

KINGS PLACE BELONG

**Community & Education
Strategy 2026-2029**



INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the ambitions, aspirations and key activity for the Kings Place: Belong programme of year-round work over the next three years (June 2026-December 2029).

Kings Place is one of London's leading cultural hubs, bringing music and ideas to life for our audiences. We present live events to tens of thousands of people each year at our central London venue and beyond, and to many more through our digital events, recordings, and online content.

At Kings Place, our aim is simple: to inspire and connect communities through exceptional music and creative learning. We don't just focus on what we do; we also care deeply about how we do it. People are at the heart of everything we create. We design our programmes with the communities we work with and adapt to meet their needs. We take pride in delivering artistic quality, accessibility, and value for everyone who walks through our doors or joins us online.

KINGS PLACE: BELONG

Our Kings Place: Belong programme takes music beyond the concert hall and into schools, workplaces, and communities. In the coming years, we will build deep connections with communities and young people across Islington & Camden, responding to need and working inclusively alongside a diverse range of participants, musicians, contributors, and partners.

We will aim to:

- Support music education and school curriculum in Islington & Camden, and enable it to thrive
- Deliver activity that supports the objectives of the Islington Culture Strategy & Love Camden Cultural Strategy
- Provide opportunities for lifelong learning and enjoyment of a wide variety of musical genres, from early years through to retirement
- Promote and nurture diverse talent and build professional pathways
- Be identified as a venue for our inclusive community programmes and one that champions diversity in all its forms



REACH

The Kings Place: Belong programme has been constructed with values of inclusiveness and collaboration. It is designed to bring the highest level of Kings Place artistic excellence closer to the communities we serve through agility, innovation, and approachability. Opportunities and experiences will be delivered through formal partnerships with organisations that have similar priorities and values

Underpinning all our work is the belief that everyone has the right to access the arts; as a result, this work is designed to provide opportunities for participation and enjoyment for communities and individuals from diverse backgrounds. We will extend our reach and impact through a consistent, relevant programme of live and digital content as outlined in the work plan below.



STRANDS AND PRIORITY AREAS

Kings Place: Belong will be delivered through three strands.

- Children and Young People - Developing meaningful, accessible engagement with schools, prioritising children and young people aged 8-18 with SEND and those from underrepresented or marginalised communities.
- Talent Development - Supporting, nurturing and advocating for the next generation of diverse professionals, creating equitable pathways and opportunities for artists, whilst developing a performing arts workforce for the future from a broad range of backgrounds.
- Community Access - We define our community work through partnerships with local charities and organisations, providing them with access to the programmes and opportunities offered by Kings Place Music Foundation. We deliver an inclusive and accessible programme, strengthening strategic partnerships (including with Venus Blazing) to widen participation and improve access to Kings Place, prioritising disabled people and those facing social, financial or practical barriers.

We are committed through all our activity to:

- Promote diversity and inclusion
- Design and implement training and support as needed
- Develop and spotlight London-based talent
- Thoughtful research and consultation
- Develop formal and equal partnerships
- Blend programmes of live and digital work where possible
- Monitor robust and consistent evaluation
- Highlight our unique and important identity in being an arts charity in the heart of central London



	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Unquiet Music Workshops	Begin conversations to commission a composer/ workshop leader to work with participants and formalise relationships with SEND schools in Islington and Camden	Organise composer visits to the schools, culminating in an informal sharing of their pieces and a recording of each piece	Organise composer visits to the schools, culminating in an informal sharing of their pieces and a recording of each piece Invite John Davidson to be the special guest & present the sharing Offer D&B workshop and a Kings Place backstage tour for the SEND participants
Hard of Hearing Project	Form relationships with Laycock Primary and University College London Ear Institute and create what the project could look like	Involve pupils from Laycock Primary and carry out research by UCL students Offer BSL Training to Kings Place staff involved in this project	UCL students report on their findings and studies, and we continue the partnership/project Offer D&B workshop and a Kings Place backstage tour for the Primary School participants
SEND CPD Session for Teachers in Islington & Camden	Hold discussions with SEND teachers, instrumental teachers, and a specialist musician in SEND Seek their input on designing a useful CPD session to support teachers in including SEND children in their music teaching	Organise a half-day CPD session for Islington & Camden music teachers and arrange observation opportunities of workshops or performances at Kings Place	Organise another CPD session for more teachers if it is deemed necessary and the previous year's session was useful
SEND Digital Resources	Hold discussions with SEND teachers and a SEND professional musician to gather their input on useful digital resources to support this programme	Create, promote, update and maintain Kings Place's digital school SEND resources	Continue updating Kings Place's digital school SEND resources and make them publicly accessible on the Kings Place website

