OCTOBER 2017
Celebrating arts, culture and history

@Thevents #THbhm
TowerHamletsEvents

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts
WELCOME TO BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2017

This October marks the 30th anniversary of Black History Month in the UK. I am proud to report that Tower Hamlets has an amazingly diverse and jam-packed programme of events to mark this significant occasion.

With over 100 different workshops, screenings, concerts, exhibitions, talks and more, there is something for everyone, so do read through the brochure for full listings of what’s on.

Exhibitions and performances explore themes including migration, slavery, the history of black protest, national identity and geo-politics. The film programme pays tribute to social commentary through features and documentaries, as well as Film Africa 2017 coming to Tower Hamlets.

High-calibre musicians from across the globe will be performing genres including soul, jazz, afro, latin and Caribbean sounds, plus there will be opportunities for participation through some great workshops.

The internationally recognised Somali Week Festival is back with a high-profile programme to examine and celebrate Somali culture, traditions and current affairs.

The Local History Library and Archives has a brilliant programme to celebrate black and local heritage, and our libraries and Idea Stores have tailored many of their regular reading groups and art clubs specifically for Black History Month.

I am delighted that the council is able to support so many of these events, through inclusion in our brochure and the support of our small grant scheme, the Event Fund*.

Black History Month provides a fantastic opportunity for residents of all ages and interests to engage with the richness of black and Afro-Caribbean arts, culture and history. I hope you enjoy the programme of events.

*For more information about the Event Fund, as well as online listings, visit www.towerhamletsarts.gov.uk/arts

John Biggs
Mayor of Tower Hamlets
Akyaaba Addai-Sebo is responsible for establishing Black History Month in Britain. Below is an edited version of an interview with Kubara Zamani, which first appeared in October's issue of New African.

“The inspiration for Black History Month came from an incident that happened at the GLC where I worked as the coordinator of special projects. A colleague of mine came to work one morning looking very downcast. I asked her what the matter was and she confided to me that the previous night, when she was putting her son Marcus to bed, he asked her: ‘Mum, why can’t I be white?’”

“The mother was so shocked that she didn’t know how to respond. The boy that had been named after Marcus Garvey had asked why he couldn’t be white.

In the US, I would lecture about Africa and its contribution to world civilisation... the African genius, the appropriateness and validity of our traditions, moral code, hospitality... session after session, some children and their parents would come to me attesting their new found faith in themselves as Africans, and the change that the encounter had brought to their homes.

So when this incident with Marcus took place, it dawned on me that something had to happen here in Britain. I was very familiar with Black History Month in America, and thought that something like that had to be done here in the UK.

I reflected on it for many weeks. The only thing that came to me after those weeks of reflection was that something had to be done here in the UK to permanently celebrate Africa’s contribution to world civilisation.

I drew up a strategic plan and discussed it with my colleagues at the GLC. The plan was to get some resources approved by the various legal committees of the GLC to support manifestations of the monumental contribution of Africa and Africans to the economic, cultural and political life of London, in particular, and Britain in general. We also did some consultation in the black community. In the end, we got approval for money to organise a series of lectures that took place in 1986-87.

We organised some cultural manifestations and brought in great musicians such as Max Roach, Hugh Masekela, Courtney Pine, Tania Maria and many other artistes to perform at Wembley Arena and the Royal Albert Hall. We filled the Royal Albert Hall with schoolchildren from all over Greater London for a week. We decided then that this idea had to be institutionalised, and so the idea of Black History Month was born.

Making Black History Month was a collective effort, and it could not have been achieved without the London Strategic Policy Unit, an organisation established after the government abolished the GLC in 1986. We managed to make this an all-party affair. Politicians from all over the UK joined in.

The first Black History Month event in the UK was held on the 1 October 1987. We invited Dr. Maulana Karenga, the originator of Kwanzaa in the US. He, together with the late Mrs Sally Mugabe, the London Strategic Policy Unit, the Inner London Education Authority and various politicians, all worked together to launch the first events of Black History Month. This was followed by a series of lectures in community centres in various London boroughs. Later, the events spread to other parts of the UK because the African Jubilee Year Declaration that was launched here in July-August 1987 was also sent across the country, but it took some time for the other boroughs outside London to adopt the declaration which formally instituted the month of October as Black History Month in the UK.”

