



Arts Strategy 2026-2029



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH



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AWAITING TEXT





About the Arts Strategy

This Strategy is to provide focus and added value to the efforts of everyone involved in the planning and provision of arts activity in Havering. Promote creativity, foster cultural awareness, and enhance community cohesion through diverse and inclusive arts programs.

Our vision for arts development in the London Borough of Havering is:

“To transform lives through participation in, and enjoyment of, the arts”

In the context of this strategy, the scope of ‘the arts’ is understood to encompass:

performing arts, music, dance, theatre, creative industries, visual arts, festivals, public art, literary arts, poetry, reading, writing and the spoken word, digital art, combined arts, media.

Objectives and Aims

The Objectives and Aims of the Arts Strategy are based on those of the Culture Strategy:

Objectives

1: Health and Wellbeing

Support a high standard of mental, physical and emotional health for all by increasing the number of people taking part in art.

2: Learning and Development

Support learning opportunities for all, by providing access to a broad arts offer, enabling people to take part in new activities and ensuring development pathways are in place.

3: Towns and Communities

Enriching our towns and communities, through investment and engagement in the arts, and by using art to deliver a high quality, safe, pleasant and visually interesting landscape and townscape for our residents.

Aims

1: Transforming Awareness

'Residents of Havering, and increased numbers living outside of the borough, are now more aware of Havering's existing and enhanced arts offer and the positive impact culture can play within people's lives'.

2: Creating Connectivity

'Havering is a strong networked and increasingly resilient borough of cultural players, where cultural partners work together to develop and deliver arts strategy, create projects in partnership, cross promote each other's work and fundraise for new initiatives.'

3: Engaging the Least Engaged

'That the range of people engaged in arts activity in Havering is increased and that the least engaged are actively prioritised.'

4: Rebalancing the Sector

'There is a broad range of arts activity across the borough and where there is a lack of key provision this is addressed.'

5: Placing Culture within Cohesion

The Arts is seen and being used as a way of ensuring that there is a sense of belonging for all of the communities of our borough and that there are enhanced relationships between people from different backgrounds.





Who is the Strategy for?

Everyone engages in the arts, and the arts play a role in everybody's life. Art based activities can educate us, as well as inspire. We want to challenge the idea that the arts may only be for certain people by ensuring accessibility to individuals and our community.

We aim to target key areas, working with residents who feel they are less engaged and ensure we can work towards reducing barriers communities may feel hinder their arts experience.

We learn through the arts – and develop our learning skills – as audience just as much as participant. Even as pure entertainment, the arts offer us an opportunity to locate ourselves in our social and cultural environment. Exposure to art of the highest quality as part of our educative process, be it formal or informal, has long been established as a core necessity of our learning journey.



This strategy supports the corporate objectives of Cleaner, Safer, Prouder, and Together. The four key themes of that vision are:

Communities

Helping young and old people fulfil their potential through high achieving schools and by supporting them to live safe, healthy and independent lives.

Places

Making sure that our neighbourhoods are a great place to live by investing in them and keeping them clean, green and safe with access to quality parks and leisure facilities.

Opportunities

Helping people get on in life by creating jobs and skills opportunities and building genuinely affordable homes.

Connections

Making it easier for people to get around and online by investing in road, transport links, faster internet and free Wi-Fi in town centres.





The fundamental and instrumental value of the arts

Fundamental value

The act of engaging in the arts, whether as audience or participant, stimulates our senses, emotions and intellect.

“Recognition of the part that creativity and culture can play in supporting local economies and talent, health and wellbeing, and children and young people, has flourished over recent years, strengthening our partnerships with local and national government, opening up new avenues for all who work in museums, libraries and arts organisations, and improving the lives of people everywhere.”

Sir Nicholas Serota Chair, Arts Council England

Engagement in the arts is life-affirming, it improves our ability to communicate, interact, work and play alongside friends, neighbours and family. It changes



our perception of the world around us, offering us new ideas and pathways of personal, social and educational development. The arts offer us aspiration, confidence, achievement, self-esteem and pride in both ourselves and our community.

Most people would consider engaging in the arts to involve going to the theatre or visiting an art gallery, but we actually engage in the arts, in its widest sense, on a much more frequent basis. We want to challenge the idea that arts are only for certain people. You may engage in arts, for example;

- By watching a soap opera we are engaging in the art forms of drama, storytelling, creative writing, and photography, lighting and sound.
- By reading a magazine we are benefiting from the arts of photography, creative writing through journalism and the range of design skills required to produce a newspaper or magazine.
- By walking through our town centres we are interacting the arts of design and architecture, by definition prevalent throughout the built environment, and within our parks and open spaces.



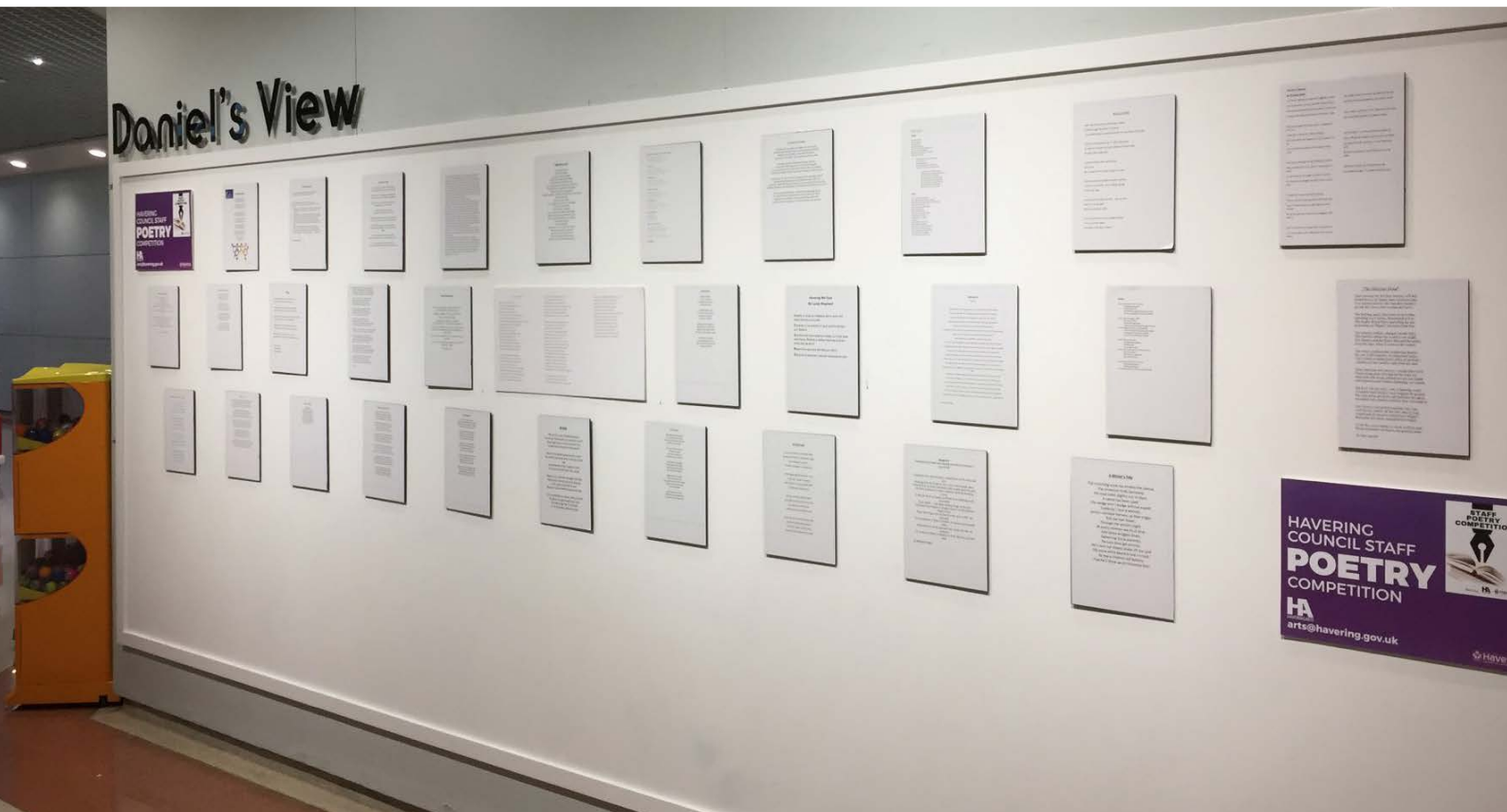
The value of the Arts strategy, arts activity and arts facilities to Havering residents

