

News

Jacksons Lane to start major redevelopment in November 2020

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jacksons Lane is set to begin a multi-million pound redevelopment project to transform and future-proof the Grade II-listed arts centre, with construction work starting in November 2020 and the building set to reopen in July 2021. This work will be largely funded by £2.1 million from the Arts Council England's Large Capital Grants scheme, funded by the National Lottery, and £1.25 million from Haringey Council.

Wide-ranging redevelopment across the arts centre, which celebrates its 45th anniversary this year, will focus on improved accessibility, better audience experience, modernised studios, flexible working environments and a dramatically expanded foyer space, ensuring Jacksons Lane is fit for a post-Covid world and maintains its position as the UK's leading venue for contemporary circus and creative learning.

The project will be overseen by architects Citizens Design Bureau, best-known for their award-winning work on the Royal Court Theatre. The firm's director Katy Marks was Project Architect on the redevelopment of the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool, which won the 2014 Stirling Prize for best new building – the UK's highest architectural accolade.

Jacksons Lane will benefit from the expertise of Professor David Porter, the distinguished Highgate-based architect, former president of the Architectural Association and recently appointed Chair of Jacksons Lane's Board of Trustees, who will help steer the organisation through the capital process.

After Arts Council England and Haringey Council funding for the redevelopment was ringfenced last summer and winter, respectively, building work was due to start in 2021. It has now been brought forward to minimise the time Jacksons Lane is closed to the public, making the best possible use of a time in which the country's arts venues face economic crisis.



An indicative design of Jacksons Lane's foyer space. Please download high-resolution images [here](#). Credit: Citizens Design Bureau

Highlights of the redevelopment include: a new lift to allow wheelchair access to Studio 1, one of London's biggest rehearsal spaces; a foyer almost tripled in size and doubled in height to ensure visitor comfort; sound-proofed and modernised studio spaces; an enhanced auditorium with increased and better quality seating; two new riggable spaces for circus artists, developing Jacksons Lane's status as centre for circus excellence; accessible and improved dressing rooms for performers; a striking new entrance through the building's original church doors; flexible working space for staff; and a brand new spacious café and bar, which will pleasantly round off visits to the arts centre.

The capital redevelopment project is being funded by a £2.1 million grant from the Arts Council England's Large Capital Grants scheme, a £1.25 million grant from Haringey Council, £100,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation and £60,000 from the Victoria Wood Foundation, as well as a number of other anonymous trusts and donors. Jacksons Lane continues to approach trusts, foundations and the

general public to ask for support raising the remainder of the funding.

Jacksons Lane's Executive Director Monique Deletant said:

"We're excited by this opportunity to transform Jacksons Lane. We love how much our building is cherished by our communities, but for years they've endured noise bleed in studios, buckets catching leaks when it rains and an overcrowded foyer. Since we couldn't reopen in a way that allows social distancing, we've been doing all we can to adapt or digitise our outreach and performance work to reach our communities: now I'm thrilled that we can carry out this work to make the building fit for a post-Covid future and give all of our users the building they deserve."

Jacksons Lane's Artistic Director Adrian Berry said:
"I'm happy that we've been able to push forward our plans to reshape our beloved building, because it gives us the best chance of emerging from the pandemic as a strong, resilient centre for circus, culture and community engagement. As excited as I am to get started, I'm also keenly aware that we're a fortunate minority in a sector which is at serious risk. My priority now is planning how we'll best support artists and companies through our reopening season of shows in 2021."

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

For more information and interview requests, please contact: Will Haydon (Jacksons Lane's Marketing Manager) on will@jacksonslane.org.uk

Please download high-resolution images [here](#).

About Jacksons Lane

Jacksons Lane is the flagship arts and cultural venue in Haringey, offering a year-round programme that encompasses the best in contemporary performance, creative learning and community involvement.

As the UK's leading supporter of contemporary circus, it nurtures emerging artists from across the globe, and helped launch the careers of internationally lauded companies such as Barely Methodical Troupe, Gandini Juggling and Complicité. It also hosts the country's highest-quality family theatre, as well as exciting new physical theatre companies and world-renowned comedians; professional stand-ups including Ricky Gervais, Russell Brand and Eddie Izzard have performed in its intimate auditorium.

Its comprehensive Creative Learning programme includes weekly circus workshops in community spaces across Tottenham and Wood Green, social activities with music and dance for older people in supported housing schemes, and theatre projects that focus on women's safety. Since being founded 44 years ago, Jacksons Lane has opened every Christmas Day to offer lunch and festivities to older people without family or friends to share the day with.

As an essential community hub, Jacksons Lane works with over 65,000 people each year, collaborating with community partners and funders to overcome traditional barriers to accessing the arts and culture. It develops projects across the borough, particularly for those in economically challenged communities, using the arts and creativity to increase confidence, reduce isolation and improve overall wellbeing.

During the Covid-19 lockdown, Jacksons Lane has continued vital outreach work, adapting its Creative Learning sessions with vulnerable people in its community by presenting them online, over the phone or through letters. It has coordinated an Archway Road business forum to help share resources and improve local trade during the lockdown period. The centre has also presented artistic output from associate performers, sharing short- and long-form circus clips to keep people active and entertained. jacksonslane.org.uk