

The Open Arms

May - September 2021

Finsbury Park

What is it?

The Open Arms is a performance-led pop-up venue which will celebrate and support the rich pool of talent living within the borough, supported by excellent food and beverage.

Collaborating with local stakeholders in the arts, whose businesses have been devastated by the pandemic, we will aim to provide new opportunities for performers who have been sidelined for over a year.

At its core, The Open Arms' concept is about 'giving back' to the community through partnerships with local organisations, charities and people.

We aim to run this project from May to September, opening Wednesday - Sunday during daylight hours.

Charity Partner

Tomorrow's Warriors

Tomorrow's Warriors' mission is to transform the lives of future generations by increasing opportunity, diversity and access to live music. Through our proposed partnership we will be actively supporting grassroots talent across London. The Open Arms will provide a platform for Tomorrow's Warriors' chosen musicians to perform, and in doing so assist them in providing opportunity for future generations of talent.

With the money raised, Tomorrow's Warriors and The Open Arms plan to run a bespoke intensive summer school music programme that will do direct outreach to local schools in Haringey to seek out the next generation of talent. The aim is that we will invite alumni back to perform at future The Open Arms series, building on the jazz talent London is now so famous for.

Arts, Performance and Community Partners

All performances that take place at The Open Arms will be very low level and acoustic that should not be heard outside of the park or disturb other park users. Performances are intended to be heard by only the immediate audience in the space.

Below is a small snapshot of the brilliant connections we've made with many local businesses and organisations that are mutually excited to be involved with The Open Arms this year.

Park Theatre

A treasured establishment amongst the arts community in Finsbury Park, we are hoping to collaborate with the Park Theatre by programming a series of improvised performances at the space.

Haringey Shed

An inclusive theatre and performing arts company for children and young people, we envisage being able to host a series of after-school workshops on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Furtherfield

Since 1996, Furtherfield have been based in Finsbury Park and are real advocates of critical thinking, idea exchange and artistic collaboration. We hope to invite local artists from Furtherfield to create a thought-provoking, temporary art installation within our space.

New River Studios

An arts centre primarily for young creatives and musicians, we would look to offer New River Studios opportunities to host impromptu jam sessions in the park.

Flock Together

Flock Together are a new collective that hopes to bring people of colour into the world of birdwatching. Flock Together is keen to promote accessibility to birdwatching and excursions in wildlife. We'd hope to run sessions with the collective for children and young people within the borough.

Edible Landscapes

Edible Landscapes have been running since 2010 with the aim to provide accessible education around permaculture and forest gardens. Working with the local community they create biodiverse, edible landscapes – healthier habitats for wildlife and people. We're exploring with Edible Landscapes how we might be able to run either some mini events or workshops throughout the summer and how we might be able to support what they already do, opening this up to our audience.

Food & Beverage

Good food & drink is in our DNA, with our core team having experience in working closely with independent food traders and local producers for a combined 20 years. We intend to source our food and drink offering primarily from within the locality and will be working hard to ensure the product range has a real sense of provenance. By doing this we hope to

provide an added revenue stream for many of those independent businesses who've had their trade severely affected by the pandemic.

Sustainability

Bar

Every drink at The Open Arms will be served in a polycarbonate cup. Polycarbonates are reusable for up to 500 uses and prevent single use plastic. In order to ensure we keep all of our cups in a 'use, return, wash' cycle, and prevent them from going missing, we'll charge a small deposit for each cup so that they are returned to the bar after every use - in return for a clean one. It goes without saying that we do not use straws or serve any beverages in plastic bottles.

Food

Each food outlet at The Open Arms will only be allowed to use bagasse serveware made from a sugarcane byproduct. Bagasse containers do not come with a plastic film on the inside, which means it is fully biodegradable. We will also be asking that all food outlets, where possible, aim to focus their menus around seasonal produce that is available in the UK. Furthermore we will be encouraging all of our suppliers to omit any non-recyclable packaging from their deliveries wherever possible.

Litter

A dedicated team of cleaners will be onsite everyday to ensure the park is kept as clean and tidy as we found it and each set of bins will be marked with the appropriate signage.

There will also be additional bins provided onsite for waste with regular collections by our waste management provider.

Toilets

There will be a bank 10 of compostable toilets onsite that will be free to use by The Open Arms patrons and other park users.

There will also be an accessible toilet with baby changing facilities.

Security and Management

Our priority always is to run a safe activation and to ensure that there is as little disruption to other park users as possible. We will have a suitable number of SIA registered security that has been agreed with the Police Licensing department at Haringey Council.

Our opening hours allow for people to come and go throughout the day, allowing them to socially distance and enjoy the space responsibly within the Government's Covid guidelines at the time of opening. The activation will have all of the recommended Covid safe measures in place with sanitising of benches and toilets taking place regularly throughout the day.

Exit points will be illuminated as the activation closes and our friendly security team will remind customers to leave quietly from the park so as to not disturb neighbours.

Inclusivity & Accessibility

The Open Arms is proud to support the initiative Only A Pavement Away. OAPA helps support those who are homeless, ex-offenders and vulnerable veterans to secure a job in hospitality and get back on their feet. The initiative aims to place people in work who are local to the park and need our support the most.

Accessibility for everyone is a priority and we will be working to ensure access to both the stage, food and bar is 100% possible for all. A designated viewing area for wheelchair users and an accessible toilet will be installed. For anyone with additional requirements, a priority contact form will be given on the website to ensure we can accommodate them. Our production team at The Fair works extremely closely with Attitude is Everything, who are industry leaders in this field.

Conclusion..

This summer, within the confines of social distancing, The Open Arms hopes to create a cultural moment reminiscent of the festival of Britain 1951, in which design, architecture and in our case music, played a pivotal role in lifting the nation's mood. Although much smaller in practice, The Open Arms aims to create moments of joy to the backdrop of an equally uniting force; the arts.

Contact Us

We'd love to hear from you! Please get in touch if you'd like to be involved in The Open Arms or have any suggestions of local organisations or groups you think we should be working with.

Please email community@theopenarms.live