In addition to the fundamental value, engagement in the arts also has the power to produce significant benefits. The arts are increasingly recognised for the vital role they play in educational, social and health environments, for example the arts can:

- **Cultural Enrichment:** Arts programs provide opportunities for cultural expression and appreciation, helping to preserve and celebrate diverse cultural heritages.
- **Social Cohesion:** Engaging in arts activities fosters a sense of community, bringing people together and promoting understanding across different backgrounds and generations. Encourage individuals to express themselves creatively, bringing a sense of satisfaction, improving confidence, contributing to their health and well-being and a more balanced life.
- **Economic Growth:** Investment in the arts can stimulate local economies through tourism, job creation, and support for creative industries. Continued investment in events and arts facilities, making it a more attractive place to live and work, and attracting visitors into the area. This could also benefit cultural tourism sectors and creative industries. Keep local businesses at the cutting edge by encouraging creativity and developing a strong cultural and creative industry sector.



- **Educational Benefits:** Arts education enhances critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills, benefiting students both academically and personally. Play a key role in knowledge and academic achievements, which can enhance individual's employment prospects.
- **Health and Wellbeing:** Participation in arts activities can improve mental health, reduce stress, and provide therapeutic benefits.
- **Environmental Awareness:** Arts can be a powerful tool to raise awareness about environmental issues and inspire action towards sustainability. Create stronger, cohesive local communities by bringing people together, sharing interests, stories and experiences, and giving people a greater sense of community and place.
- **Community Identity:** Arts initiatives can help build a strong sense of local identity and pride by reflecting the unique characteristics and history of the community. Support community safety initiatives by reducing crime through encouraging delivery of purposeful activity to assist in strengthening community networks.
- **Innovation and Creativity:** Arts encourage innovation and creativity, which can spill over into other sectors, driving new ideas and approaches.

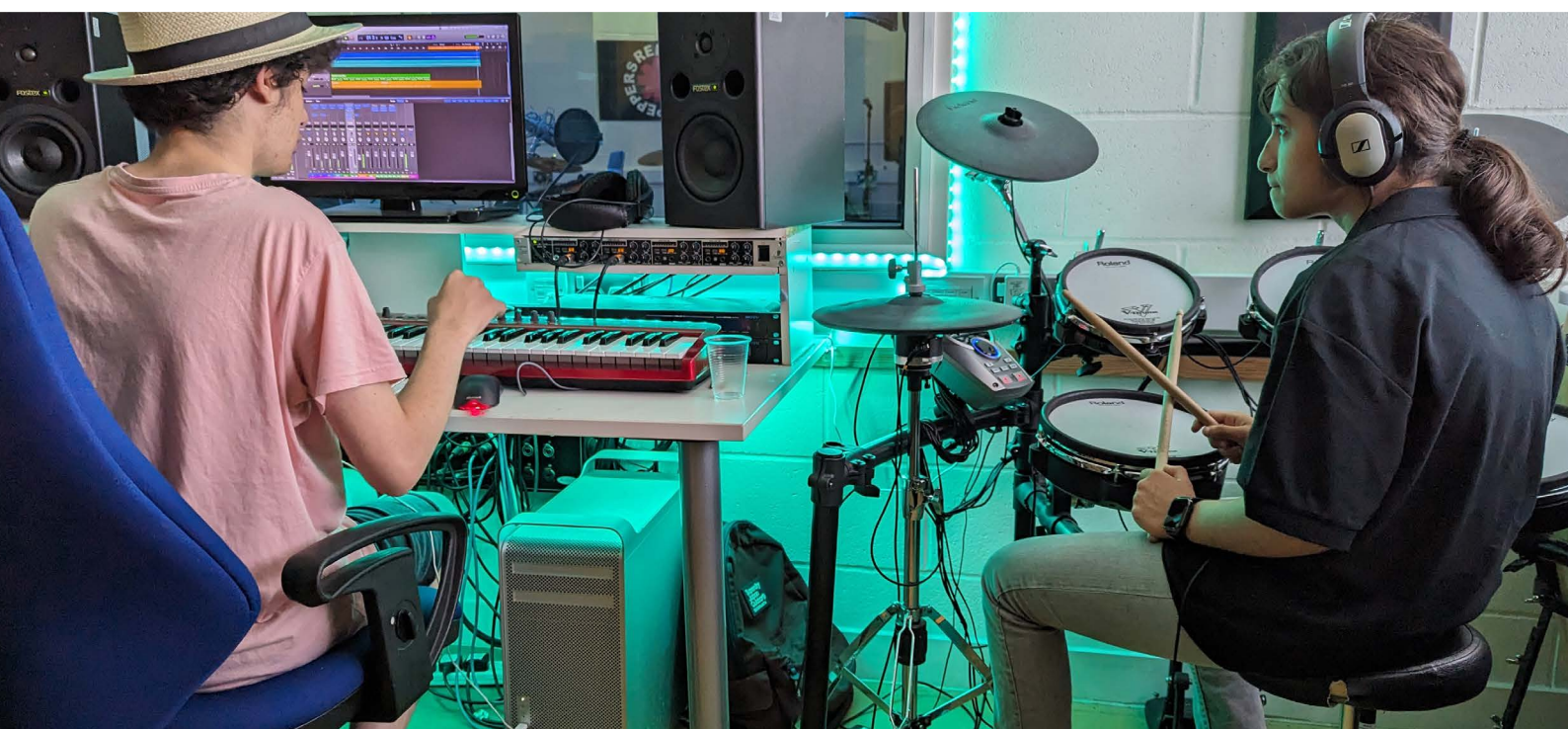


“By 2030, we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish, and where every one of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences”

Arts Council England- Our Vision 2020-2030

The arts are highly valued by residents, both in terms of participation in and observation of the activities, and also in terms of the instrumental benefits that the arts bring to the local area and community.

Cultural Enrichment: Arts centres provide a platform for cultural expression, showcasing a diverse range of artistic talents and traditions. They help preserve and promote cultural heritage, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of different cultures within the community.



Education and Lifelong Learning: Arts centres offer educational programs and workshops for people of all ages, encouraging lifelong learning and personal development. These programs help develop critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills, benefiting individuals both personally and professionally.

Community Building: By hosting events and activities, arts centres bring people together, creating a sense of community and belonging. They serve as a social hub where individuals can connect, collaborate, and build relationships, strengthening the social fabric of the area.

Economic Impact: Arts centres contribute to the local economy by attracting visitors, generating revenue, and creating jobs. They support local artists and businesses, driving economic growth and revitalization in their communities.

Health and Wellbeing: Engaging in arts activities has been shown to improve mental health, reduce stress, and enhance overall wellbeing. Arts centres provide a space for creative expression and therapeutic activities, promoting emotional and psychological health.

Innovation and Creativity: Arts centres foster innovation by providing a space for experimentation and collaboration. They encourage artists to push boundaries and explore new ideas, driving creativity and inspiring progress in various fields.

Accessibility and Inclusion: Arts centres work to make art accessible to all, regardless of age, background, or ability. They offer inclusive programs and facilities that cater to diverse audiences, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to engage with and enjoy the arts.



Environmental Awareness: Many arts centres incorporate sustainability into their practices, using eco-friendly materials and promoting environmental awareness through their programs. They play a role in educating the community about environmental issues and inspiring positive action.

The Active People Data 2015-2017 suggests that:

- 52.2% of adults (16+) in England attended an event, performance or festival involving creative, artistic, dance, theatrical or music activity in the twelve months prior to interview.
- 46.5% had attended a museum or gallery, 35.0% had visited a public library and 34.7% had spent time doing a creative, artistic, theatrical or music activity or a craft.
- 26.6% had attended an event, performance or festival three or more times in the preceding twelve months, while 23.7% had done so at public libraries and 20.9% at museums or galleries.