Courtesy of www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk where a fuller transcript of this interview is available.
ARTISTS’ FILM INTERNATIONAL, SERPENT RAIN
Tuesday 29 August – Sunday 15 October
Tues – Sun 11:00 – 18:00, Thurs 11:00 – 21:00
WHITECHAPEL GALLERY, ZILKHA AUDITORIUM
Serpent Rain (2016), by artist/filmmaker Arjuna Neuman and philosopher Denise Ferreira da Silva, explores the history of slavery and the Black Lives Matter movement in relation to time and the degradation of the natural world. This film is played on a loop.
Whitechapel Gallery
FREE | Everyone

LONDON SUGAR & SLAVERY: 10 YEARS
Until Sunday 29 October
10:00 – 18:00
MUSEUM OF LONDON DOCKLANDS
To mark ten years of the London, Sugar & Slavery gallery, we share some of the hundreds of comments left by visitors in response to the gallery over the past decade.
Museum of London Docklands
FREE | Adults

ZANELE MUHOLI: SOMNYAMA NGONYAMA, HAIL THE DARK LIONESS
Until Saturday 28 October
Tues, Weds & Fri 11:00 – 18:00
Thurs 11:00 – 21:00, Sat 12:00 – 18:00
AUTOGRAPH ABP
In her first solo exhibition in London, South African visual activist Zanele Muholi (b. 1972) presents her ongoing self-portrait series Somnyama Ngonyama.
In more than 60 photographs, Muholi uses her body as a canvas to confront the politics of race and representation in the visual archive.
Autograph ABP
FREE | Everyone

PAT THOMAS AND THE KWASHIBU AREA BAND
Friday 29 September
20:00
RICH MIX
Ghanaian vocalist Pat Thomas and his all-star Kwashibu Area Band are currently on an absolutely massive tour. Performing material from last year’s self-titled album, as well as highlights from throughout Thomas’ long career, this string of shows is an amazing opportunity to catch a living master of African highlife in the flesh.
Rich Mix
£18–£20 | Adults
**THEATRE-FOCUSED BLACK HISTORY WORKSHOP**
Friday 29 – Saturday 30 September
14:00 – 18:00
**ST. MARGARET’S HOUSE**

This free, two-day event, features three creative and innovative sessions each day which tell stories through drums and dance as well as African carvings. Each session begins with a 30-minute speech delivered by an external speaker who interfaces with a narrator. Traditional costumes and sounds will ensure this is a vibrant and participative experience.

African Women’s Welfare Association (Ayoka Project)
☎️ 07960 619 411
✉️ www.awwap.org
FREE | Everyone

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**A DAY IN AFRICA – A NIGHT IN RIO!**
Sunday 1 October
11:00 – 21:00

**NOMADIC COMMUNITY GARDEN**

The Performers of Paracarnival and the Nomadic Community Gardens present a highly inclusive festival of black music, drama and dance. Ancient and traditional origins in the continent of Africa treat us to a feast of blues, jazz, reggae, Motown and hip-hop – culminating in a carnival parade which celebrates the rich culture of Rio samba.

Paracarnival
☎️ 07941 042 810
✉️ bettina@paracarnival.co.uk
FREE | Everyone, Families and children

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**ART CLUB**
Sunday 1 October
14:15–15:30
**IDEA STORE CANARY WHARF**

Our regular Sunday art club for children will be taking inspiration from African art and design to create our own beautiful patterns and pictures.

Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Children (5-14)

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**BLACK HERSTORY MONTH WORKSHOPS**
Sunday 1 October
14:00 – 16:00

**RICH MIX**

Black Herstory Month is an event that aims to celebrate the Black History Month from a gender perspective. Black women’s stories have too often been erased from history or ignored. Through three different art workshops, participants will discover inspiring black women such as Mary Seacole and Claudia Jones who have contributed positively to British (and wider) society but don’t receive due recognition. They will also explore black women in science. There will also be the chance to use clay and acrylics as well as collage.

Supported by Unison
Lon Art and Rich Mix
☎️ 020 7613 7498
✉️ www.richmix.org.uk
FREE | Everyone, Families and children

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**ART CLUB**
Sunday 1 October
14:15–15:30
**IDEA STORE CANARY WHARF**

Our regular Sunday art club for children will be taking inspiration from African art and design to create our own beautiful patterns and pictures.

Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Children (5-14)

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**ICON KEY**

- Dance, Drama & Music
- Literature, Storytelling & the Spoken Word
- Arts, Crafts & Exhibitions
- Other Cultural Events
- Heritage
STORY TIME
Monday 2 – Saturday 28 October
Mon to Sat 10:30 – 11:15
IDEA STORE WATNEY MARKET
Rhymes, stories and fun for under 5s, plus time to choose your favourite books! This October we will be looking at authors and stories with particular relevance to Black History Month.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Under 5s

AFRICAN-THEMED STORY TIME
Monday 2 October
10:30 – 11:15
IDEA STORE CHRISP STREET AND
IDEA STORE WATNEY MARKET
With African-themed songs and stories, have fun and gain a new cultural experience with your family. Young children who are read to every day get on better and do well, in a wide range of subjects, when they get to school.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Under 5s

