



Wac Arts

Empowering young people
to change their world
through the arts

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

August 2019

'Wac Arts has an engaged audience unlike any other arts organisation I know. Our diversity is what makes our work so important. We are constantly challenging our own assumptions in our inclusive practice and it is appropriate to be curating the heritage of our home to meet our needs today.'

Jolyon Brewis, Architect and Trustee

Wac Arts are custodians of our beautiful Grade II listed building. The Old Town Hall houses a vibrant, intergenerational community and offers access to all in the performing arts and life-long learning. Wac Arts are committed to increasing and enhancing social cohesion in London.

Our beautiful home is one of our key assets. Nurturing and developing it is vital to being able to strengthen and develop our creative hub, widening access and engagement and at the same time providing some of the income essential to achieving our objectives. We want to make sure that the Old Town Hall is fit for purpose for Wac Arts now and for future generations. IOWA will open up more of the Old Town Hall, Camden to the public and will better connect our different community groups to share skills and knowledge, provide better access, more visibility and a wider public welcome. The project will combine exceptional design and restoration of original features to transform an existing community asset for wider public benefit.

We began IOWA with involved community engagement, consulting first with our internal community in 2016, including our building partners, and then with our external community.

Building on the consultations which have already taken place prior to the design team's appointment, a series of co-design workshops were undertaken during RIBA Stages 1 and 2 to ensure input into the design process from a wide range of our stakeholders. This is a requirement of the GLA for projects funded by the Good Growth Fund and aligns closely with Wac Arts ethos. At each session, the developing IOWA scheme has been presented to attendees, encouraging conversation and sharing of ideas to feed back into the design.

The workshops have been curated and scheduled to target different sets of stakeholders, at times and places that have encouraged good attendance and have so far included: staff, parents and carers, students and young people on our programmes, Camden Councilors, local business and community groups, local residents and building partners including several sessions with University of the Third Age a key stakeholder group for the project.

In addition to the co-design workshops, we have organized meetings about the project with important external stakeholders groups. We have met David Castle Chair of the Heath and Hampstead Society's Planning Committee on three occasions to discuss the developing design and we continue to foster this relationship as the project continues. The Heath and Hampstead Society has close links with the Friends of the Old Town Hall who have also been consulted – a group who were integral to the building's survival as a community asset.

Detailed notes, feedback forms and photographs have been used to record stakeholders' input into the design process and all comments have been included in a stakeholder engagement comments schedule, and categorized for action. This schedule is being used to identify both our key briefing requirements and a series of operational work streams to be addressed by the organisation to support the delivery of IOWA, in parallel with the project programme.

A number of user groups are being set up to include participants from the co-design workshops to enable continued active stakeholder involvement into the next design stages.

IOWA Summary of stakeholder consultations

Date	Event	Location	Attendees
September 2016	Wac Arts Staff Workshop	The Old Town Hall, Haverstock Hill	Wac Arts Staff
19th February 2018	Building Visioning Workshop	Grimshaw Architects, Farringdon	Wac Arts Building Partners, students and staff
23-Jan-19	Heath and Hampstead Society introductory meeting on IOWA	The Old Town Hall, Haverstock Hill	David Castle, Chair of the Planning Committee, Heath and Hampstead Society
22nd February 2019	Camden Council IOWA Introductory Meeting	Camden Council, St Pancras Square	Cirs Bethany Cullen, Danny Beales, David Joyce , Camden Council
28th February 2019	Wac Arts Staff Away Day workshop	The Roundhouse, Camden	Wac Arts Staff
19th March 2019	IOWA Co-Design Workshop with Ash Sakula Architects	The Old Town Hall, Haverstock Hill	Wac Arts Staff and Building Partners
30th March 2019	Camden Council IOWA informal follow up meeting and introduction to Ash Sakula Architects	The Old Town Hall , Haverstock Hill	Bethany Cullen and Richard Limbrick, Camden Council
3rd April 2019	Youth Voices Project - Co-design workshop with Ash Sakula Architects	The Old Town Hall, Haverstock Hill	Young people from Wac Arts' Youth Voices Project
11th April 2019	Wac Arts Camden Networking Breakfast Event with Ash Sakula Architects	The Old Town Hall, Haverstock Hill	Belsize Business Council members (local business group), Rosary School, Camden Councillors, Wac Arts building partners, Wac Arts Trustees and Donors
16th April 2019	Wac Arts Ignite Urban Motivation Project - Co-design workshop with Project Team	The Old Town Hall, Haverstock Hill	Young people aged 12 – 18 with mild to moderate learning disabilities
8th June 2019	IOWA Co-design workshop with Ash Sakula Architects	The Old Town Hall, Haverstock Hill	Local residents from Tagor House, Wac Arts weekend programme attendees: young people, parents, carers
19th June 2019	Heath and Hampstead Society design review	The Old Town Hall, Haverstock Hill	David Castle, Chair of the Planning Committee, Heath and Hampstead Society
24th June 2019	Friends of the Old Town Hall design review	The Old Town Hall, Haverstock Hill	Corrine Gibbons , Friends of the Old Town Hall
26th June 2019	IOWA presentation to University of the Third Age Members	The Old Town Hall, Haverstock Hill	90 members of the University of the Third Age
12th July 2019	Camden Council Project update meeting	Camden Council, St Pancras Square	Christine Dove, Camden Council
12th July 2019	Camden Council Pre-application meeting	Camden Council, St Pancras Square	Elizabeth Martin and David Peres Da Costa, Camden Council
17th July 2019	Camden Council pre-application follow up visit	The Old Town Hall, Haverstock Hill	Elizabeth Martin, Camden Council