Physical activity amongst adults and children in Havering:

Data on physical activity levels amongst children at Local Authority level is not available. In Havering in 2015, **55.4%** of adults self-reported that they achieve the recommended levels of physical activity (150 minutes per week according to the Chief Medical Officer's guidance). This data has been collected since 2012 and there are currently not enough data points to calculate reliable trend information. In terms of comparison to regional and national averages in 2015, it is similar to London (**57.8%**) and England (**57.0%**).





Culture

Total engagement (physical or digital) across the cultural sectors was higher in 2023/24 compared to the previous year (2022/23), with the exception of the heritage sector which has remained the same. Total engagement in the arts (91%) was the highest, whilst library engagement was the lowest (30%).

- Overall, physical engagement was higher across all cultural sectors than digital engagement.
- Museums and galleries saw the largest increase in engagement compared to the other cultural sectors, with an increase of 10 percentage points in total engagement from the previous year.

Information taken from Participation Survey 2023-2024.

Contribution of the Arts to Corporate Objectives and Initiatives

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| Places | <p>The arts make our environment more appealing, and sharpen our perception and experience of it by making us more curious and allowing us to better engage with our environment.</p> <p>The arts also contribute to community safety, particularly through our work with young people. For example, enabling young people to work well in groups and express themselves creatively, using the arts to provide education on alcohol, using music production to allow examination of issues through lyric writing and conversation. The arts also contribute to important protective factors such as literacy and numeracy, and simple diversionary activities for people at risk of offending, or dropping out of education.</p> <p>School Initiative: Goal: Embed arts education within the school curriculum to inspire creativity and critical thinking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum Integration: Include arts subjects in the core curriculum. • Extracurricular Activities: Provide after-school art clubs and programs. • Artist Residencies: Partner with local artists to provide hands-on learning experiences. |
| Opportunities | <p>The arts provide opportunities for self-expression, relaxation, creativity and enjoyment, and have a powerful and positive impact on our physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. The arts provide particularly important opportunities to engage and improve the lives of more isolated, disadvantaged, disabled or hard to reach individuals, because of the diverse range, and accessible nature, of arts activities. The arts also creates a voice for these groups to connect, communicate and advocate for themselves.</p> <p>The arts are a rich conduit to formal and informal learning in all aspects of our lives. As well as providing opportunities to develop art-based skills, engaging in the arts also enhances our sense of imagination, enquiry and problem-solving skills, and enables us to better understand ourselves and communicate with others. The arts also provide opportunities to learn about other world cultures, is suited to all ages, interests and abilities, and can be used as a method of engaging otherwise hard to reach groups in informal learning activity.</p> <p>Economic Impact Initiative: Goal: Utilize the arts to stimulate economic growth and create employment opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Industry Support: Invest in local artists and creative businesses to foster a thriving arts sector. • Tourism: Promote arts events and public art installations to attract tourists and boost local spending. • Job Creation: Develop arts programs that create job opportunities in various sectors, including education, event management, and healthcare. • Business Collaboration: Encourage partnerships between arts organizations and local businesses to drive economic development. |

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| Communities | <p>Havering's towns and communities are steeped in the arts, both in a physical sense through the design and architecture of our town centres, and through the opportunities provided to participate and engage in the arts. Art makes places more exciting, improves residents' perceptions of their local area, bind us together, and supports the development of a stronger, more cohesive society. Art resides in multiple settings throughout our towns and communities; within our libraries, parks, museums, theatres, community and church halls, our high streets and our homes. The arts attract footfall and spend within our town centres and ensure we develop an economy that makes things as well as consumes them.</p> <p>Project example: Community Arts Programme</p> <p>Goal: Create inclusive community art projects that reflect local culture and history.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops: Offer regular art workshops in various disciplines (painting, sculpture, dance, music). • Events: Host annual community art festivals showcasing local talent. • Public Art: Develop public art installations and murals with community input. |
| Connections | <p>To work in support of the Cultural Strategy, A Good Life. Havering is strongly networked and increasingly resilient borough of cultural players, where cultural partners work together to develop and deliver cultural strategy, create projects in partnership, cross promote each other's work and fundraise for new initiatives.</p> |

Other Key Initiatives

Creative Health Initiative:

Goal: Use the arts to improve physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

- Art Therapy: Offer art therapy sessions to support mental health.
- Healthcare Partnerships: Collaborate with hospitals and healthcare providers to integrate arts programs into patient care.
- Community Wellbeing Projects: Develop projects that promote relaxation, mindfulness, and emotional expression through art.

Climate Action Initiative:

Goal: Leverage the arts to engage the community in environmental awareness and climate action.

- Eco-Art Projects: Create art installations using recycled materials to promote sustainability.
- Awareness Campaigns: Use public art to highlight the impact of climate change and encourage eco-friendly practices.
- Workshops and Talks: Host events focused on the intersection of art and environmentalism, featuring eco-conscious artists and activists.



- **Green Practices:** Implement eco-friendly practices in all arts programs, such as using sustainable materials and reducing waste.

Broader Initiatives:

Goal: Create an interconnected arts ecosystem that supports lifelong learning and cultural exchange.

- **Partnerships:** Collaborate with galleries, theatres, and other cultural institutions to offer joint programs.
- **Grants and Funding:** Secure funding from local government and private sponsors to support arts initiatives.
- **Marketing:** Use social media and local media to promote programs and events.

Innovation and Digital Arts:

Goal: Embrace technology and innovation to enhance artistic expression and engagement.

- **Digital Platforms:** Develop online platforms for virtual art exhibitions, workshops, and events.
- **Tech Integration:** Use augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) to create immersive art experiences.
- **Innovation Hubs:** Create spaces where artists can experiment with new technologies and collaborate with tech experts.

Cultural Diversity:

Goal: Celebrate and promote diversity through inclusive arts programs.

- **Multicultural Events:** Host festivals and events that showcase the artistic traditions of various cultures.
- **Diverse Representation:** Ensure arts programs reflect the diversity of the community.
- **Cultural Exchange:** Facilitate cultural exchange programs to broaden artistic perspectives.

Artist Support:

Goal: Provide support and resources for local artists to thrive.