ART CLUB
Monday 2 October
10:30 – 11:15
IDEA STORE CHRISP STREET
With African-themed songs and stories, have fun gaining a new cultural experience with your family.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Children (5-14)

READING ALOUD
Monday 2 – Friday 27 October
Mon to Fri 15:30
IDEA STORE WATNEY MARKET
Relax after school with refreshments and a story in Idea Stores. This October we will be looking at authors and stories with particular relevance to Black History Month.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Children (5-14)

DON’T JUST LIVE, LIVE TO BE REMEMBERED: THE SOMALI EAST END
Monday 2 – Monday 30 October
Library opening times
IDEA STORE CANARY WHARF
An exhibition exploring the history of Somali migration to Tower Hamlets. Produced by Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, it tells the story of the Somali East End using the council’s archive collection. It is part of the Idea Store Black History Month programme.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Adults

EXHIBITION: ONCE, WE CAME TO A NEW HOME
Monday 2 – Tuesday 31 October
Mon – Thurs 9:00 – 21:00, Fri 9:00 – 18:00
Sat 9:00 – 17:00, Sun 10:00 – 16:00
IDEA STORE CHRISP STREET
Once, We Came to a New Home is an Oral History Archive project to preserve, celebrate and promote the history of migration and settlement of the Afro-Caribbean communities in White City, through the collection of images and audio files among the elderly Afro-Caribbean community living in the area. Come to Idea Store Chrisp Street to see this excellent exhibition.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Everyone

EXHIBITION: FOR THE SAKE OF OIL
Tuesday 3 – Friday 27 October
Mon – Fri 9:00 – 19:00, Sat 10:30 – 17:30
BRADY ARTS CENTRE
This exhibition by Angolan/London artists Isaac Carlos, Carla Mateta and Bob Dawson features paintings, poster prints, photographs and poems that explore vibrant aspects of African culture. It also includes commentary on the exploitation by global companies of the oil resources of sub-Saharan Africa and its impact on people and their environment.
Tower Hamlets Council
FREE | Everyone

ICON KEY
- Dance, Drama & Music
- Film
- Heritage
- Other Cultural Events
- Literature, Storytelling & the Spoken Word
- Arts, Crafts & Exhibitions
PRIME TIME
Tuesday 3 October
10:30 – 12:00
BETHNAL GREEN LIBRARY
This is a chance for older residents to come together each week, meet new and familiar friends and chat with staff about new books. Throughout October, we will celebrate Black History Month with a variety of topics and, this week, we focus on Motown music. Relax and enjoy the rapturous sounds of Motown.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Adults

BOOK BREAK
Tuesday 3 October
14:00 – 15:30
IDEA STORE CHRISP STREET
Sit back and relax as we read stories and poems together and enjoy a shared reading experience. Talk about the issues and topics raised over a cup of tea and biscuits. This October we are reading short stories from What is Not Yours is Not Yours by Helen Oyeyemi. The reader is invited into a world of lost libraries and locked gardens, and a city where all the clocks have stopped.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Adults

EXHIBITION:
A NECESSARY FICTION
Tuesday 3 October – Saturday 20 January
Check website for opening times
TOWER HAMLETS LOCAL HISTORY LIBRARY & ARCHIVES
A new exhibition by ceramics artist Basil Olton exploring the untold history of anti-imperialist black social protest in inter-war London. The work is inspired by Chris Braithwaite, a former resident of Stepney and founder of the Colonial Seamen’s Association, who worked and organised in the East End during the 1930s.
Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives
FREE | Everyone

HOUSE OF GHETTO: BLACK PRIDE
Wednesday 4 October – Thursday 26 October
Check website for opening times
RICH MIX
A multimedia installation depicting the founding female members of The House of Ghetto, a Vogue House based in Manchester. There will be an open house on Wednesday 4th October at 6pm.
Rich Mix
FREE | Everyone
BOOK BREAK
(NEW)

**Book Break**

**Thursday 5 October**

14:30 – 16:00

**Bethnal Green Library**

Relax and enjoy the riveting *The Woman Next Door* by Yewande Omotoso. Two widowed next-door neighbours in a South African suburb face their past, whilst firing insults at one another. The novel’s discussion of difficult topics such as racism, apartheid, grief and the past add a depth that a lesser novel would lack.

**Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores**

**FREE | Everyone**

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**Exhibition Launch**

**Thursday 5 October**

18:00 – 19:30

**Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives**

Artist Basil Olton will launch *A Necessary Fiction*, featuring new artwork inspired by local black revolutionary Chris Braithwaite. Refreshments provided.

**Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives**

**FREE | Everyone**

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**Raw Talent Workshops/Auditions**

**Thursday 5 October**

18:30 – 21:00

**Brady Arts Centre**

Can you perform grime, RnB or hip-hop? Or have you got your own unique sound? Try out your bars, beats and lyrics if you want to have an opportunity to shine at Raw Talent, the Tower Hamlets talent competition of the year. Young people who live, work or study in the borough can drop in to any of these sessions on a Thursday night during October as fantastic preparation for the main event on December 9, with industry professionals on the judging panel.

**A’ Team Arts**

020 7364 7911/7912

canan.salih@towerhamlets.gov.uk

**FREE | 12-19yrs**

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**What Once Was Ours**

**Thursday 5 – Wednesday 11 October**

Thurs & Mon 16:30 & 19:00,
Fri & Tue 13:30 & 19:00, Wed 10:30 & 13:30.
No performances on Saturday or Sunday

**Half Moon Theatre**

Created against the background of Brexit, this powerful new production for young people explores how politics and national values impact on the complex lives of one family.

**Zest & Half Moon Theatre**

£7 | Young People (13 – 25)

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**Book Break**

**Wednesday 4 October**

14:00 – 15:30

**Idea Store Watney Market**

Sit back and relax whilst listening to stories and poems, or join in with the reading and conversation if you want to. Get Into Reading groups are an enjoyable way to meet new people. This October we will be looking at authors and stories with particular relevance to Black History Month.

**Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores**

**FREE | Everyone**
SOULJAZZ ORCHESTRA
Thursday 5 October
19:30
RICH MIX

Since first arriving on the Canadian scene at the turn of the millennium, the Souljazz Orchestra has never stopped pushing the limits of its signature sound: an explosive clash of soul, jazz, afro, latin and Caribbean styles, unleashed by blaring majestic horns, dusty vintage keyboards, and an arsenal of earthquaking percussion.

Rich Mix
£15.50 | Adults

HOMEWORK CLUB
Friday 6 October
16:30
IDEA STORE WATNEY MARKET

Homework to do? We will help you find the answers with Britannica Online and other online and printed resources. This October we will be looking at authors and stories with particular relevance to Black History Month.

Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores FREE | Children up to 16 years

CARIBBEAN FAMILY HISTORY DAY
Saturday 7 October
10:30 – 16:00
TOWER HAMLETS LOCAL HISTORY LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

Get help researching your Caribbean ancestors and find out more about African and Caribbean heritage in London's East End at this free family history event, run in partnership with the Tony Cheeseman Foundation (www.tonyfoundation.com). A variety of talks will take place throughout the day and visitors will have the chance to browse a number of stalls and displays. A full programme will be announced shortly. Check www.ideastore.co.uk/local-history for further details. Just drop in, no booking required.

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives FREE | Adults

BLACK HERSTORY MONTH WORKSHOPS
Saturday 7 October
14:00 – 16:00
V&A MUSEUM OF CHILDHOOD

Black Herstory Month is an event that aims to celebrate the Black History Month from a gender perspective. Black women's stories have too often been erased from history or ignored. Through three different art workshops, participants will discover inspiring black women such as Mary Seacole and Claudia Jones who have contributed positively to British (and wider) society but don’t receive due recognition. There will also be a chance explore black women in science. There will also be a chance to use clay and acrylics as well as collage.

Supported by Unison
Lon Art with V&A
FREE | Everyone, Families and children

PRINT – A CELEBRATION OF AFRICAN DESIGN INSPIRED BY YINKA SHONIBARE
Saturday 7 October
14:00 – 16:00
IDEA STORE WHITECHAPEL

Take a look at the exciting work of Yinka Shonibare and go on to produce some colourful prints on paper of your own. Identifying shapes used in African patterns and colour to recreate the vibrancy of African textiles you will print on paper using a variety of objects. Booking required.

Idea Store Learning
FREE / Booking required | Everyone
Including families and children (under 13)

AFRICAN-THEMED STORY TIME
Monday 9 October
10:30 – 11:15
IDEA STORE CHRISP STREET AND IDEA STORE WATNEY MARKET

With African-themed songs and stories, have fun and gain a new cultural experience with your family. Young children who are read to every day get on better and do well, in a wide range of subjects, when they get to school.

Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores FREE | Under 5s

ART CLUB
Monday 9 October
10:30 – 11:15
IDEA STORE CHRISP STREET

With special African-themed songs and stories, have fun gaining a new cultural experience with your family.

Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores FREE | Under 5s

ICON KEY
- Dance, Drama & Music
- Other Cultural Events
- Literature, Storytelling & the Spoken Word
- Arts, Crafts & Exhibitions
- Heritage
TWISTOV
Monday 9 October – Saturday 18 November
Times: TBC
RICH MIX & OTHER VENUES
Teatro Vivo stages a new promenade production around the streets of Shoreditch. Twistov will tell a contemporary tale of migration, arrival and survival in our capital city inspired by Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist. Local participants are invited to take part in the community chorus. Over a series of free workshops you can learn performance skills, share your experiences and have the opportunity to perform in a professional production.

