

A long-exposure photograph of the Battersea Arts Centre at night. The building is a large, ornate structure with multiple stories, arched windows, and a central tower with a clock face. The sky is a deep blue. In the foreground, there are light trails from passing vehicles, creating horizontal streaks of white and red. A small tree stands in front of the building. A sign on the building reads "BATTERSEA ARTS CENTRE".

Battersea Arts Centre *Corporate Partnerships*

Summer 2025



Our Purpose & Impact

Battersea Arts Centre (BAC) is an inclusive home for creative freedom, with a commitment to driving individual and social change. Based in the historic Grade-II* listed, former Town Hall of Battersea, we deliver a range of year-round projects to **platform artists, amplify young people's voices, and support local communities.**

In 2024, we celebrated BAC's **50th anniversary**, and this year, we will play a vital role in **Wandsworth's London Borough of Culture** campaign, sparking opportunities to reach more audiences and local communities.

At BAC, we champion **artistic freedom of expression, radical inclusion, and internationalism** to create more inclusive, sustainable, and fair futures. By supporting BAC through a corporate partnership, we can strengthen our commitment to underserved communities and unheard voices, creating a ripple effect of impact spanning local, national, and international levels.

*Dance Academy, Autumn 2024
Image by London Marathon Foundation*



Our 2024 Highlights



International Award, The Stage Awards 2024
celebrating our ambitious and global contemporary performance programme



110 young people took part in BAC Next Gen
amplifying young people's voices and creativity through the transformative power of arts engagement



20 Community Hires hosted in our Grand Hall
welcoming hundreds of underserved local residents across Wandsworth borough for events fostering community



10,667 audiences welcomed with Pay What You Can
widening access to arts and culture by removing a socio-economic barrier

*Community Hire: Open Iftar 2023
Image by Ramadan Tent Project*

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The Context We're Working In

Wandsworth's Socio-economic and Cultural Landscape

At BAC, we serve extraordinary communities, young people, artists, and audiences (identified as our Target Beneficiary Groups), and we are acutely aware of the systemic social challenges they face. Wandsworth is a vibrant borough of rich cultural diversity and dynamic community spirit, but it is also a borough of significant disparities between areas of wealth and deprivation. Along with lingering effects of the pandemic and the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, Wandsworth's social inequities are more pronounced than ever.

Our **socio-economic** and **cultural landscape** is shaped by:

- Almost three quarters of Wandsworth school pupils come from **Global Majority backgrounds** and 38% of school pupils speak a first language other than English
- In 2020, Wandsworth was the highest Southwest London borough, and the second highest London borough, with the proportion of school pupils with **substantial social, emotional, and mental health (SEMH) needs**
- Wandsworth's level of **child poverty has a geographical concentration in our neighbouring wards** Latchmere and Queenstown. 19.6% of pupils, including those attending special schools, PRUs, and local authority alternative provision, were claiming Free School Meals in January 2020
- Investment in the arts through Local Authorities in Capital and Revenue expenditure in England has also fallen, by more than 30% between 2009/10 and 2019/20, in response to an **overall decline in local government budgets**
- Unusually, London was further impacted through the Levelling Up agenda which in the last round of Arts Council England National Portfolio Investment saw £24 million diverted out of London, further **shrinking access to creative engagement** opportunities



Our Theory of Change

Having a deep understanding of our local socio-economic landscape, and the challenges and needs of our community, we employ a **Theory of Change methodology**. This is audience-led and purpose-driven, to devise projects with, and for, our community and young people to drive lasting impact and change. Our methodology is underpinned by our **Inclusive Practice Strategy** which ensures a rigorous approach to **diversity, access and inclusion** in all that we do.

BAC's purpose is anchored in 3 distinct areas: **creative freedom** – to champion freedom of speech and bold artistic ideas, **radical inclusion** – to make cultural opportunities truly accessible and welcoming, and **internationalism** – to become the London hub for global communities. All our projects utilise an **Evaluation Methodology** that **measures individual and social change** across all projects, allowing us to keep our decision-making data-driven, whilst holding ourselves accountable to local neighbours, creative networks, and emerging cultural leaders within our community.



*Next Gen Producers, Spring 2024
Image by Takenya Holness*



Our Work: Next Gen

As cultural leaders in social change, we believe it is of vital importance to provide free, ready-to-access creative activities to underserved young people, particularly within a wider context of marginalisation of the arts within education settings. Our **Next Gen** programmes are aimed at **young people aged 11-29** from areas of limited access to, and provision of, cultural opportunities.

We believe that engaging with one's creativity can have huge benefits to a young person's confidence and self-belief. We believe that when young people have a space to try something new & 'learn through doing', this can inspire a greater sense of agency over their future. Ultimately, this leads to better career prospects, greater understanding of career pathways, enhanced social mobility, and a positive impact on wellbeing. Our Next Gen programmes include:

Academies: Beatbox and Dance – providing free beatboxing and hip-hop/street dance workshops during term time to nurture creative expression

Next Gen Producers – our flagship creative professional development programme which nurtures and upskills emerging cultural makers from underrepresented groups

The Agency – a creative entrepreneurship programme that enables young people from some of the most underserved areas to create lasting social change in their communities



*Homegrown Festival, Spring 2024
Image by Chimna Lionn*

Our Work: Creative Development

BAC's public programme welcomes thousands of audiences every spring, autumn, and throughout the festive season. As the winner of The Stage Awards' **International Award**, our programming vision prioritises internationalism, drawing on partnerships with artists and companies globally, while supporting local artists in internationalising their practice.