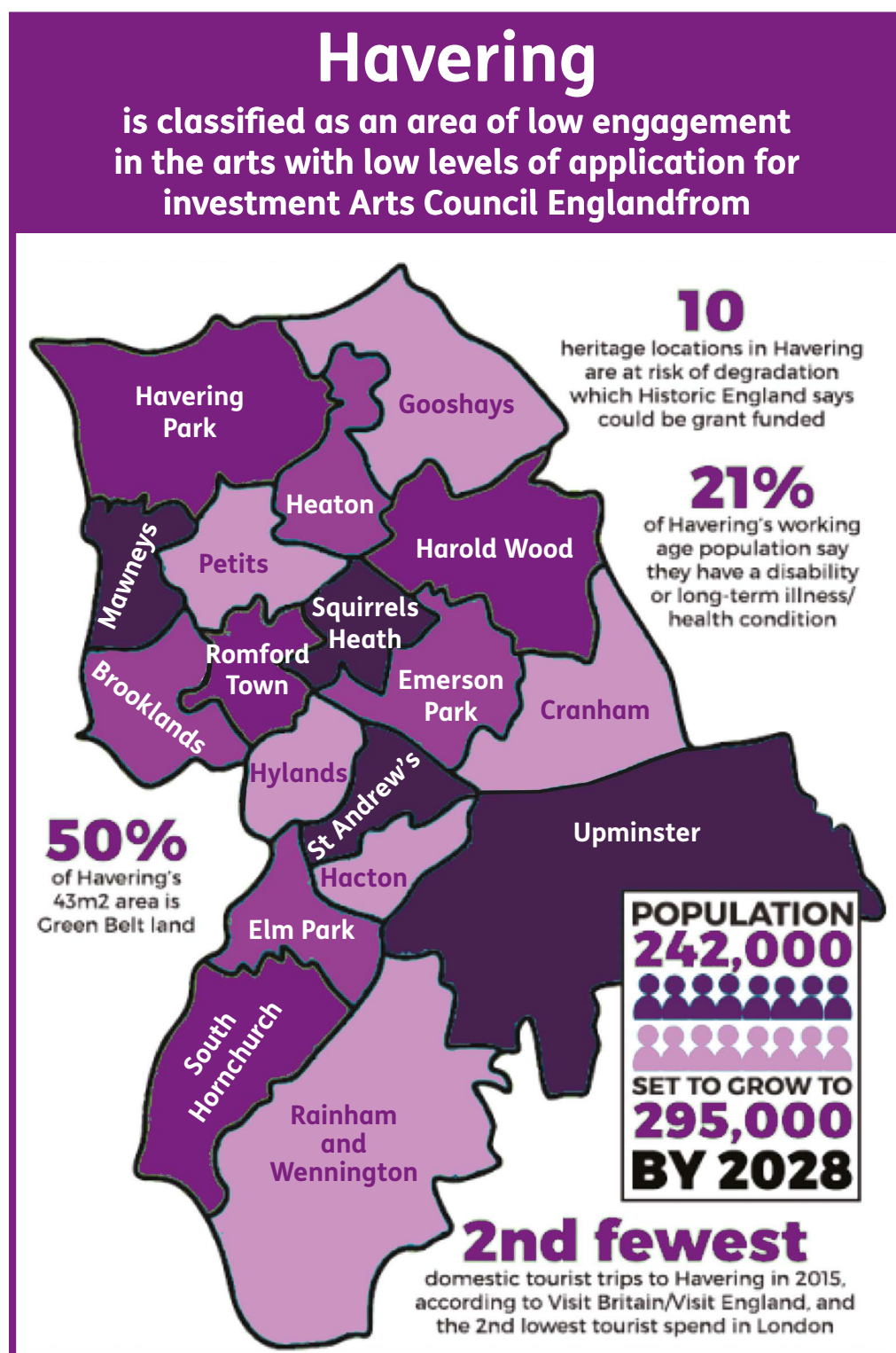
- **Grants and Scholarships:** Offer financial support to emerging and established artists.
- **Residencies and Studios:** Provide affordable studio spaces and artist residency programs.
- **Professional Development:** Offer workshops and resources for artists to develop their skills and careers.



Responding to a changing community

Local Context

Havering has a range of existing arts activity. The arts have become more innovative and wide-ranging and its offer has become of much higher quality; the borough's facilities physically vastly improved, more professionally-run and safer to use than ever before. New partnerships with other local authority services and external bodies, voluntary and community groups have been developed and sustained. The arts have become better-attuned to efficient delivery and service user needs, and our own services, and our service and voluntary sector partners, think and act much more strategically.



Havering's Culture Strategy clearly summarises the demographic changes facing the borough over the next few years, to which the Arts Service, as do all council services and partners, need to respond.

The GLA produce estimates of population change by ethnicity. The white population is projected to decrease from 84% (in 2017) to 78% (in 2032) of the population. It is projected that the Black African population will increase from 4.1% in 2017 to 5.3% of the Havering population in 2032. The ethnic characteristics of Havering is gradually changing due to its growing cultural diversity.

- Havering is the second largest borough in Greater London with a population of around 262,100 (as of the 2021 census), set to grow by 295,000 by 2028.
- Havering is one of the least diverse boroughs, although between 2001-2011 Havering had the highest increase of ethnic minority population, doubling to 17% by 2011.
- Havering's ethnic minority population is projected to steadily increase to approximately 21% in 2041.
- Approximately 18% of working age people living in havering disclosed they has a disability or long term illness.
- Age Distribution: Havering has the oldest population in London, with a median age of around 40 years.
- Population Growth: The population increased by 10.5% from 2011 to 2021.
- Children (0-17 years): Around 58,550 children, which is a 15.2% increase from 2011.

We can also identify that Havering continues to have an age profile which is older than London as a whole. It is projected that the largest growth in population to 2033 will occur in children (0-17 years) and older age groups (65+) Life expectancy at age 65 years in Havering is a further 19 years for males and 21.7 years for females.

With the risk of growing divisions between young and old, the arts and culture in general are in an almost uniquely strong position not only to improve the quality of life for both groups but to create social ties that bind young and old together. There is a strong case for the arts service and its partners to work more proactively to create intergenerational working, and to respond more strongly to a significantly growing section of the community with mobility issues or who are homebound.

The establishment of the Disability Forum has already resulted in the Arts Service working in partnership with the voluntary sector to provide holiday scheme activities for disabled young people. These kinds of community partnerships will continue to play a pivotal role in the delivery of this kind of targeted work, and it is vital that activity content is as user-led as possible. Integrated working is also important, with disabled and non-disabled people working together and breaking down misunderstandings and social barriers along the way.



How the Arts contribute to our Towns and Communities

The arts make a significant contribution to our Towns and Communities, in environmental, social and economic terms.

‘Analysis of the national survey reveals that people who viewed a sense of community as being important to them were most likely to agree that attending arts and culture events helped them feel part of their community. 68% per cent of those who say that a sense of community is very important to them agree that attending arts and culture events helped them feel part of their community, compared to 30% of those who see a sense of community as very unimportant’ (The Value of Arts and Culture in Place-shaping, 2019, Wavehill Ltd).

The effect of the arts in educating and inspiring us, developing our emotional and intellectual literacy, keeping us active and healthy and providing cohesion for our community, all of these things translate in to our own economic activity too, extending the arts’ contribution way beyond the mere purchase of tickets and refreshments.



Our borough's arts facilities, activities, events and festivals, as well as our museum, parks and libraries, are all engines for the local economy. National studies have long shown that cultural facilities and activities are important factors in where we choose to live, educate our children, where we go shopping and where we choose to set up our businesses.

Art begins to define our townscapes not just physically, but in the way that our community functions both intellectually and emotionally. As our demography changes then so does our artistic landscape, offering us experience and insight into a huge and diverse range of new cultures which help make all members of our community understand each other better.

Building, developing, preserving and stewarding our environment is a process that greatly benefits from the guidance of artists, but in a much richer and complex way than the provision of public art or the integration of artists into urban design projects. People who make, create and perform have historically displayed an unusually vibrant relationship with their natural habitat, and their work, by relating the human experience to both the built and natural environment, and by exploring new views on relationships and situations, help the rest of us enjoy living in closer proximity to other people. Art makes the environment exciting.

How an Arts Strategy Can Enhance Havering's Heritage

An arts strategy can be a dynamic force in the delivery and expansion of heritage initiatives, breathing new life into historical narratives and making them more accessible, engaging, and relevant to contemporary audiences. By integrating creative practices into heritage work, organizations can deepen public connection to place, memory, and identity.

• Creative Interpretation of Historic Sites

Artists can reimagine heritage spaces through installations, performances, or digital storytelling, offering fresh perspectives that resonate with diverse audiences.

• Community Co-Creation Projects

Engaging local residents in artistic activities—such as oral history murals, participatory theatre, or craft workshops—can uncover untold stories and foster a sense of ownership.

• Heritage Festivals and Cultural Trails

Arts-led programming within heritage festivals or walking trails can animate historical narratives, blending education with entertainment to attract wider participation.

• Residencies and Artist Commissions

Hosting artists-in-residence at heritage sites encourages long-term creative engagement and can result in new works that interpret and celebrate local history.

• Digital Arts and Immersive Media

Using augmented reality, projection mapping, or interactive soundscapes can modernize heritage experiences and appeal to younger audiences.

Culture and the creative industries contribute £52bn to London's economy every year and account for one in six jobs in the capital. Culture for all Londoners details how the Mayor will keep the city at the top of its creative game and ensure there are cultural opportunities in every corner of the capital.

Culture Strategy for London



What facilities and services are provided?