	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Kings Place Jazz Orchestra Open Rehearsals and Q&A Sessions	Continue with our Open Rehearsals and Q&A sessions with Kings PlaceJazz Orchestra	Continue with our Open Rehearsals and Q&A sessions with Kings Place Jazz Orchestra Develop a dedicated digital resources page on the Kings Place website for the Kings Place Jazz Orchestra, where the public can access relevant educational and digital resources	Continue with our Open Rehearsals and Q&A sessions with Kings Place Jazz Orchestra Continue updating and developing the digital resources page for the Kings Place Jazz Orchestra
Schools Digital Resources	Have discussions with schools in the Islington and Camden area to identify what would be most useful to them, and align the resources with our programming and the shows we invite schools to as part of the Open Rehearsals Identify a professional musician to support the creation and development of the digital resources	Upload the digital resources to our website so they are publicly accessible	Keep our website updated with relevant resources that align with the programming for the Open Rehearsals
Open Rehearsals	Review the programming schedule to identify whether there are two shows per year with an early-access Friday performance that could be opened up to secondary schools in the local area	Organise two Open Rehearsals per year for secondary schools in Islington and Camden, and develop accompanying digital resources to support and extend the experience	Continue the Open Rehearsals programme and incorporate a Q&A session to give students the opportunity to engage with the artists and ask questions Offer the schools a D&B Workshop Explore the possibility of livestreaming Open Rehearsals to schools where travelling to Kings Place presents an access barrier

TALENT DEVELOPMENT

	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Lunch & Learn – Community Club Workshop Series	Identify a suitable workshop leader to lead and support the young musicians throughout the process Organise several sessions led by the workshop leader, allowing the young musicians to observe, learn, and develop their own facilitation skills Send a call-out to students at colleges or conservatoires who are part of chamber groups and are confident in leading workshops in community settings Explore whether any conservatoires or colleges offer a community engagement module that we could collaborate with, using this series as part of their module	Host a mentoring session with the workshop leader ahead of the young musicians' first community visit Deliver a series of workshops at all of our Community Club partner sites across Islington & Camden by the end of 2028, with the workshop leader observing and providing support	Continue the workshop series and expand it as the number of Community Club organisations grows Continue delivering the workshop series across all Community Club partner sites by the end of 2029
Young Artist Platform	Send a call-out to colleges and conservatoires inviting video applications for our Young Artist Platform Create a fixing database for the Young Artist Platform Test the process and platform across several large-scale events	Aim to have this project fully funded by 2028 Send out another call-out for applications to expand the Young Artist fixing database Aim to book a Young Artist performance for the majority of well-sold shows	Aim to feature some previous Young Artists as support acts for events, demonstrating our ongoing investment in and commitment to supporting their careers Send out another call-out for applications to expand the Young Artist fixing database Continue to book a Young Artist performance for the majority of well-sold shows
Career Development	Pilot Artist-in-Residence workshops for participants aged 19+, alongside a separate workshop for teenagers Collaborate with a Conservatoire or College to offer a D&B Workshop Offer a Kings Place Careers Day Work with Adult Community Learning providers or conservatoires to explore potential student placements at Kings Place within Arts Management	Continue the Artist-in-Residence workshop programme, with a focus on engaging Adult Community Learning participants through Islington Council and supporting greater participation from Global Majority communities Open the D&B workshop to the public and Adult Community Learning participants through Islington Council Continue with the Kings Place Careers Day, increasing the number of participants Offer 1 student placement for 1 month	Devise a masterclass series curated in partnership with Adult Community Learning at Islington Council to target Global Majority communities Continue with D&B Soundscape Masterclasses to the public and increase the number of these masterclasses if they become oversubscribed Invite Community partners to be involved and be a part of the Kings Place Careers Workshop Day Offer 2 student placements for 1 month each

