



Speaker Biographies and Useful links

Howard Simmons

Audit Commission

Comprehensive Area Assessment Lead (CAAL) London Region

Howard has worked in the public, private and voluntary sectors and particularly in a variety of cultural and regeneration agencies. He has experience as a Chief Officer in a number of London Boroughs holding Director and Executive Director roles with responsibility for Cultural Services and Regeneration and was most recently Assistant Chief Executive Corporate Policy, Performance and Regeneration. He has served as an Advisor to the Local Government Association and London Councils and until 2008 chaired the London Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers Association (CLOA) and the National Children's Play Policy Forum. Howard is currently a Senior Manager with the Audit Commission responsible for implementation of the new Comprehensive Area Assessment.

<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/Pages/default.aspx>

Tony Leach

Director, London Parks & Green Spaces Forum

Tony Leach studied horticulture at Bath University and went on to train as a Landscape Architect while working in four different London Boroughs over eighteen years. Tony's interest in people, project management and business development led him to manage a variety of urban regeneration projects and teams that took him away from the parks world. In 1999 he set up an independent business consultancy specialising in management and business development. He has been Director of the London Parks & Green Spaces Forum since 2004. See www.lpgsf.org.uk. He is a CABESpace Corporate Enabler, Governor of Capel Manor College, Trustee for the London Parks & Gardens Trust, and a Green Flag Judge.

Caroline Jenkinson

Head of Arts and Tourism Camden.

Currently leads the Arts and Creative Services for Camden, including arts development, public arts, festivals and events, film location and management services, visitor economy, CCI initiatives and the council's civic venue. Almost 900,000 people attend services funded and supported by Camden each year, and the borough has the highest national levels of attendance and participation.

Caroline has extensive experience leading creative services for local government, previous roles have been based in Brent, Lambeth, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham and ACE.

Current work areas include geographic and strategic priorities, including Kings Cross, and 2012.

Caroline also sits on the Boards of ACAVA, Audiences London, and the Housing management company for Islington HFI.

www.camden.gov.uk/arts

Pete Courtie

Arts Officer Islington

Pete is currently the lead officer for Arts Development in the newly established Cultural Services Division at Islington. Following graduation from the University of Lancaster, Pete began his professional career as the Assistant Director of internationally acclaimed theatre company Insomniac Productions.

Pete has considerable experience of leading local government arts and cultural services and has worked at Halton Borough Council and Lancaster City Council in the North West and most recently for Stoke-on-Trent City Council in the West Midlands.

www.islington.gov.uk

Liza Fior

Director, muf architecture/art

Liza Fior was born in London where she continues to practise as founding partner of muf architecture/art.

The work of the practise negotiates between the built and social fabric, public and private in projects that have mainly been focused in East London but not exclusively so. Projects range from urban design schemes to small-scale

temporary interventions, landscapes and buildings — a continual dialogue between detail and strategy.

Awards for muf projects include the 2008 European Prize for Public Space (a first for the UK) for a new 'town square' for Barking, East London. Co-author of, "This is What We Do: a muf manual" research continues to be intertwined into every project. She is currently a visiting professor at Yale where her studio is exploring an alternative legacy for London's Olympic site. Liza is an LDA design advisor and is on the Southwark Design review panel.

www.muf.co.uk

<http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/networks/lcip/programme.htm>

The **London Cultural Improvement Programme** aims to support improvement in cultural services in London boroughs.

The Programme has received funding (and support in kind) from Arts Council England London, MLA London and Sport England London, English Heritage, Government Office for London, London Centre of Excellence, the London Museum's Hub (Renaissance) and London Councils (totalling £206,000) and £200,000 funding from Capital Ambition.

<http://www.living-places.org.uk/>

Living Places is a programme based on the agreement between 5 of the leading cultural agencies: Arts Council England, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), English Heritage, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and Sport England; their sponsoring department the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). This is the first time the five cultural agencies, DCLG and DCMS have come together formally to work together on supporting the role of culture in communities.

The aim of living places is to ensure that all communities, particularly those experiencing housing-led growth and regeneration, can benefit from cultural and sporting opportunities. By working together, the partners will ensure that culture is embedded in the development of our villages, towns and cities alongside other key areas of provision such as healthcare and transport.

London Living Places

<http://www.living-places.org.uk/living-places-in-action/the-regions/london/>