

Subject:

FW: AAP Wood Green Cultural Quarter Development

From: boady shouls

Sent: 31 March 2017 14:03

To: LDF

Subject: AAP Wood Green Cultural Quarter Development

I work and live in Wood Green.

I work freelance within the film and TV industry and I recently started renting a studio from Collage Arts at the Chocolate Factory. My job is varied and requires a wide range of skills and expertise. Although I am new a new member; I already feel the benefit of being surrounded by the variety of skills and artistic practices within this artists collective, and I have been impressed by the community spirit I have encountered. It feels apparent that there would be no 'cultural quarter' within Wood Green without this artist community and from speaking to my fellow artists, doubly apparent that this community could not exist in the same vibrant manner without Collage Arts. I am 26, I have worked within film and TV for 8 years now and have looked at renting a space to conduct my work from before but have found most studios well out of my price range. Collage, has been the first place I have been able to afford, I believe, due to its charity status. In conversation with them I have been excited by the support they have offered towards my future growth as an artist. I have also been impressed by their work with young people - I was able to offer one young woman on their youth program work on a film the end of last year and hope to be able to continue this relationship with them. Having both established professional artists and young people at the beginning of their working careers in close proximity is beneficial for both groups and I believe the work Collage does is admirable.

I would like to see Collage and the Artists embraced and celebrated in the redevelopment plans. We have a real opportunity to make Wood Green one of the top creative centers in London. I would like to see a new building specifically designated and designed for the Collage Artists. The Area Action Plan speaks of a 'new landmark building' to mark Wood Green Cultural Quarter, I see no better use for such a building than for Collage Arts and the artists who have supported the local businesses and fueled creative endeavor in the area for over 30 years. It would be wonderful to have all the artists in close proximity, clearly accessible and visible from the new planned pedestrianized Clarendon Road I am behind enhancing and updating the cycling routes in the area but would like to see vehicular access to any work spaces or artists studios also taken into careful consideration.

Ultimately there is a unique opportunity here to engage a large body of talented creatives in the final design and development of this area that I would like to see embraced. For example if there were to be a new building built for artists, full consultation on the final design with local resident artists would seem essential to its success. It would also be nice to see the potential for locally created, public art, crafted by local artists considered. Perhaps also a space, taking a similar idea to the 4th Plinth in Trafalgar Square, where local artists could apply to display their art for a length of time. Creating an energy and further engagement between local artists and local residents.

Boady