

Get creative for Walthamstow Garden Party In The Air this July

Walthamstow Garden Party, the annual east London summer festival which had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 crisis, has been reimagined as Walthamstow Garden Party In The Air, a free community-powered programme developed by the Barbican and local artists and organisations to encourage residents to get creative at home and channel the spirit of the festival from Wednesday 1 July.

Participants are encouraged to share their creations in their windows, on their balconies, in their gardens, and on social media by using the hashtag #WGPIInTheAir. More information about the official programme and resources to get started can be found at: www.walthamstowgardenparty.com.

Rachel Smith, Senior Producer at Barbican, said: *'This year Walthamstow Garden Party can't take place in the beautiful surrounds of Lloyd Park, so instead local residents are working together to bring it directly to people's homes. Throughout July, we'll be sharing a huge range of free activities and resources, connecting people with the incredible network of local residents who make the festival happen and encouraging families, friends and neighbours to share their own ideas and get creative. We can't be together in person, but the sounds and spirit of the festival will be "In The Air" and we want everyone to get involved.'*

Cllr Paul Douglas, Waltham Forest Council's Cabinet Member for Culture said: *'We want the whole borough to be able to come together, enjoy and participate in the Walthamstow Garden Party In The Air activities. Over the years I have been so impressed with the artists and creators involved in the Walthamstow Garden Party and having lived next door to Lloyd Park and had the Garden Party on my doorstep, I am excited that this year it will be on everybody's doorstep. With the programme re-invented, this provides an opportunity to get more residents involved so they can get creative and stay connected as we continue to support both our residents and creative community during these times.'*

The Barbican has supported local arts organisations to create free resources and share ideas to inspire residents to express their creativity. Highlights of the festival include decorative 'kimono' kite making with **Blackhorse Workshop**, DIY windchimes with **Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre** and **Scribble & Smudge**, and crafting birds with local sculptor and animator **Esther Neslen** and the **William Morris Gallery**. Anybody who wants to join in will also be able to try their hands at weaving air twig looms with **Rezia Wahid MBE** from the Waltham Forest **Muslim Culture Forum** and explore a range of artist workshops and family activities commissioned by **Artillery** that take inspiration from the much-loved children's book *Grandad's Island* by Waltham Forest author-illustrator **Benji Davies**.

Residents will also have a chance to enjoy Drum Work's mass drumming performance which was filmed in the drummers' homes with makeshift drumming equipment, and watch a new dance film from Leytonstone-based inclusive dance company **DashDotDance** inspired by the movement of helicopter seeds from sycamore trees. There'll also be spoken word, poetry and music produced by young people aged 11-25, part of **Voices Rising** launched by **Beatroots Creative**, **MVP Workshops** and **Waltham Forest Music Service**, plus videos from African music, dance and storytelling group **Mbilla Arts** and Leytonstone-based performing arts studio **X7eaven**.

Moreover, the popular **Skate Jam** is going online this year, inviting residents to film themselves doing skate, BMX, scooter and inline tricks as part of a virtual competition. The closing date for video submissions is Friday 17 July with winners announced after Sunday 19 July.

Plus, throughout the weekend of 18 and 19 July, **East London Radio** will be broadcasting live, presenting activities, discussions and music from Walthamstow Garden Party friends hosted by local hip hop artist and mentor **Lemzi** and **Sam Francis** from **X7eaven**. Another highlight will see Barbican music programmers curate an hour of music each day featuring some of the most exciting artists from the Walthamstow Garden Party archives, new artists visitors would have discovered this year, as well as a daily live broadcast of local musicians curated by **St. Mary's Music Hall**. People will be able to tune in on the Walthamstow Garden Party website, eastlondonradio.org.uk or by using the TuneIn radio app. All content will remain available to listen after the virtual festival weekend via the Walthamstow Garden Party website.

To celebrate the amazing community spirit and all its creativity, all residents and festival participants will be invited out onto their doorsteps to cheer with their neighbours and share their experiences on 19 July at 4pm. Anyone not able to join in person is encouraged to post their content and creations via social media with the official festival hashtag #WGPIInTheAir.

Walthamstow Garden Party In The Air is created by local creatives and residents; produced by the Barbican in partnership with London Borough of Waltham Forest. Supported by Arts Council England.

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Barbican press room

All Barbican Centre press releases, news announcements and the Communications team's contact details are listed on our website at www.barbican.org.uk/news/home

Press Information

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About the Barbican

A world-class arts and learning organisation, the Barbican pushes the boundaries of all major art forms including dance, film, music, theatre and visual arts. Its creative learning programme further underpins everything it does. Over a million people attend events annually, hundreds of artists and performers are featured, and more than 300 [staff](#) work onsite. The architecturally renowned centre opened in 1982 and comprises the Barbican Hall, the Barbican Theatre, The Pit, Cinemas 1, 2 and 3, Barbican Art Gallery, a second gallery The Curve, public spaces, a library, the Lakeside Terrace, [a glasshouse conservatory](#), conference facilities and three restaurants. The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre.

The Barbican is home to Resident Orchestra, [London Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Orchestra, [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Ensembles the [Academy of Ancient Music](#) and [Britten Sinfonia](#), Associate Producer [Serious](#), and Artistic Partner [Create](#). Our Artistic Associates include [Boy Blue](#), [Cheek by Jowl](#), Deborah Warner, [Drum Works](#) and [Michael Clark Company](#). The [Los Angeles Philharmonic](#) are the Barbican's International Orchestral Partner, the [Australian Chamber Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble at Milton Court, and [Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble.

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About Waltham Forest Council

Waltham Forest Council is a local authority in north east London named in June 2019 as the Local Authority of the Year at the prestigious Municipal Journal Awards and the Mayor's first London Borough of Culture 2019. Bursting with energy and opportunity, it is

a place changing rapidly with business growth up and employment at its highest rate ever. It is a place people want to live, raise a family and start a business. We are creating liveable neighbourhoods, where people have access to quality housing and the services and facilities that they need.