

Ruma Nowaz
Chocolate Factory
30/3/17

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am an Artist based at Chocolate factory 3, 40 Cumberland Road London N22 and also a resident of Wood Green Central Area. I would like to raise the following concerns: -

1. Whilst I support the proposals for the strengthening of the cultural quarter, I am concerned that the comprehensive development of this area will result in Artists such as myself being pushed out of the local area due to rising rents. Already I have had to move out of Chocolate Factory 1. Thanks to the Council and Collage Arts, I have got a new studio in Chocolate Factory 3 for the time being.
2. My studio was previously located in Chocolate Factory 1 where I was based for many years. I witnessed the rents doubling following the purchase of the Freehold by Workspace. Through out this time, Collage Arts supported the artists in the Chocolate Factory and sought to maintain affordable rents. They have maintained a strong community of Artists in a very supportive environment. These studios have become established in the local area through the yearly open studios, which is also hosted by Collage Arts. Over the years the popularity of this event has gone from strength to strength and involves local people and people from a wider catchment visiting my and other studio during these events.
3. For these reason I have also been able to continue my practice as an artist. However further rent increases will push out artists that are emerging or just starting out and will result in the dissolution of this centre for artists in their various practices. This group is a 'strength' for Wood Green and I urge you to support its retention.

I trust that you will take my objections into consideration,
Yours sincerely

Ruma Nowaz