



## PRESS RELEASE

TUESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2019

### THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIONAL TRUST LAUNCH LISTEN LOCAL, A YEAR-LONG PROJECT AS PART OF WALTHAM FOREST LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE

- Call out to Waltham Forest residents to submit a 100 second film for Listen Local launch project *See the Real*

Over the next year the Royal Court Theatre are collaborating with **The National Trust** and local residents in Waltham Forest on ***Listen Local***, a new project commissioned as part of the **Mayor's London Borough of Culture 2019** with support from the **Airbnb Community Tourism Programme**.

*Listen Local* launches with ***See the Real***, a film competition which invites Waltham Forest residents to make a 100 second film of somewhere that is special to them. All residents will need is a smart phone with a camera and an idea. It could be inside or outside, private or public e.g. outside a local shop, beside a tree or in your granny's bathroom. The story for the location could be true or made up e.g. a first kiss, scoring in the Champions League final or tackling an escaped alligator.

All 100 second films must be submitted to the Royal Court by 10 March 2019. There will be prizes for the top three films including a cash prize of £250.

A selection of the films will be shared on the Royal Court website and screened in the borough. More details to be announced.

Films can be submitted at <https://royalcourttheatre.com/what-else/participation/listenlocal/>

Throughout 2019, *Listen Local* will focus on **listening, creating** and **celebrating**.

**Listening** – to create a platform, for the local voices to be heard, and share the spaces that make Waltham Forest special.

**Creating** - bringing together groups of Waltham Forest residents and established artists to explore and create.

**Celebrating** - over two weekends in the autumn, new work made by and with local residents will be performed throughout the borough, in indoor and outdoor spaces as part of a cultural trail. The whole community are invited to be part of this free experience, walking the trail or travelling on a 1930s National Trust bus to each destination. Further details to be announced.



Airbnb is supporting the London Borough of Culture with funding to promote healthy tourism.

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**-ENDS-**

**For more information please contact Anoushka Warden on 0207 565 5063 / [AnoushkaWarden@royalcourttheatre.com](mailto:AnoushkaWarden@royalcourttheatre.com)**

**Notes to Editors:**

**Airbnb**

Airbnb is supporting the London Borough of Culture with funding to promote healthy tourism. Airbnb's Community Tourism Programme, will support the Mayor's winning borough by funding the Listen Local project. The Airbnb Community Tourism Programme, launched in 2017, is a 3-year fund to support innovative projects across Europe that encourage and empower locals to shape and benefit from more sustainable tourism.

**MAYOR OF LONDON**



**The Mayor's London Borough of Culture Award**

The London Borough of Culture award is a major new initiative launched by the Mayor of London in June 2017 and inspired by the UK City and European Capital of Culture programmes. The Mayor's London Borough of Culture award brings Londoners together. Putting culture at the heart of local communities, where it belongs. Shining a light on the character and diversity of London's boroughs and showing culture is for everyone. Now more than ever, the Mayor wants Londoners to get to know each other and feel part of our great city. Thanks to this new award, all Londoners will now have the chance to be part of something extraordinary.

In total, 22 boroughs bid for £1million funding to stage a year-long programme of cultural events and initiatives, and to develop a plan to make culture an integral part of the borough's future. Waltham Forest will be London Borough of Culture in 2019 and Brent will be London Borough of Culture in 2020. A panel of experts and City Hall officers read and moderated the bids. Experts were from institutions including City Bridge Trust, Historic England, Arts Council England, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Heritage Lottery Fund and the City of London. Recommendations were made to the Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE and the Mayor, Sadiq Khan, who made the final decision.

The winning boroughs of Waltham Forest and Brent were chosen based on their artistic vision and ambition to deliver outstanding cultural initiatives in their local area, putting communities at the centre of the programme design and delivery. The successful boroughs have demonstrated how winning the title will enable them to deliver their long-term



ambitions, put local people at the heart of the programme, and showcase a diverse, vibrant and inclusive programme of work.



National  
Trust

The National Trust is a conservation charity founded in 1895 by three people who saw the importance of our nation's heritage and open spaces, and wanted to preserve them for everyone to enjoy. Over 120 years later, these values are still at the heart of everything the charity does. Entirely independent of the government, the National Trust looks after more than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 778 miles of coastline and hundreds of special places across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. More than 24 million people visit every year, and together with over 5 million members and over 65,000 volunteers, they help to support the charity in its work to care for special places forever, for everyone. For more information and ideas for great seasonal days out go to: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk).



### **Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture 2019**

Waltham Forest is the Mayor's first London Borough of Culture. The award, the flagship programme in his culture strategy, was a major new initiative launched by Sadiq to put culture at the heart of London's communities. More than 15,000 people backed Waltham Forest's bid, which aims to inspire 85% of households to participate in the cultural year, engage every school in the area in arts and culture, and to attract over half a million new visitors to the borough.

The year will explore the themes 'Radicals', 'Makers' and 'Fellowship' in a collaboration between local residents, artists and creatives creating a once in a life time celebration of the place we call 'home'. Waltham Forest, London Borough of Culture 2019 will shine a light on the character, diversity and cultures of the borough, the things we have in common and the things that make us different, a year-long celebration of the real cultures of London by the people who live here