Teatro Vivo
☎ 07733 134 701
★★ www.teatrovivo.co.uk
✉ info@teatrovivo.co.uk
@teatrovivo
Workshops: FREE, Performance Price: TBC
Adults

Follow Professor Brownlove on the hunt for TWISTOV
Photo by Doug Southall featuring Anthony Ofegubu

PRIME TIME
Tuesday 10 October
10.30 – 12.00
BETHNAL GREEN LIBRARY
This is a chance for older residents to come together each week, meet new and familiar friends and chat with staff about new books. Throughout October we will celebrate Black History Month with a variety of topics, and this week we focus on Through My Eyes, the story of civil rights activist Ruby Bridges.

Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Adults

BOOK BREAK
Tuesday 10 October
14.00 – 15.30
IDEA STORE CHRI SP STREET
Sit back and relax as we read stories and poems together and enjoy a shared experience. Talk about the issues and topics raised over a cup of tea and biscuits. This October we are reading short stories from What is Not Yours is Not Yours by Helen Oyeyemi. The reader is invited into a world of lost libraries and locked gardens, and a city where all the clocks have stopped.

Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Adults

WHOSE VOICE IS IT?
Tuesday 10 October
18.00 – 21.00
IDEA STORE WHITECHAPEL
Spread the Word, London’s writer development agency, presents an evening of discussion around diverse stories and who tells them. With a panel made up of figures from the publishing world, this evening will be a lively discussion around cultural appropriation and writing.

Spread the Word with Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE (booking required) | Adults
whosevoice.eventbrite.co.uk

THE AMAZING JAMES BALDWIN COURSE
Tuesday 10 October – Tuesday 14 November
18.30 – 19.30, Screenings 21:00
GENESIS CINEMA
This short, five-week course recognises the importance of this incisive writer and commentator. The course is being run by Black History Walks and takes place on various Tuesdays as detailed below. Each lecture will be directly followed by a series of screenings of some of the best films of recent years in the Genesis Cinema’s lovely Bar Paragon. Tickets are available from Eventbrite, with season ticket holders for this course guaranteed priority seating for these screenings.

10 Oct – Moonlight (2016) by Barry Jenkins
07 Nov – Hidden Figures (2016) by Theodore Melfi
14 Nov – The Stuart Hall Project (2013) by John Akomfrah

Genesis Cinema
£51 – week course
Screenings – FREE

ICON KEY

Dance, Drama & Music
Other Cultural Events
Film
Literature, Storytelling & the Spoken Word
Heritage
Arts, Crafts & Exhibitions
BOOK GROUP
Tuesday 10 October
19:00 – 20:30
IDEA STORE CHRISIP STREET
Enjoy shared discussions in our monthly book group. Borrow the book from the Idea Store, read it, then come along to the session to discuss the topics raised! This October we are exploring The Sellout by Paul Beatty, a Booker Prize-winning satire about a young man’s isolated upbringing and the race trial that sends him to the Supreme Court.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Adults

SCREENING: MOONLIGHT
Tuesday 10 October
21:00
GENESIS CINEMA
MOONLIGHT (2016) by Barry Jenkins
This film takes a look at three defining chapters in the life of Chiron, a young black man growing up in Miami. Part of The Amazing James Baldwin course – see p19 for details. This is on a first come, first served basis as those enrolled on the course have priority.
Genesis Cinema
FREE | Rated R (17+)

BOOK BREAK (GET INTO READING)
Wednesday 11 October
14:00 – 15:30
IDEA STORE WATNEY MARKET
This October we are exploring The Sellout by Paul Beatty, a Booker Prize-winning satire about a young man’s isolated upbringing and the race trial that sends him to the Supreme Court.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Adults

BOOK BREAK
Thursday 12 October
14:30 – 16:00
BETHEL GREEN LIBRARY
Relax and enjoy the riveting The Woman Next Door by Yewande Omotoso. Two widowed next-door neighbours in a South African suburb face their past whilst firing insults at one another. The novel’s discussion of difficult topics such as racism, apartheid, grief and the past add a depth that a lesser novel would lack.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Everyone

RAW TALENT WORKSHOPS/AUDITIONS
Thursday 12 October
18:30 – 21:00
BRADY ARTS CENTRE
Can you perform grime, RnB or hip-hop? Or have you got your own unique sound? Try out your bars, beats and lyrics if you want to have an opportunity to shine at Raw Talent, the Tower Hamlets talent competition of the year. Young people who live, work or study in the borough can drop in to any of these sessions on a Thursday night during October as fantastic preparation for the main event on December 9, with industry professionals on the judging panel.
‘A’ Team Arts
020 7364 7911/7912
canan.salih@towerhamlets.gov.uk
FREE | 12-19yrs

