

For immediate release: Monday 19 May 2025

barbican

Barbican Renewal gathers momentum with strong public backing and new designs unveiled



Images: Kin Creatives for Allies and Morrison and Asif Khan Studio

- More than 90% of respondents supported initial Renewal proposals, shaping updated plans for iconic art centre's most celebrated spaces
- New CGI images offer early glimpse at Barbican's reimagined Conservatory, Lakeside and Foyers as public consultation enters second stage
- Barbican Renewal will ensure every part of the centre is restored, revitalised and made relevant for future generations

An urban oasis revitalised, a lakeside terrace restored, and dynamic new civic spaces unveiled – today, the Barbican Centre shares its bold vision for the future as the second stage of public consultation for its historic Renewal programme begins.

Newly released images show how the Barbican's Conservatory, Lakeside and Foyers might look in the future following the first phase of a once-in-a-generation transformation of the world-renowned cultural landmark.

After an overwhelmingly positive response to the first consultation earlier in the year – with 9 in 10 respondents expressing support – the designs have been refined to reflect feedback from some of the hundreds who submitted a response.

Philippa Simpson, Barbican's Director for Buildings and Renewal, said; "We've been incredibly encouraged by the public's enthusiasm for our plans. These new images reflect a vision for the Barbican Centre that stays true to our unique heritage and bold character while making us an inclusive, sustainable and meaningful place for everyone."

As part of the design process, the architects and Barbican project team worked with two co-design groups made up of people aged 18-30 years old. Their insights and suggestions also helped inform the ambitious plans.

A Grade II-listed architectural icon and one of the UK's top 20 cultural attractions, the Barbican Centre attracted 1.54 million visitors last year alone. However, after 40 years of activity, the centre is in urgent need of upgrade.

As part of the first phase of Renewal (2025-30), on top of significant and vital infrastructure work, the programme will deliver;

- **A fully accessible conservatory** which will remain open to the public almost every day, with new water feature, and bold, theatrical planting
- **A rejuvenated lakeside terrace**, complete with fully functioning fountains, rich new landscaping, climate-friendly planting, improved seating and lighting
- **Flexible, inclusive foyers**, will bring the arts out into the heart of the centre and provide improved facilities for all so everyone can enjoy all the site has to offer



Images: Kin Creatives for Allies and Morrison and Asif Khan Studio

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The design team delivering the programme are led by architects Allies and Morrison working with Asif Khan Studio and engineers Buro Happold, lighting designers les éclairieurs, inclusive design advisors, Arup, circular economy experts, Reusefully, and landscape designers Harris Bugg Studio.

The City of London Corporation has committed £191 million to fund 80% of this first phase of works. A big focus now is on fundraising to secure the remaining support needed to deliver the full programme.

Subject to planning approval, construction is expected to begin in 2027, with the first phase due for completion in 2030, just ahead of the Barbican's 50th anniversary in 2032.

Members of the public are invited to view the new designs and share feedback online or in person at the Barbican Centre. For more information, visit barbican.org.uk/renewal

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Notes to Editors

For further information, images or to arrange interviews please contact:
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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/our-story/press-room

About the Barbican

The Barbican is a catalyst for creativity, sparking possibilities for artists, audiences, and communities. We showcase the most exciting art from around the world, pushing traditional artistic boundaries to entertain and inspire millions of people, create connections, provoke debate, and reflect the world we live in.

We are an international arts and events centre rooted firmly in our own neighbourhood, collaborating with local communities and putting the City of London on the map as a destination for everybody. Central to our purpose is supporting emerging talent and shaping opportunities that will accelerate the next generation of creatives.

As a not-for-profit, we rely on the generosity of individuals and organisations, including our principal funder the City of London Corporation. Every ticket purchased, donation made, and pound earned supports our arts and learning programme and enables the widest possible range of people to experience the joy of the arts.

Opened in 1982, the Barbican is a unique and audacious building, recognised globally as an architectural icon. As well as our theatres, galleries, concert halls and cinemas, we have a large conservatory with over 1,500 species of plants and trees, a library, conference facilities, public and community spaces, restaurants, bars, and a picturesque lakeside oasis.

We're proud to be the home of the [London Symphony Orchestra](#), and a London base of the [Royal Shakespeare Company](#). We regularly co-commission, produce and showcase the work of our other associates and partners including the [Academy of Ancient Music](#), [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#), [Boy Blue](#), [Darbar Festival](#), [Doc'n Roll Film Festival](#), [Drum Works](#), [EFG London Jazz Festival](#), [London Palestine Film Festival](#), [Serious](#), and [Trafalgar Theatre Productions](#).

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