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| The London Borough of Havering Arts development team | <p>Arts development team work throughout the borough targeting specific and disadvantaged sections of the community, e.g. Looked-After Children; young offenders and those at risk of offending; disabled children and young people; older people; disabled older people and ethnic minorities. A wide range of arts and cultural events and programmes throughout the borough, both as direct provision or in partnership with other council service areas, voluntary/community sector, arts organisations and schools, including Langton's Summer Concert, Havering Show, Fairkytes Live, Mercury Mall, MyPlace community centre, schools art competitions, older people's art competitions, Libraries, Waste and Recycling team, NELFT, Family Information Group, and LBH Housing team. Other services include: Havering Councils Hostels, Havering Council Music School, Havering Council Fostering Team, Havering Council Art Therapists, Havering Adult College, Havering Council Sports Team, Avelon Road Day Centre (Need to check if this comes under Havering Council or wider), Havering Council Events Team, Havering Town Hall facilities management.</p> |
| Fairkytes Arts Centre | <p>Fairkytes Arts Centre, Billet Lane, Hornchurch, offering a year-round programme of participatory arts opportunities and activities for all ages and abilities, through both direct provision and activities offered by its short-term and long-term tutors and tenants, and community/voluntary group room hires.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fairkytes offers summer and Easter holiday schemes and half term activities for children and young people and targeted provision for SEND children and adults. • 2018 saw the opening of Fry's Gallery, utilising the former Citizens advice bureau offices. The redevelopment of this space created a good sized community gallery space, along with Kitchen and workshop area. The popularity of the spaces increases year by year by both local and national artists, as well as voluntary and community organisations with The London Borough of Havering. • Fairkytes Arts Centre plays a key role as a centre for cultural industry, with nine artists and craftspeople in permanent studio residence, alongside its retail shop offering a selling space for local artists and craftspeople. <p>Arts centres hold great value in society. They are a place for cultural enrichment, education and lifelong learning, community belonging, aid economic growth, health and wellbeing, a place for innovation and creativity with a focus of accessibility and inclusion.</p> |

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| Havering Library services | <p>Havering Libraries are community living rooms and the cultural hubs of the borough. We pride ourselves on being innovative and our issues and visits are growing as more and more people are learning about everything that the modern library has to offer. The Arts Strategy will aid development of arts and culture activities, by delivering programmes such as arts exhibitions, workshops and classes, storytelling and performance, digital arts, community arts projects, art therapy and cultural events.</p> |
| Havering Theatre Trust, Queen's Theatre Hornchurch | <p>Havering Theatre Trust, Queen's Theatre Hornchurch is a vibrant regional theatre with a rich heritage, working in Outer East London, Essex and beyond. As the cultural hub of the region, over 200,000 people enjoy the programme each year, including the best in home grown theatre, visiting live entertainment and inspiring Learning and Participation projects. Behind the scenes, sets and costumes are lovingly created on-site by a highly skilled carpentry workshop, scenic artists, prop makers and wardrobe team. Audiences are guaranteed a warm welcome from a winner of UK Theatre's Most Welcoming Theatre 2016, 2017 & 2018 and London Theatre of the Year 2020 (The Stage Awards), the first Outer London theatre to receive this prestigious award. https://www.queens-theatre.co.uk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A year-round programme of visiting artists, performers and shows covering all forms of music, dance, spoken word and touring productions. • Youth theatre and youth dance companies • An extensive theatre-in-education programme touring to schools and colleges throughout the borough (and neighbouring boroughs) • A foyer programme of youth music, community events, exhibitions, children's theatre, jazz and comedy clubs • A vital facility for hire/use by the voluntary arts sector, schools and community events • Securing Arts Council England National Portfolio Status in order to maintain the Queen's Theatre at the heart of Havering's regional cultural offer for the next three years |
| Havering Music School | <p>Havering Music School has existed in its present form since 1993. The school has grown considerably, steadily building ensemble activities, amalgamating all the small Saturday Music Centres into one and creating partnerships with many of the country's top orchestras and ensembles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMS teach more than 2,350 primary, secondary and college students every week. Lessons on most orchestral instruments, plus voice, drum kit, keyboard and piano, which are taught to pupils of all abilities, from beginner to advanced. • A further 1,500 children in 23 primary schools take part in weekly class ensemble tuition • Peripatetic music tuition for individuals and a number of ensembles • Havering Music School is involved in a number of partnerships with local and national organisations. • Is the lead organisation for the Havering Music Education Hub we work closely with a range of partner organisations, including the London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Opera House and London Chamber Orchestra, to give students the chance to perform at major London venues and work alongside some of the country's finest professional musicians |

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| Havering Arts Council | <p>Havering Arts Council was formed in 1965 to help develop the practise and appreciation of the Arts throughout the London Borough of Havering. Havering Arts Council is divided into three main tiers of organisation. Every member group, and individual member, is represented through, and entitled to participate in, one of the relevant hubs. The five activity hubs are Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Arts and Diverse (other). They meet to discuss and advise the Executive on matters falling within their particular field of interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAC support the cultural life of the borough and help local creatives and arts groups to grow and develop. • Organise festivals and exhibitions, offer networking opportunities and grants to our member societies to support their activities. • Work in collaboration with the borough's Arts Development team, the department of Culture and Leisure Services and The Queens Theatre, Hornchurch |
| Brookside Theatre | <p>Brookside Theatre is an award-winning 194-seat theatre in the London Borough of Havering and the first and only professional arts venue in Romford. Based within the historic Romford War Memorial buildings, it was established in 2012 and now plays host to a varied programme of events; full scale musicals, plays, live music, stand-up comedy, tribute acts and celebrity guests. The aim of the theatre has been to raise funds for the continued renovation and subsequent upkeep of these historic buildings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is entirely self-sufficient, self-funded and voluntarily run and serves to entertain, enrich, inspire and educate the community and provide a first-class theatrical experience that is both accessible and affordable. • Creative opportunities are provided for members of the community of all ages to learn and experience all aspects of theatre production and with the introduction of two in-house societies, members of the community are actively encouraged to participate in in-house events. • The theatre offers the opportunity of showcasing local talent and provides arts educational programmes that promote life-long learning to the borough's diverse community. |
| MyPlace | <p>MyPlace is a youth and community centre in Harold Hill which serves the community by providing a welcoming space for residents to visit for educational, health, cultural and social activities. Built as part of the Harold Hill Ambitions Project, in partnership with Havering Council and the Big Lottery Fund, MyPlace officially opened its doors to the public in June 2012. The facility operates with many partners, including counselling, health, information, advice and guidance for young people and the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The building boasts an impressive performance hall, audio recording studio, games room, cafe, art room, workshop, health rooms and computer suite. • The London Borough of Havering's Youth Service is based in the building. • The Youth Service delivers a packed programme of activities for young people to enjoy, including youth clubs, sports, Duke of Edinburgh awards, youth action, and music and arts projects. |

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| The Appleby Gallery | <p>The Appleby Gallery (formerly Brentwood Road Gallery) is a visual arts centre on Frances Bardsley School's campus, hosting national touring exhibitions, established and emerging artists and developing arts education, outreach and related programming.</p> <p>The gallery aims to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the understanding and appreciation of art by all members of the community • Make art and the creative process available to those who might not otherwise have access through community outreach • Promote opportunities for artists' growth and development • Dedicate to the cultural enrichment of Havering and the surrounding areas by sponsor activities to promote the understanding and appreciation of art by all members of the community. • Commit to supporting our local creative and artistic community by offering a program of exhibitions, events and workshops that enable them to develop their practice. |
| Daniel's View, The Mercury Mall Gallery | <p>The Mercury Shopping centre officially opened 'Daniel's View Gallery' an art gallery space on level three of the centre. The gallery has been open since November 2018 in conjunction with 'The Big Draw' after The Mercury won the 'Community, Libraries and Participatory Award'.</p> |
| Creative People and Places (Havering Changing) | <p>Creative People and Places is about local people choosing, creating and taking part in the arts and culture on offer to them. CPP has awarded £17.5 million over the next four years (2019-2023) to 13 places identified as having some of the lowest engagement with arts and culture in the country.</p> <p>Havering Changing is a new project which will support local people, living and working, in Harold Hill, Orchard Village, Rainham and Romford to choose, create and take part in their own their programme of inspiring arts and culture. In August 2019, Havering Changing was thrilled to be one of only twelve new places in the country successful in its application to join Arts Council England's Creative People and Places programme, for a four year period starting in November 2019. Havering Changing will trial radical new ideas that engage local people in arts and culture in a variety of new ways. Havering Changing is a consortium of eight organisations, led by Queen's Theatre Hornchurch, working with Clarion Futures (the charitable foundation of Clarion Housing Group), Havering Colleges, Havering Interfaith Forum, Havering Volunteer Centre, Havering Youth Services and MyPlace, Rainham Association for Village Events (R.A.V.E.), and The Mercury Shopping Centre. The organisations that have come together to lead Havering Changing all passionately believe putting local communities at the heart of cultural decision making will enable residents to tell new and different stories about Havering; it will help people to feel at home in the world and in Havering; it will create moments of delight and inspiration; and that it will lead to a more connected, ambitious and confident community that believes they have just as much right to amazing cultural experiences as everyone else.</p> <p>https://www.haveringchanging.org/about</p> |