Through our **Creative Development** programme, we work to support artists at all levels of their career to create extraordinary new work that is deeply rooted in the present moment and responds to the most urgent questions of our time. Our work includes:

Making Space – providing time in our rehearsal spaces free of hire charges to develop work

Commissions – including ***New Dimensions***, a programme delivered in partnership with 4 other UK organisations to cultivate contemporary work of scale to tour nationally and internationally, and ***Making Waves***, a new collaborative commissioning programme with 10 national partners

Open Research – a curated programmes of talks and sharings, in conversation with thinkers and activists, it is an opportunity for artists to bring audiences into their making process, to collectively unpick a series of enquiries and begin to imagine how these might translate into a future performance

Festivals and Focus Programme – such as BAC's Bloom and Homegrown Festival, while also collaborating with festivals (LIFT, Dance Umbrella, Shubbak) to co-present works at BAC

Nowhere by Khalid Abdalla, Autumn 2024

Image by Helen Murray



Our Work: Community Impact

As a vital civic resource, strongly connected to its local community, BAC plays a key role in promoting community cohesion, civic pride, and fostering a sense of belonging and identity for locals. Following the pandemic, we have sought to provide regular, sustained delivery and impact to our community through our year-round Communities programmes. Opening up our building and engaging with our local community in this way speaks to our Inclusive Practice Strategy and BAC's old dictum from its time as Battersea Town Hall: '**Not for me, not for you, but for us**'. Last summer we released a short film highlighting the extraordinary individuals and groups that form the fabric of BAC's vibrant and diverse community. Watch the short film [HERE](#).

Our Communities programmes include:

Community Partners and Community Hires – providing grassroots local organisations with in-kind studio spaces and venue hire to deliver workshops and events for underserved local residents

Community Christmas Day – a warm and welcoming Christmas lunch and festive activities for local residents who may be struggling financially or spending the holiday alone

Community Garden – offering volunteer workshops in the summer to cultivate a sense of belonging and improve physical health and wellbeing. BAC's Community Garden was created after a devastating fire destroyed our Grand Hall in 2015, with several planters built from repurposed beams that used to hold up the Grand Hall for decades of community gatherings



*Community Garden, 2024
Image by Harry Elletson*



*Community Christmas Day, 2023
Image by BAC*



The Impact You Can Create



*Paradise Lost by Lost Dog, Spring 2025
Image by Zoe Manders & Dom Eden Owen*

As a registered charity, BAC relies on generous support from individual donors, corporate partners, trusts and statutory funders to make our work possible. By standing in partnership with BAC, your business would directly **drive meaningful societal impact** to our underserved communities, young people and artists, whilst also gaining access to a host of **creative and cultural benefits**. This arts partnership could support strategic business objectives by **enhancing staff pride, increasing engagement**, and amplifying your **commitment to our local community**.



Provide staff networks with access to a bold, inspiring, and socially conscious live performance programme that speaks to some of our society's most pressing conversations



Demonstrate a commitment to social change and encourage a culture of giving back by providing staff volunteering opportunities on our community projects



Host unique events and meetings with exclusive venue hire rates. Tap into BAC's creative network by exploring the option of artists' talks, academy performances, and Lunch'n'Learns



Entertain clients and staff against a backdrop of stunning architecture, setting the scene for memorable experiences in a remarkable cultural and creative venue



Thank you for your interest in supporting Battersea Arts Centre

We are hugely grateful for your interest in BAC, and we hope the above has given you more insight into the significance and impact of our work. With an investment into BAC, you will create a lasting legacy on the lives and wellbeing of our community.

For queries on bespoke partnership packages:

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Appendix: What's On at BAC – 2025/26



Liberty Festival | 25 - 28 Sep

The Mayor of London's flagship festival of work by disabled artists comes to Wandsworth as part of **London Borough of Culture 2025**.



EXXY | 2 - 10 Oct

In a world premiere in our Grand Hall, join **Dan Daw**: a Queer crippled artist on the rise as he transports us to the Australian outback to talk about his imposter syndrome.



Radio Live | 11 - 12 Oct

Radio Live by **Aurélie Charon & Amélie Bonnin** hands the microphone to young people from conflict zones and highlights their stories in a moving ode to resilience.



By Heart | 14 -15 Oct

Tiago Rodrigues' By Heart makes its long-awaited UK premiere, 10 people are invited to learn a Shakespeare sonnet live on stage, in a true manifesto for the power of poetry.



Rinse | 14 Oct

Amrita Hepi & Mish Grigor's intimate yet epic solo performance co-presented at The Place. **Rinse** explores the romance of beginnings and what happens next when the initial thrills begin to fade.



Handle with Care | 12 - 14 Nov

Ontroerend Goed's Handle with Care is theatre stripped down to its essence. No actors, no technicians. Just a box. And you. Choose your role - take the lead or observe as others steer the performance in unexpected directions.



A Merry Misrule | 29 Nov - 24 Dec

After last year's five-star festive performance, *The Holly King and The Oak King*, award-winning immersive arts creators **Wild Rumpus** return with a new family adventure.



A Public Address | 2 - 14 Mar 2026

Award-winning theatre collective **Quarantine** take over the former Town Hall - now Battersea Arts Centre - to ask: who gets heard in a place like this today?