

Gillett Squared

A Hackney Co-operative Developments cultural project



www.gillettsquare.org.uk

Hackney Co-operative Developments, Gillett Squared, Unit B9, 3 Bradbury Street, London N16 8JN. 020 7993 3644



Games Days: Chess Event, June 2008

Gillett Squared Events

Gillett Squared produces high quality arts and participatory projects for Dalston's purpose-built outdoor venue. From 2006-2008 over 15,000 people have attended live music, dance, installation and games events on Gillett Square, with over 2,000 participants actively contributing to the success of those projects.

This project has emerged from twenty-five years of local work by Hackney Co-operative Developments (HCD). In 2005 HCD opened the Dalston Culture House where the acclaimed Vortex Jazz Club and leading therapeutic visual arts organisation Studio Upstairs are resident. Our Bradbury Street Workspace adjacent to Gillett Square also houses over 40 small businesses and voluntary sector organisations. HCD was a founding member of the Gillett Square Partnership which oversaw the creation of Gillett Square and continues to monitor its maintenance and community safety functions. We also hold the Public Entertainment Licence for the square on behalf of the Vortex Jazz Club under the terms of an approved schedule of operations drawn up with London Borough of Hackney.

HCD is the accountable body for **Gillett Squared** and provides the quality assured administrative and governance framework for the project. We employ an Arts and Events Development Manager who works closely with our Executive Director and in consultation with the Gillett Squared Steering Group. This Steering Group acts in an advisory and advocacy capacity for the project and has representation from the Barbican, Dakrobi Arts, Greater London Authority, London Borough of Hackney, Studio Upstairs, Tropical Isles, Universal Board Games and the Vortex Jazz Club. The formation of the Steering Group is the first stage in the process of **Gillett Squared** becoming an independently constituted organisation in the future.

During 2009 **Gillett Squared** will be working with the Barbican's BITE and Contemporary Music departments on developing activities as part of the Cultural Olympiad's Create festival. We will continue to nurture our partnerships with local arts practitioners and community-based organisations to develop their proposals for using Gillett Square for activities and events. The best practice we are developing for the maximum creative use of public space is highly relevant to new developments in the public realm locally and in other parts of London.

2006

- 200 Saxophonists / Gillett Square launch

2007

- Blocorama
- Games Day
- I Love Dance
- Peace Week
- Winter Songs

2008

- Big Dance (2 events)
- Cool Climate
- Delicious Dalston
- Games Days (4 events)
- March of the Dead
- Newspaper House
- This is Not a Gateway
- Vortex Outdoors
- Winter Songs

Aims & Objectives

During 2009, and beyond, HCD is aiming to both secure and expand the work of **Gillett Squared** on a sustainable basis. Our aims and objectives are to:

- Produce a high quality performing and visual arts programme throughout the year
- Provide a focal point for the Cultural Olympiad in Dalston's public spaces
- Create opportunities to engage with and promote the many professional arts practitioners who are based in and around Dalston
- Stimulate and facilitate the use of Gillett Square for a range of community-led projects
- Increase local awareness of the public space
- Attract visitors to events on Gillett Square
- Work with and represent local communities in funding bids and cultural programming
- Build Gillett Squared's existing reputation for inter-generational and inclusive projects
- Build more effective public relations and event publicity
- Train local young people in arts and events management
- Work in partnership with local cultural venues and organisations to add value to their activities
- Develop educational opportunities in association with the cultural programme
- Advocate for the use of Gillett Square for play, fitness and sports activities
- Demonstrate best practice in using public space as a valuable community asset
- Expand our work to other geographical locations in Hackney and beyond

Finance & Fundraising 2009 – 2013

In order for Gillett Squared's work to continue on a sustainable footing, significant inward investment is needed to build our capacity and develop the project to its full potential throughout the Cultural Olympiad period and beyond. Between 2006 – 2008 HCD has made a substantial investment of its own funds towards the revenue costs of managing **Gillett Squared**. We have also raised over £100k towards the programme of events during this period. HCD will continue to commit its own limited resources to this project but at least an additional £250,000 is required over the next three years to:

- Consolidate our core staffing and build our human resources capacity
- Provide an annual performing and visual arts programme
- Sustain our advice service for local arts practitioners and organisations
- Support the production of community events
- Fulfill our duties as licensees of the public space
- Successfully publicise and document our activities
- Commission a technical feasibility study for the transformation of the square into a fully flexible outdoor performing and visual arts venue and cinema location
- Purchase core technical equipment
- Engage in ongoing fundraising activities

Our strategic and fundraising plans are underpinned by a three-year business plan which outlines staffing, infrastructure and projects needs. This plan includes a flexible framework to enable new projects to enter this picture, retaining the accessibility of this space for a range of community and arts activities.

Gillett Squared: Current Services & Expertise

- Producing Performing and Visual Arts Projects
- Consultation
- Collaborations and Partnerships
- Participatory Engagement
- Event Management
- Technical Production Management
- Risk Assessment and Licensing
- Budgeting and Fundraising

Gillett Squared Advisors

Age Concern Hackney, Arcola Theatre, Barbican Arts Centre, Bathhouse Children's Community Centre, Bombo Productions, Bootstrap Company, BrazenBunch Artists' Collective, Café Oto, Circle Line Designers, Colvestone Primary School, Creative City, Dakrobi Arts, Design for London, Documentary Film-makers Group, Greater London Authority, Groundwork East London, Hackney Council for Voluntary Services, Hackney Theatre Partnership, Learning Trust, London Borough of Hackney Cultural Development Team, London 2012 Creative Programmers, Moving East, Open Dalston, Serious, Studio Upstairs, Tropical Isles Carnival Group, Universal Board Games and the Vortex Jazz Club.

Support

Gillett Squared's programme during 2006-2008 has had support from Arts Council England, Awards for All, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Greater London Authority, HBOS Foundation, London Borough of Hackney, London Development Agency, the Performing Rights Society Foundation and the West Hackney Parochial Charity.

HCD
HACKNEY
CO-OPERATIVE
DEVELOPMENTS

Vortex Outdoors: Open Rehearsal Weekend
September 2008. Photo: Alex Winn

pioneering community
economic development