

PRESS RELEASE

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LEWISHAM'S DEPTFORD X JOINS ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND'S NATIONAL PORTFOLIO ORGANISATIONS



Jelili Atiku, *The Earth is a Beehive*, Deptford X Festival 2022, Photo by Nelta Kasparian

Deptford X, London's oldest visual art festival, has for the first time been offered investment from the 2023-26 Investment Programmes for National Portfolio Organisations (NPO) and Investment Principles Support Organisations (IPSO). 990 organisations will receive a share of £446 million investment, including 276 new organisations of all shapes and sizes, of which Deptford X is one.

Deptford X Director, Nathalie Boobis, says:

"We were bowled over to receive the news that our application to join Arts Council England's National Portfolio from 2023-6 was successful. To receive this support at this time



is critical to enabling us to achieve our ambition to remove barriers to participation in our annual visual art festival and to create a truly inclusive and relevant organisation, built on principles of care and equity. Thanks are due to all of our artists and alumni who have helped us get to this point over the last 25 years. We are committed to using this opportunity to keep challenging the definition of what art is, who makes it and who it is for.”

The Deptford X goal is to deliver an ambitious, vibrant, diverse festival through a commitment to supporting artists and creative practice, as well as those who do not yet identify as artists. Deptford X is led by local artistic ambition, interests and practice; brings art into informal contexts and public spaces for all to access; seeks to make a positive contribution to our locality, communities and to art, and to lead by example; places equity, accessibility and care at the heart of the organisation; and holds space and advocates for difference, creativity, experimentation and learning within art.

Arts Council England Chair, Sir Nicholas Serota, said:

“As well as continuing our commitment to our many established and renowned cultural organisations, I am deeply proud of the support we will be giving to those new organisations which will help ignite creativity across the country. We are facing economic pressures at present but this funding is about an investment in our future. This portfolio will support the next generation of visionary inventors, makers, performers and artists. In particular, the growth of our funding for organisations that support and develop work for children represents a profoundly important long-term investment in our country’s talent.”

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

Deptford X is a visual arts charity based in Deptford, South East London. We foster artistic talent and nurture community within the borough of Lewisham and beyond. We achieve this through a free annual festival in Deptford and ongoing activity supporting artists and our local communities throughout the year.

Founded in 1998, Deptford X is London’s longest-running visual arts festival. Each year, we stage a free, ten-day festival, working with hundreds of artists to locate art at the centre of everyday life for all of the area’s communities.

Read more about Deptford X on our website: <https://deptfordx.org/aboutdeptfordx/>



DEPTFORD X

See more on Arts Council England's 2023-26 Investment Programme on their website:

www.artscouncil.org.uk/investment23

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let's Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision.

www.artscouncil.org.uk

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million Emergency Response Package, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of the bodies responsible for administering the Government's unprecedented Culture Recovery Fund, of which we delivered over £1 billion to the sector in grants and loans. Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19

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