PRESENTATION: ONCE, WE CAME TO A NEW HOME
Thursday 12 October
19:00 – 20:00
IDEA STORE CHRISIP STREET
This is a talk presenting some of the collected stories and images from the Afro-Caribbean Oral History Archive project as a means to reflect on past migration in England through individual experiences and stories. It invites reflection and insight into contemporary migration through the accounts of those that have lived it in the not-so-distant past.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Everyone

ICON KEY

Dance, Drama & Music
Other Cultural Events
Film
Literature, Storytelling & the Spoken Word
Arts, Crafts & Exhibitions
Heritage

Image courtesy of Genesis Cinema
THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY’S INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION 160

Friday 13 – Monday 16 October
Fri-Sun 10:00-18:00, Mon 10:00-16:00
VENUE: F BLOCK G4
THE OLD TRUMAN BREWERY

The Royal Photographic Society has a long and prestigious history and its print exhibition, now in its 160th year, is the world’s longest running exhibition of its kind, having been held almost every year since the society was founded in 1853. The exhibition of 100 prints is being shown at PHOTOBLOCK, a curated programme of photography events and exhibitions at the Old Truman Brewery during mid-October. This year, the open competition attracted work from photographers in 56 countries. The IPE showcases a rich variety of genres and styles which combine photographic skill and ideas rich in meaning, and gives a fascinating insight into the range and diversity of photographic work being created today.

The Royal Photographic Society
☎ 01225 325733
㈹ www.rps.org/IPE160
𐀀 www.facebook.com/royalphotographicsociety
FREE | Everyone

WEST INDIANS: FOREFATHERS OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE?

Friday 13 October 2017 – Sunday 14 January 2018
10.00 – 18.00
MUSEUM OF LONDON DOCKLANDS

Discover the forgotten history of the world’s oldest continuously serving police force. Established in 1798 to protect trade on the Thames, the Thames River Police pioneered preventative policing in London. As the forerunners of the Metropolitan Police, they have influenced law enforcement globally. Curated by the West India Committee.

Museum of London Docklands
FREE | Everyone, Adults

HOMEWORK CLUB

Friday 13 October
16:30
IDEA STORE WATNEY MARKET

Homework to do? We will help you find the answers with Britannica Online and other online and printed resources. This October we will be looking at authors and stories with particular relevance to Black History Month.

Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Children up to 16 years

PRINT – A CELEBRATION OF AFRICAN DESIGN INSPIRED BY YINKA SHONIBARE

Saturday 14 October
14.00 – 16.00
IDEA STORE WHITECHAPEL

See p17 for details.

Idea Store Learning
☎ 020 7364 5665
FREE | Everyone
Booking required
 urlparse(eventbrite.co.uk

©Edyta Linnane
Yoasan Guillen, Cuban Baseball Player ©Katinka Herbert
©Bryan Thomas
Tarisha, from the series The Sea in the Darkness ©Andre Du Blesis
©Theophile Munganga in Vivienne Westwood, London, 2016 ©Alice Mann
Sosa, a member of the Lunatics Lowrider Crew ©Owen Harvey

Yoasan Guillen, Cuban Baseball Player ©Katinka Herbert
MWALIMU EXPRESS
Sunday 15 October
14:00 – 18:00
RICH MIX
London’s original African family adventure! With live music, cinema, dance, games, workshops and the best of vibes.
Rich Mix
FREE | Under 5s | Families and children (under 13)

ART CLUB
Sunday 15 October
14:15 – 15:30
IDEA STORE CANARY WHARF
Our regular Sunday art club for children will be taking inspiration from African art and design to create beautiful patterns and pictures.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Children 5-14

AFRICAN-THEMED STORY TIME
Monday 16 October
10:30 – 11:15
IDEA STORE CHRISPIST STREET AND IDEA STORE WATNEY MARKET
With African-themed songs and stories, have fun and gain a new cultural experience with your family. Young children who are read to every day get on better and do well, in a wide range of subjects, when they get to school.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Under 5s

ART CLUB
Monday 16 October
10:30 – 11:15
IDEA STORE CHRISPIST STREET
With African-themed songs and stories, have fun gaining a new cultural experience with your family.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Under 5s

OUT OF THE SYSTEM
Monday 16 – Tuesday 17 October
19:30 + 21:15
RICH MIX
Dance Umbrella’s guest programmer, Freddie Opoku-Addaie, creates this festival-within-a-festival.
Rich Mix
£12 – £80