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| Havering College of Further and Higher education | <p>Havering College of Further and Higher Education is a college founded in 1947 in the London Borough of Havering that provides part-time and full-time education to students aged 14+</p> <p>At Havering College, we aim to deliver high quality education and training that responds to the needs of employers and individuals. We are constantly working to deliver courses that are developed in conjunction with employers to ensure that learners have the opportunity to develop the relevant skills required for the industry.</p> <p>Our diverse curriculum of over 360 courses, ranging from entry level to postgraduate degrees means we can provide all the pathways needed to progress onto a higher course or straight into employment. With us, learners have the opportunity to achieve their maximum potential whilst studying in a safe and inspirational learning environment.</p> |
| The Arts Society Havering | <p>The Arts Society (formerly NADFAS) is a leading arts charity. It was founded in 1968 to promote and advance aesthetic education, to cultivate the appreciation and study of the decorative and fine arts and to support the conservation of our national artistic heritage.</p> <p>Over forty years ago Havering DFAS was formed following Susan Sloan's presence at a very interesting lecture arranged by NADFAS at the Courtauld Institute. This experience set Sue investigating and working extremely hard to gather a committee of like-minded ladies with suitable expertise to start a local society. Her aim was to follow Patrica Fay in forming a Society initially for young mothers to attend stimulating lectures about Decorative and Fine Arts once a month, while the children were at school. The group started in Romford in 1973 where we meet once again. 2013 marked our 40th anniversary.</p> |
| FUSE (Local Cultural Educational Partnership) | <p>The steering group has representatives from ten organisations, including the Queen's Theatre Hornchurch, the local authority, youth services, and primary, secondary and college establishments.</p> <p>London is one of the greatest creative hubs in the world, however Havering is recorded as the fourth least culturally engaged London borough and third least able to access hyper-local publically funded culture. The partnership is working together to respond to this.</p> <p>In April, the partnership delivered its first conference, 'The Children Have Spoken', sharing valuable learning from a series of youth consultation workshops to help understand the level of access to arts and culture across the borough, highlighting interests, needs and barriers to participating. We worked with 8 organisations, delivered 14 workshops and spoke to 252 young people.</p> <p>The partnership is currently developing a three year programme of activity in response to the research, which will build on the early success of projects in the pilot year, including a new Cultural Commissioning initiative to empower and facilitate young people to design and produce their own creative and cultural events.</p> |

Creative Health Havering

Creative Health Havering is a network of local grassroots community organisations, third sector services and medical professionals exploring opportunities around social prescribing and the benefit of arts activity for health and wellbeing.

Havering is a rapidly changing community and experiences many of the health and social inequalities of an outer-London borough. Creative Health Havering is coming together to help tackle these inequalities through moving away from an exclusively medical model of care towards a more community-based, person-centred approach, which brings together the expertise and experience from all parts of the cultural community and health care system. (Information sourced from www.queens-theatre.co.uk)



St George's Health and Wellbeing Hub

St. George's health and Wellbeing Hub in Hornchurch provides a range of health and care services under one roof. St George's Creative Health Strategy was devised and written by Dr Rebecca Gordon-Nesbitt, in close dialogue with health leaders, stakeholders at St George's and representatives of the wider health, local authority, cultural and creative communities of Havering as well as national organisations working to advance creative health. Development of the strategy was funded by Arts Council, with additional support from McLaren Construction Group, Northmores and Capsticks, and administered by London Arts and Health.

The creation of this strategy marks the next step in an ambitious, place-based approach to integrating the arts into health and care at St George's. The strategy launch will feature reflections from key project partners and stakeholders, offering valuable insights into the development of the strategy and its future implementation.



Creative Health activity can help users of such services by:

Stress Reduction: Engaging in arts activities can significantly reduce stress levels, promoting relaxation and a sense of calm.

Improved Mood: Creating or experiencing art can enhance mood, providing an emotional outlet and boosting overall happiness.

Emotional Expression: Arts provide a safe and constructive way to express and process complex emotions, which can be particularly beneficial for those dealing with trauma or grief.

Cognitive Function: Participation in the arts stimulates brain function, enhancing cognitive abilities such as memory, attention, and problem-solving skills.

Social Connection: Arts activities can build social connections, reducing feelings of isolation and fostering a sense of belonging within the community.

Self-Esteem: Successfully completing an art project can boost self esteem and confidence, especially in children and vulnerable individuals.

Therapeutic Value: Art therapy is widely recognized for its effectiveness in treating mental health conditions such as anxiety, depression, and PTSD.

Resilience: Engaging with the arts helps build resilience by providing individuals with coping mechanisms and a sense of purpose.

Artsmark Schools in Havering

Artsmark is the only creative quality standard for schools and education settings, accredited by Arts Council England. They support settings to develop and celebrate their commitment to arts and cultural education.

Artsmark provides a clear and flexible framework for teachers and schools leaders to embed creativity across the whole curriculum and address school improvement priorities.

Receive professional support, advice and resources to strengthen your arts provision.

You'll be supported throughout your Artsmark journey by our regional network of Bridge organisations, providing training, advice, practical teaching resources and introductions to other settings and leading cultural organisations in your area.

Artsmark clearly demonstrates how you support personal development and provides evidence to Ofsted on how you meet its spiritual, moral, social, cultural requirements.

Havering's current Artsmark schools include:

1. Ardleigh Green Junior School (Silver)
2. Branfil Primary School
3. Drapers' Pyrgo Priory Primary School
4. Engayne Primary School (Gold)
5. Gidea Park Primary School (Silver)
6. Harold Court Primary School (Silver)
7. Parklands Junior School
8. Rainham Village Primary School and Nursery (Silver)
9. Scargill Infant School
10. St. Peter's Catholic School
11. The Brittons Academy (Silver)
12. The Frances Bardsley Academy
13. Whybridge Junior School (Silver)

www.artsmark.org.uk



Culture strategy- A Good Life

The new Culture strategy for Havering is a framework that will inform future directions for culture and cultural activities in Havering.

Havering's Cultural Strategy has been developed by the public, private and voluntary sector in Havering, and represents the planned strategic work of a broad range of organisations and groups.

It is a consortium strategy designed to act as a three year catalyst for nurturing and growing the cultural life of a rapidly changing place.

It is designed to be used by anyone developing, making and building cultural activity in Havering.

It supports a shared vision across a networked borough.

Extract from London Borough of Havering; Culture strategy A Good Life.

The arts strategy aims to directly support and enhance the culture strategy in several key ways. This will include enhancing cultural identity, community engagement, economic development, increasing accessibility, education and lifelong learning, health and wellbeing and environmental awareness.

The strategy will work to bring the culture strategy to life by providing tangible programs, initiatives, and benefits that enrich community life and promote cultural vibrancy.