COMMUNITY ACCESS

Relaxed Performances & Community Partners

2026-2027		2027-2028	2028-2029
Relaxed Performances – Cosy Concerts	Discuss within the EDI Group how we want to present our Relaxed Performances to audiences, and agree what is realistic and achievable within our venue	Create a Relaxed Performance series of approximately 10 shows per year, with artists agreeing to make their performances accessible and have them clearly labelled as Relaxed Performance events	Continue with this series and increase the number of relaxed performance events
	Provide staff training on how best to support Relaxed Performances and the audiences attending them	Invite Venus Blazing and SEND schools we have partnerships with to purchase tickets for this series	Expand the offer to include SEND schools in the Camden area
Community Space Hire	Consider providing British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters for relevant events and offer BSL training to staff		
	Create an application process for four Community Partners to receive in-kind space and access to Kings Place for one year	Relaunch the application process for four new Community Partners to receive in-kind space and access to Kings Place for one year	Explore expanding the offer to six new Community Partners, providing each with in-kind space and access to Kings Place for one year
Community Club	Form a Community Focus Group to help shape the future direction of Kings Place’s community and partnership work		Continue with the Community Focus Group
	Continue meeting with Community Club partners and building strong, ongoing relationships	Develop strong relationships with Community Club partners and invite them to take part in the Community Focus Group	Continue developing strong relationships with Community Club partners and ensure they are represented within the Community Focus Group
Summer Family Workshops – Brass on the Grass	Invite community organisations and groups across Islington and Camden to join the Community Club	Ensure that all communities across Islington & Camden that wish to participate have the opportunity to be part of the Community Club	Invite community organisations and groups across Camden to join the Community Club
	Offer up to 10 tickets per show for eight shows per month to Community Club partners, and share relevant news and updates with them on a monthly basis	Offer up to 20 fully funded tickets for eight shows per month to Community Club partners, and continue to send a monthly newsletter with relevant news, updates and opportunities	Offer each Community Club partner five compulsory fully funded tickets per month for a show of their choice, and continue to send monthly newsletters with relevant news, updates and opportunities
	Pilot two family workshops with Connaught Brass in July at two different sites: one at Caledonia Park, a public park, and the other in partnership with Global Generation to celebrate the opening of their new site, The New Story Garden	Continue developing this into a series of pop-up Summer Family Workshops in public parks across Islington & Camden throughout the summer, celebrating the rich culture and heritage of each park and its local community	Increase the number of parks we perform in to reach more audiences and raise awareness of Kings Place across Islington and Camden
		Continue the partnership with Global Generation by providing a family workshop for their annual winter celebration, alongside the Christmas market and other festive activities	Continue the partnership with Global Generation and explore new ways to develop and strengthen the relationship

	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Family Performances – Little Listeners	Continue programming at least two family-friendly, interactive performances, including the Megson Family Folk Show and similar artists	Continue programming family shows, ensuring there is at least one family-friendly offering across each genre Experiment with different interactive activities for each show to enhance audience engagement and participation	Continue programming family shows, with two offerings per genre, and expand family programming across festivals, such as Folk Weekend and Podcast Festival Position Kings Place externally as a venue known for hosting a family-friendly concert series with a strong focus on interactivity
Venus Blazing Music Trust – Community Associates	Offer our space in-kind for their Summer Residency Host a performance in the St Pancras Room for staff and friends Plan and prepare Kings Place Day, including organising a backstage tour for participants Develop a three-year research plan with Venus Blazing, including evaluation and funding opportunities	Continue to use our space for their Summer Residency in-kind Develop the performance into a larger-scale event in Hall Two, incorporating a D&B workshop for participants Organise a Kings Place Day and backstage tour for participants, featuring a performance by Venus Blazing and another community group, with a complimentary ticket to a Kings Place show in the evening Continue to plan and build on the 3-year research plan with Venus Blazing Venus Blazing are our Community Inclusion Consultants, providing training for our staff, artists and freelancers Progress the relationship between the British Library and Kings Place to explore opportunities for shared access, joint events and collaborative programming Host a major national seminar, featuring performances, to showcase and explore this partnership model	Continue to use our space for their Summer Residency in-kind Continue using Hall Two for the performance, incorporating a D&B workshop for participants, and support Venus Blazing in touring the work to a range of venues Continue with Kings Place Day, inviting a different community group to participate each time Continue to plan and build on the 3-year research plan with Venus Blazing Continue offering inclusion training, positioning Kings Place as a centre of excellence for inclusion advice, guidance and training Produce a contemporary music evening inspired by lyrics, poetry and original works, working with partners including composition students from the Royal College of Music and Trinity Laban Engage television, radio and media partners to promote and showcase our partnership model

THANK YOU

