

Alexandra Palace

ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE CHARITABLE TRUST

BOARD MEETING

11th September 2018

Report Title: CEO's Report

Report of: Louise Stewart, Chief Executive Officer

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Purpose:

This report updates the Board of Trustees on current issues and projects at Alexandra Park and Palace. It also provides additional information on the events programme and a range of activities of the Charitable Trust.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A

1. Recommendations

1.1 To note the content of this report.

2. Governance Review

2.1 A trustee workshop will take place on 11th September 2018 to take new Board Members through the Governance Review. The next steps for designing and testing the model will follow during the year.

3. East Wing Restoration Project

3.1 The impetus on site continues, as we now enter the final month of the construction phase. Some elements of work will likely continue up to 29th August. The Theatre will be event-ready for the BBC Proms event on 1st September.

3.2 Works to the Proscenium Arch are now complete, and all scaffolding has been removed from the Auditorium. Works to the toilet block and Theatre Foyer are very nearly complete and the final elements of decoration and repair in the East Court are well underway. Mechanical and electrical work is in full swing.

3.3 As highlighted in the last CEO report, new problems continue to arise in the final weeks, however the teams are working well to achieve pragmatic solutions, given the time and budget constraints.

- 3.4 Weekly cost control panel meetings continue in order to manage change control requests and regular updates continue to be provided to the Programme Board, Haringey Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- 3.5 The Creative Learning Zone was granted Listed Building Consent by Haringey Council on 08 August 2018. It has been agreed internally that due to delays in the programme, the Creative Learning Zone build will now take place in early 2019. Learning activity will continue to take place in the Transmitter Hall and other parts of the Palace in the meantime.
- 3.6 As part of the wider interpretation strategy for the newly refurbished East Court, an exciting and contemporary art installation is proposed for the concrete floor. A Listed Building Consent application for this temporary artwork has recently been submitted to Haringey Council for consideration. A note on the proposal was issued to Board for information in August.
- 3.7 A third Listed Building Consent application is currently being prepared. Building on the decisions made on the East Wing, a site-wide Colour Strategy is to be developed. A conservation architect will be commissioned to carry out this piece of work, which will take on board the recommendations and findings in Patrick Baty's (historic paint specialist) report from last summer. A separate report on the colour strategy is contained later on the agenda.

4. Creative Learning

4.1 The Great Fete

4.1.1 The Great Fete held on 18th August had a greater community focus including: a Peoples Stage, Wellbeing Area, Family Zone and newly commissioned performances. It saw approximately 9,000 people attending and 270 participants, predominantly local talent, showcasing their work. The event was supported by over 50 volunteers including 18 young people from Headstart, and 2 young people from the Wood Green based record label and training provider Righteous R.O.A.D. entertainment who shadowed the Fete's lead events manager, as well as 2 placement students from Anglia Ruskin & Birkbeck who worked with Creative Learning team for over 3 months leading up to the event.

4.1.2 Community Sounds were hired to manage the People's Stage because they work with apprentices. 8 young people from R.O.A.D. worked with BBC children's presenter Ben Shires to make a film documenting the event. We also commissioned community sounds to capture the artist's experiences of the day in a podcast, titled The 20/20 Project, which was created with five young people from the Northumberland Park Estate, and Accumulate to build an installation inspired by AP history with 15 young people experiencing homelessness.

4.1.3 The Great Fete not only showcased projects from the local cultural sector, including Collage Arts, Jacksons Lane, Selby Trust, Haringey Shed, Candy Dance stars, Wise thoughts, SnK, Haringey Councils Smarter travel team and many more, but created a space in the programme to connect local creative talent with inspiring talent from further afield. For example, we commissioned Kay Adshead to write six short plays, Histrionics, based on real and imagined characters inspired by the history of the Victorian Theatre. The plays premiered at the Great Fete, and the final play was performed by an all-female community company consisting of 18 asylum seekers. We also commissioned Emergency

Exit Arts to dress the festival site and they worked with 15 young adults with learning difficulties to make props for the event from W.A.V.E.

- 4.2 This summer saw the launch of first summer school programme for 11 – 18 year olds, including Rock Against Racism (RAR) and Girl Talk. RAR participants created a band in a week, and performed on the People's Stage at the Great Fete.
- 4.3 Our Sensory Suitcase project is currently touring residential homes in Haringey. APPCT volunteers are working with people with dementia and their carers to unlock memories inspired by AP history.
- 4.5 Partnering with BBC Proms Learning, 120 people will work for a day with musicians from BBC Concert Orchestra to create a Family Orchestra to compliment the BBC Proms performance on September 1st.

5. West Yard Storage Project

- 5.1 Completion of the West Yard storage unit, level 3, has been further delayed since the completion date last reported to the Board; however, partial occupation (storage area) was achieved on 31st August further to building control sign-off."
- 5.2 Installation of windows, curtain walling is nearing completion and we are waiting a date for delivery of the external gates to be programmed around the busy events schedule. The main works are anticipated to complete by October 2018.
- 5.3 Some design and procurement issues are still to be resolved in relation to the ramp and goods lift.

6. Park Update

- 6.1 The Park has again achieved the Green Flag Award and the Green Heritage Award. The judge's comments were very positive, "It is credit to all staff and in particular to the Site Manager, Mark, and the volunteers of the Friends of Alexandra Palace Park for their commitment, enthusiasm and aspirations to restore, maintain and develop a treasured historical feature from decay and demise. Congratulations to you all and well done."
- 6.2 The ground reinstatement work at the Go Ape course has been completed. Unfortunately, the electrical supply issue has still not been resolved so the temporary cabin and generator are still in place.
- 6.3 We have installed signed routes for dog walkers as part of the 'Walk This Way' scheme run by Keep Britain Tidy and The Dogs Trust. These encourage the positive benefits of dog walking for health and social interaction and include the message about cleaning up after your dog.

7. Fundraising

- 7.1 We have now set a deadline for supporters to have their name included on the Donor Board in time for the opening of the Theatre: 5th October. New artwork including leaflets and posters was launched at the Great Fete with further activity to follow.

- 7.2 We welcomed The Laboratory Health Club & Spa as a supporter of the Great Fete. They are provided financial support to cover the cost of the programme and will be provided some of the activity on the day. We will be looking at further sponsorship opportunities in the autumn.
- 7.3 We are continuing with the Trust and Foundation pipeline and quasi-statutory funding sources, including Arts Council England. The Board have agreed our approach to fundraising beyond the East Wing Project.

8. Events and noise management

- 8.1 Kaleidoscope Festival was well attended on Saturday 21st July with a turnout of 8,000 people. 11 noise complaints relating to the event were received: two of these were due to noise during build up for the event on 19th July and the sound check on 20th July. One complaint was received after the event. The 8 complaints received on the day resulted in noise monitoring visits to the affected areas. In all cases noise levels were found to be within the limits of the park events licence.
- 8.2 The Great Fete took place on 18th August. The park welcomed thousands of people to enjoy music, food, dance and theatre workshops. There were 4 noise complaints received during the headline act only. The park was returned to its normal state by Monday 20th August with no lasting damage to the parkland. In all cases noise levels were found to be within the limits of the Park Events Licence.

9. Legal Implications

- 9.1 The Council's Assistant Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report, and has no comments.

10. Financial Implications

- 10.1 The Council's Chief Financial Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report, and has no comments.

11. Use of Appendices

None