Arts, Culture and Havering Communication Strategies

The Culture Strategy is built on co-design and participation, involving over 50 organisations and 1,000 residents. This aligns with the communications strategy's goal of making residents feel informed, engaged, and involved in the borough's vision. Public art, festivals, and creative projects become tools for dialogue and storytelling, helping the Council communicate its priorities in accessible and emotionally resonant ways.

Promoting Havering's Identity

The communications strategy includes a goal to put "Havering on the map". The arts and cultural strategy directly supports this by:

- Celebrating local heritage through initiatives like Havering: Unearthed.
- Hosting landmark events in Romford Market.
- Creating immersive archives and public art installations.

These efforts help shape a distinctive and positive narrative about Havering, which the communications team can amplify across media channels.



Supporting Inclusive Messaging

Havering's population is rapidly changing, with increasing diversity and a younger demographic. The art strategy addresses this by:

- Empowering underrepresented voices (e.g. Deaf, disabled, neurodivergent artists).
- Creating community venues for shared programming.
- Promoting cultural equity and wellbeing.

This inclusivity strengthens the Council's messaging around belonging, fairness, and opportunity, key themes in its communications strategy.

Enhancing Internal and External Communications

The cultural strategy has:

- Raised the profile of culture within the Council.
- Embedded culture in the Corporate Plan.
- Created new strategic partnerships with national bodies like Arts Council England and Historic England.

These developments improve internal communications by aligning departments around shared goals, and external communications by providing compelling content and success stories to share with residents, media, and investors.

Driving Place-Based Marketing

The communications strategy includes marketing and events as key pillars. The art strategy fuels this by:

- Launching 30 cultural projects.
- Creating a new artist studio and digital platform.
- Hosting public talks and creative health initiatives.

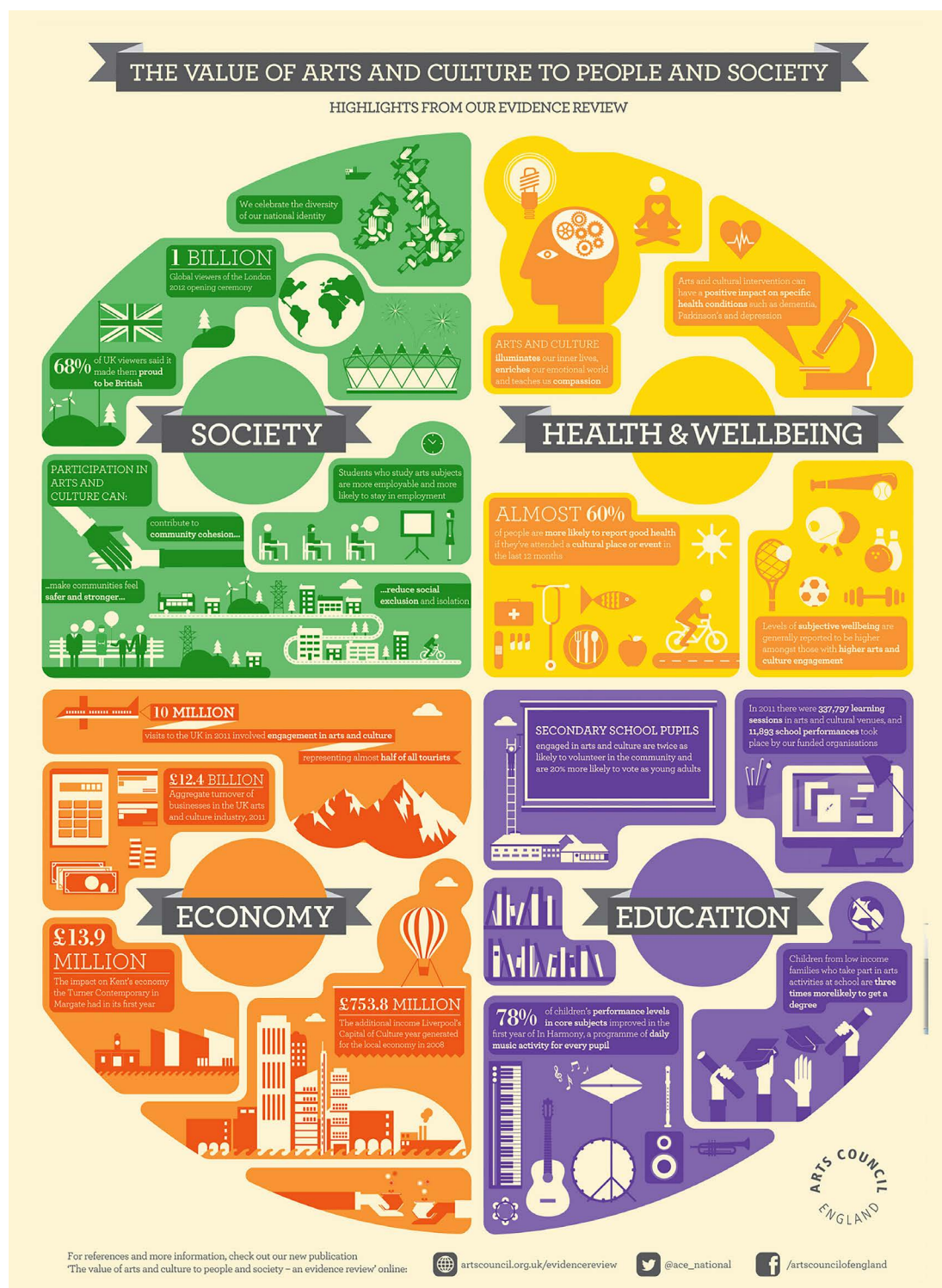
These activities generate positive press, social media content, and community buzz, which the communications team can leverage to promote Havering as a vibrant place to live, work, and invest.

'The value of arts and culture to people and society outlines the existing evidence on the impact of arts and culture on our economy, health and wellbeing, society and education.'

How the Arts contribute to Health & Wellbeing

The arts are essential to our physical and mental health and wellbeing. There is a significant and fast growing body of research on the positive health benefits from engaging in the arts, which illustrates the full contribution the arts can make to our Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities. For example, research has found that:

- **‘Singing can significantly improve quality of life for people with dementia’.**
- **Hospital patients** who experienced visual arts and live music during their stay had significantly less need for pain relief, had lower levels of anxiety and depression, and were released from hospital earlier than those in the control group.
- **‘Rheumatoid arthritis sufferers** who listen to 20 minutes of music daily report a significant reduction in their perception of pain’.



The arts are increasingly recognised for the vital role they play in educational, social and health environments, for example the arts can:

- Encourage individuals to express themselves creatively, bringing a sense of satisfaction, improving confidence, contributing to their health and well-being and a more balanced life.
- Play a key role in knowledge and academic achievements, which can enhance individual's employment prospects.
- Create stronger, cohesive local communities by bringing people together, sharing interests, stories and experiences, and giving people a greater sense of community and place.
- Support community safety initiatives by reducing crime through encouraging delivery of purposeful activity to assist in strengthening community networks.
- Continued investment in events and arts facilities, making it a more attractive place to live and work, and attracting visitors into the area. This could also benefit cultural tourism sectors and creative industries.
- Keep local businesses at the cutting edge by encouraging creativity and developing a strong cultural and creative industry sector.
- Make our public spaces and buildings livelier and visually attractive.

‘The national survey findings reveal that two-thirds of respondents agreed that arts and culture has positive benefits for their personal wellbeing and just over half (55 per cent) stated that they would like to see more opportunities in their area. A similar proportion (49 per cent) also agreed that going to arts and culture events helped them to feel part of their community.’

The value of Arts and Culture in place Shaping, 2019, Wavehill LTD.

1. LBH Arts Department work with local residential housing schemes, day centres, learning-disabled adults and Alzheimer sufferers demonstrates the benefits of continuing engagement in arts activities, which provide positive activities or even respite for carers and families, and even contribute to extend independent living.

“There’s a lot of talent around and venues like this gives people the chance to show it. Very good work. I’m proud of my Dad’s work here and it’s all in good company.”

NHS Memory Service Exhibition Fry’s Gallery, Fairkytes Arts Centre.



How the Arts contribute to Learning and Personal Development

To engage in the arts means to engage in learning, producing important development outcomes for individuals.

