operating Officer: [d.lawson@lfs.org.uk](mailto:d.lawson@lfs.org.uk).