£800,000 funding awarded to support Newham’s



Alice Billings House. Includes Newham’s Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz, Taryn Nixon and Selina Papa from the Heritage Fund, Creative Land Trust and Purcell’s team. Credit: Andrew Baker Photographer.

From restoring an 1880s playhouse to creating a cycling heritage trail, projects across Newham will celebrate its diverse community heritage and create pride in place.

We're supporting a range of projects that will explore the London borough’s rich heritage. Communities are invited to share their stories of what it is like to live and work in Newham, preserving their heritage for future generations.

> The social and economic benefits of these heritage-led projects are truly far-reaching.
>
> *Taryn Nixon, the Heritage Fund Trustee and Chair of England, London & South Committee*

Community-focused projects

Creating Futures at Alice Billings House, Stratford – £467,172 development funding

> Alice Billings House in Stratford

Alice Billings House before work started for its transformational project. Credit: Andrew Baker Photographer.

We have awarded development funding towards a proposed £2,726,177 regeneration project. Creative Land Trust aim to bring this Grade II listed building back to life, which has stood vacant for over 10 years. The new space will host around 80 artists and makers, as well as an exhibition space, community café, education programme and landscaped courtyard.

Full Cycle, Forest Gate – £44,400 delivery funding

Image of person working on a bike outside

95-year-old Ted in action at Etty & Tyler motor and cycle repair shop. Credit: Andrew Baker Photographer.

Full Cycle will look at the unique cycling heritage of Forest Gate through the lens of Edward Ernest Etty, better known as Ted. At 95 years old, he has owned Etty & Tyler motor and cycle repair shop in Newham since the 1950s and has witnessed over 70 years of changing socio-political and cultural trends. The project, led by participatory arts organisation Frames of Mind, will create a documentary film, archive and cycling heritage trail to preserve Ted's legacy.

Ted said: "I've always been mechanically minded. Trends come and go, but the workings of the bicycle have basically stayed the same. I'm really pleased that my stories will be preserved for good… I've got a lot of them!"

140 Years of Stratford East, Stratford – £238,108 delivery funding

Outside of Stratford East in Stratford, Newham

Outside Newham's theatre, Stratford East. Credit: Andrew Baker Photographer.

This project will celebrate the iconic theatre's milestone birthday in 2024. It was the first permanent playhouse in Stratford and its impact on British theatre and East London will be explored. Working with the community, the project will uncover and share memories to help bring its history to life. It will deliver a range of engaging events, as well as much-needed repairs to the auditorium.

Forest Lane Park, Forest Gate – £86,541 development funding

Forest Lane Park, Newham showing a pond with wildlife, reed beds, a historic building and trees.

Forest Lane Park, a hidden gem in Forest Gate, Newham.

Newham Council has received initial support towards a £1million project to transform Forest Lane Park, offering a new sensory garden and growing space for the community. The site is important for local biodiversity and 50% of the space will be dedicated to letting nature thrive. The project will also celebrate the pioneering work of local activist Lucel Tate.

Creating local pride

We have been working with organisations in Newham since 2019. At that time, it was identified as an Area of Focus – a place that has historically had lower levels of investment, with the potential to engage people in heritage for the first time.

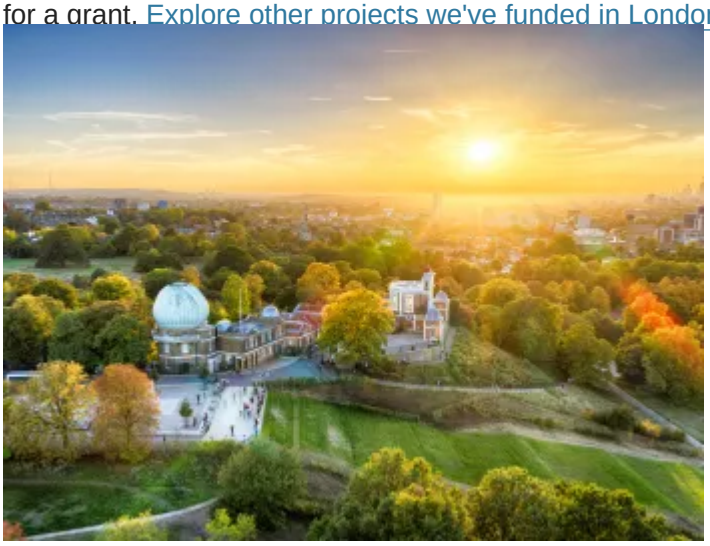
To date, the Heritage Fund has invested over £15m into supporting Newham's heritage. This includes Newham Heritage Month, an annual festival that brings together organisations, artists and community groups to showcase what makes Newham special to them.

Taryn Nixon, Trustee and Chair of England, London & South Committee, said: "Thanks to National Lottery players, the funding has helped to forge new partnerships and bring a wide range of individuals and organisations together to celebrate their heritage, for now and for the future.

"The social and economic benefits of these heritage-led projects are truly far-reaching. They will have an impact, not just throughout Stratford and Forest Gate, but right across Newham."

We fund heritage-led regeneration projects

If you're considering a project that will transform a place, or records part of your local community heritage, you can apply for a grant. Explore other projects we've funded in London & South, or get in touch to discuss your idea.



Royal Observatory Greenwich at sunrise. Credit: Chris Gorman / The Big Ladder Photographer™

London and South





Alice Billing House before the project started. Credit: Andrew Baker Photographer.

Creating Futures at Alice Billing House