The arts are a rich conduit to formal and informal learning in all aspects of our lives – not just restricted to learning art skills.

The arts make us curious about the world around us, stimulating enquiry, enabling us to communicate and honing our problem-solving skills. From the foundation of observation, those who partake in making art are also engaged in analysis. We learn as individuals, but we also learn collectively – from a group of watercolour hobbyists to a professional symphony orchestra – and our ability to communicate, listen, trust, recycle and contribute to this communal experience grows ever more expansive. The artist offers us alternative narratives, new ideas and ways of thinking, challenging us to decode them individually and collectively, and even if the end result is to reject that narrative, we have still informed ourselves.



We learn through the arts and develop our learning skills – as audience just as much as participant. The arts offer us an opportunity to locate ourselves in our social and cultural environment. Exposure to art of the highest quality as part of our educative process, be it formal or informal, has long been established as a core necessity of our learning journey. The value of this experience to schools in both delivering and enriching the national curriculum, whether it is through visiting professional performances or hosting professional artist's in-school, is beyond doubt.

The arts assist in learning and development of important characteristics children will need as adults.

10 Reasons Why Arts in Education Is so Important for Kids, By Laura Martin

Improved Academic Performance

Creativity

Motor Skills

Confidence

Visual Learning

Decision Making

Perserverance

Focus

Collaboration

Accountability

Para Arts Exhibition response

“Inspirational work. Very thoughtful and innovative pieces. I can only imagine how motivated the artists feel when they see their work displayed. Well done to the teaching for encouraging such lovely work too.”

Strategic national, regional and local documents relevant to the delivery of the arts in Havering

There are a large number of policies, strategies and priorities which are relevant to the Arts sector and the development of this strategy. The most significant influencers are listed below.

National Context

Arts Council England 2020 Strategy- Let's Create

Arts Council England's Strategy for 2020-30 is built around three Outcomes and four Investment Principles. They are designed to work together to achieve our vision of a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish, and where every one of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences.

The outcomes

- Creative people
- Cultural Communities
- A Creative & Cultural Country

Investment principles

- Ambition & Quality
- Dynamism
- Inclusivity & relevance
- Environmental Responsibility

The Outcomes and Investment Principles are fundamentally linked.

We believe people are better able to develop their creative potential if they have easy access – off and online – to outstanding libraries, museums and arts organisations.

Such provision must be locally accessible but part of a national cultural ecology: one that is ambitious, inclusive and relevant, dynamic and environmentally responsible.

And that national ecology must in turn be strengthened by talented artists from all communities, who have been given equal opportunities to develop their individual creative potential.

Taken together, the Outcomes and Investment Principles will guide us towards the creative and cultural nation we want England to become by 2030.

New National Plan for Music Education 2024-The Power of Music Lives

The National Plan for Music Education 2024, titled “The Power of Music to Change Lives,” outlines the government’s vision for music education in England. Here are some key points:

Vision and Goals

- **Inclusivity:** Ensure that all children and young people have access to music education, regardless of their background or location.
- **Opportunities:** Provide opportunities for children to learn to sing, play instruments, and create music together.
- **Progression:** Enable students to progress their musical interests and talents, including the possibility of pursuing music professionally.
- **Brain Development:** Highlight the role of music in brain development, aiding in language, motor skills, and emotional intelligence.

Funding and Investment

- **Investment:** The plan includes a £75 million investment to boost culture and creativity outside London between 2022 and 2025.
- **Partnerships:** Emphasizes partnerships with schools, music hubs, the music and creative sector, and other stakeholders to achieve its goals.

Implementation

- **Music Hubs:** Strengthen and expand the network of music hubs to provide high-quality music education in schools and communities.
- **Teacher Training:** Enhance training and support for music teachers to ensure they are well-equipped to deliver effective music education.
- **Community Engagement:** Encourage community involvement in music education through local events, workshops, and performances.

Impact

- **Cultural Enrichment:** Promote cultural enrichment and appreciation through diverse musical experiences.
- **Economic Growth:** Support the creative industries and contribute to the local economy by nurturing musical talent.

Health and Wellbeing:

Use music education to improve mental health and wellbeing among children and young people.

Information sourced from www.gov.uk and assets.publishing.service.gov.uk



Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport: Culture is Digital 2019

The report is based on findings from a survey of how people engage with arts and culture online, and attitudes towards using online technology to engage with the arts.

The internet is a marketing and audience development tool, for example as a core platform for booking tickets, but also a medium for distributing content and delivering immersive, participative and fundamentally new arts experiences. Arts organisations that are skilled in digital marketing – and particularly in areas such as search engine optimization and the use of social media – will see more people through their doors than ones that rely on an old-school website and the odd email newsletter.

The executive summary states:

On Digital Skills and capability the report noted skills gaps in the sector, such as data analysis and intellectual property knowledge, and highlighted the benefit of increasing digital skills and maturity. Since then:

- The Arts Council have launched their new £1.1 million Digital Culture network, a 2 year initiative to increase the digital skills and capacity of arts and cultural organisations, providing practical hands-on support, developing partnerships with the technology sector and facilitating the sharing of resources and best practice.
- DCMS have provided £200,000 to support the creation of a new Digital Culture Code and a Digital Maturity Index, a tool being developed by the Arts Council and National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership for the benefit of the whole culture sector.
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund is embarking on a new £1 million campaign to build digital capability in the heritage sector. Over the next 2 years they will invest in new projects and learning opportunities that target heritage organisations that lack digital skills and confidence.
- The Intellectual Property Office have delivered 6 free training seminars on intellectual property attracting over 100 organisations from across the culture sector.
- The Space have worked with the sector to develop and agree a new IP rights terminology to make the contracting of contributors, creators and existing rights-holders easier and more standardised.

Culture is Digital: June 2019 progress report



Our Action Plan for the next three years sets out some of the key activities required to achieve our vision for the Arts in Havering.

Our vision for the Arts in Havering, is that

“in three years’ time our residents and visitors, through their high levels of engagement and participation in the arts in all their rich variety of forms, will be thriving like never before”

What this will look like:

Year 1

- The arts in Havering will be strong, vibrant and diverse, delivering its full potential in terms of intrinsic and instrumental benefits for individuals, towns and communities.
- Hosting a vibrant programme of professional and community-based visual arts exhibitions, talks and workshops, along with the centre’s busy craft shop generating business for Havering’s artists and makers.
- Havering’s young, exciting artists and artistic community will work together ever more imaginatively, creating new initiatives and forming national and international links. Havering’s own artistic landscape will be revolutionised.
- Record numbers of people of all ages and abilities will be learning, engaging, participating in the arts.
- Our Music Hub partnership will develop and continue to provide music education opportunities for every child and young person in Havering.

Year 2

- Work with partners to collectively develop a more diverse programme of arts activities and events to support the changing communities of our borough.
- A thriving programme of arts activity and participation will have been established in identified hard to reach areas, and arts education providers will continue to work together to produce high quality lifelong learning opportunities for all ages.
- Events, concerts and festivals in each of our major centres will be bigger, brighter and better attended than ever before.
- Access to opportunity and information will be easier, with arts opportunities achieving the maximum possible market penetration through consultation, partnership-working and the employment of new technologies. Residents and visitors alike will be able to find places to go and things to do quickly and comprehensively.
- Our voluntary arts sector will become ever more vibrant and accessible, with high levels of engagement particularly amongst young people.

Year 3

- Our thriving partnerships with community, health and care sectors will enable us to maintain a solid, effective and measurable outreach programme targeting hard-to-reach and at-risk groups.
- Disabled people, older people and economically disadvantaged members of the community will have the same opportunities to engage in the arts as everyone else, while our programming will respond to our ever more diverse population.
- Evaluate the range of arts on offer and approach gaps in provision.
- Support more grassroots music projects in maintaining an accessible and diverse programme.

Acknowledgments

Staricoff, R., Duncan, J. and Wright, M. 'A study of the effects of visual and performing arts in healthcare' Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, 2004;

Arts council England

New Direction

Artsmark