PRIME TIME
Tuesday 17 October
10:30 – 12:00
BETHNAL GREEN LIBRARY
This is a chance for older residents to come together each week, meet new and familiar friends and chat with staff about new books. Throughout October we will celebrate Black History Month with a variety of topics and this week, we focus on jazz and blues. Listen to some of the greatest musicians over a coffee.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Adults
BOOK BREAK
Tuesday 17 October
14.00 – 15.30
IDEA STORE CRISP STREET

Sit back and relax as we read stories and poems together and enjoy a shared experience. Talk about the issues and topics raised over a cup of tea and biscuits. This October we are reading short stories from What is Not Yours is Not Yours by Helen Oyeyemi. The reader is invited into a world of lost libraries and locked gardens, and a city where all the clocks have stopped.

Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Adults

No Feedback
Tuesday 17 October
19.00 – 20.30
MULBERRY & BIGLAND GREEN CENTRE (MBGC)

No Feedback is a theatrical event highlighting the gentle pull of discrimination that tears at the fabric of everyday life. Set against the backdrop of catastrophes both historic and contemporary, it takes the format of a public meeting, asking audiences to consider their own place on the spectrum of how we relate to one another.

People’s Palace Projects at Queen Mary University of London
020 7882 3912
renata.peppl@peoplespalace.org.uk
PeoplesPalaceProjects
FREE – booking required
www.nofeedback.eventbrite.co.uk

East End WI

CELEBRATING BHM
Tuesday 17 October
19.00 for 19.30 start
ST MARGARET’S HALL (BEHIND THE GALLERY CAFÉ, ST MARGARET’S HOUSE)

The East End Women’s Institute celebrates Black History Month with an exploration of the politics and practicalities of black hair, with a demonstration and opportunities for braiding. This will be complemented with music and food.

East End WI
http://eastendwi.blogspot.co.uk
eastendwi@hotmail.co.uk
Visitors £4, Donations for refreshments
Women only

SCREENING: GET OUT
Tuesday 17 October
21.00
GENESIS CINEMA

GET OUT (2017) by Jordan Peele is a horror story about a young African-American meeting his white girlfriend’s parents. Part of The Amazing James Baldwin course – see p19 for details. The screening is free but it is on a first come, first served basis as those enrolled on the course have priority.

Genesis Cinema
FREE | Rated R (17+)

BORN OF GOOD INTENTIONS: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF BLACK VICTORIAN CHILDREN IN A BARNARDO’S HOME
Wednesday 18 October
18.00 – 20.00
WHITECHAPEL LIBRARY

Barnardo’s became famous for taking in poor, destitute children during Victorian times. Not many people are aware that they also took in poor, destitute Black and disabled children. Avril Nanton presents the stories of the children who were taken in and fostered by Barnardo’s during the Victorian era.

Avril’s Walks and Talks
07984 759506
info@avrilswalksandtalks.co.uk
avrilswalksandtalks.co.uk
avrilwalkstalks
£8 adults, £2 child | Everyone

BOOK BREAK
(GET INTO READING)
Wednesday 18 October
14.00 – 15.30
IDEA STORE WATNEY MARKET

Sit back and relax whilst listening to stories and poems, or join in with the reading and conversation if you want to. Get Into Reading groups are an enjoyable way to meet new people. This October we will be looking at authors and stories with particular relevance to Black History Month.

Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Everyone

Photographs courtesy of the School of Advanced Study. Copyright ©Lloyd Study

Image courtesy of Genesis Cinema
BOOK BREAK
Thursday 19 October
14.30 – 16.00
BETHNAL GREEN LIBRARY
Relax and enjoy the riveting The Woman Next Door by Yewande Omotoso. Two widowed next-door neighbours in a South African suburb face their past whilst firing insults at one another. The novel’s discussion of difficult topics such as racism, apartheid, grief and the past add a depth that a lesser novel’s would lack.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Everyone

RAW TALENT
WORKSHOPS/AUDITIONS
Thursday 19 October
18.30 – 21.00
BRADY ARTS CENTRE
Can you perform grime, RnB or hip-hop? Or have you got your own unique sound? Try out your bars, beats and lyrics if you want to have an opportunity to shine at Raw Talent, the Tower Hamlets talent competition of the year. Young people who live, work or study in the borough can drop in to any of these sessions on a Thursday night during October as fantastic preparation for the main event on December 9, with industry professionals on the judging panel.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Everyone

THE POLITICS
OF EXHIBITING
Thursday 19 October
18:15 – 19.30
TOWER HAMLETS LOCAL HISTORY LIBRARY & ARCHIVES
How do memory and history converge in the social production of heritage? What is the role of collections, exhibitions and institutions in the construction of knowledge? A panel discussion with Dorothy Rose Du Boulay, Basil Olton and Michael McMillan, part of the events programme for the A Necessary Fiction exhibition.
Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives
FREE | Everyone

HABIB KOITÉ AND BAMADA + SURA SUSSO
Thursday 19 October
20:00
RICH MIX
A joyous evening of mesmerising guitar-picking accompanied with melodious vocals full of West African passion and energy. With Habib and his Bamada Band in full motion, there is no room for standing still.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Everyone

HOMEWORK CLUB
Friday 20 October
16:30
IDEA STORE WATNEY MARKET
Homework to do? We will help you find the answers with Britannica Online and other online and printed resources. This October we will be looking at authors and stories with particular relevance to Black History Month.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Everyone

WOMEN AND REVOLUTION IN THE
BLACK ARTS MOVEMENT
Friday 20 October
19:00
RICH MIX
SAWCC London reflects on the early days of the black arts movement of the 1980s in the current political climate.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Everyone

TASTE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA CULTURAL ARTS FESTIVAL
Saturday 21 October
10.30 – 23.00
BRADY ARTS CENTRE
Taste of Southern Africa Cultural Arts Festival celebrates the cultural arts of southern Africa. During the day there will be workshops in dance, marimba, mbira, singing and drumming with southern African food and drinks from 6pm and a specially-produced traditional southern African music and dance show at 8pm.
African Marimba Music
07515 508 934
www.tasteofsouthernafrica.com
info@africanmarimbamusic.com
tasteofsouthernafrica
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Everyone

A ‘A’ Team Arts
020 7364 7911/7912
canan.salih@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Rich Mix
£15 – £17.50 | Adults

Image courtesy
of Rich Mix

Image courtesy
of Flame Lily Arts
SOMALI WEEK FESTIVAL 2017
Home and displacement has been chosen as the theme for this year’s Somali Week Festival programme of activities. Much of this year’s event programme once again takes place at Oxford House (see following pages for details) but for full, London-wide listings for Somali Week Festival, including details the launch event at the British Library on October 20, please go to www.kayd.org.

SOMALI WEEK FESTIVAL: FAMILY PROGRAMME
Saturday 21 October
14:00 – 16:00
OXFORD HOUSE
Zaynab Dahir, a Somali storyteller and entertainer who promotes the writing and reading of the Somali language among Somali children in the UK, will lead this popular family event. The activities will include the performance of a play devised in the run-up to the festival, face-painting, arts and crafts, clowns and more! (Somali/English)
Kayd Somali Arts & Culture
07903 712 949
ayan_mahamoud@kayd.org
www.kayd.org
FREE | Everyone

ART CLUB
Sunday 22 October
14:15 – 15:00
IDEA STORE CHRISP STREET
Learn about Black History, its countries and cultures by making your own African/Caribbean flags. Which one will you make?
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Children

AFRICAN-THEMED STORY TIME
Monday 23 October
10:30 – 11:15
IDEA STORE CHRISP STREET
With African-themed songs and stories, have fun gaining a new cultural experience with your family.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Under 5s

SOMALI WEEK FESTIVAL: FRESH POETRY
Saturday 21 October
19:00 – 22:00
OXFORD HOUSE
This event will be dedicated to the rich oral traditions of the Somali language and features the young and the brilliant Xasan Daahir Weedshe, the author of Galiilyo (Catastrophe). Weedshe will read from his recent works (see also Monday 23rd’s programme) and he will be joined by Jama Kadiye, one of the most revered poets of the 70s and 80s generations who is coming back to Somali Week Festival for the second time. (Somali)
Kayd Somali Arts & Culture
07903 712 949
ayan_mahamoud@kayd.org
www.kayd.org
£6 | Everyone

ART CLUB
Sunday 22 October
14:15 – 15:30
IDEA STORE CANARY WHARF
Our regular Sunday art club for children will be taking inspiration from African art and design to create our own beautiful patterns and pictures.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE Children (5-14)

AFRICAN-THEMED STORY TIME
Monday 23 October
10:30 – 11:15
IDEA STORE CHRISP STREET
With African-themed songs and stories, have fun gaining a new cultural experience with your family.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Under 5s

SOMALI WEEK FESTIVAL: REIMAGING IDENTITY/HOME
Sunday 22 October
19:00 – 22:00
OXFORD HOUSE
The platform is given to young and creative Somalis to discuss their own relationships with the ideas of home and displacement. The founder of #ShootForPeace, a youth mentorship programme, Yasin Osman, will elaborate on his journey to being a freelance photographer to Toronto’s Top Change Makers’ list of 2016. Mo Ali is a young British Somali film director whose work has been well received at prestigious film festivals across the globe. Hanna Ali is a writer, poet and a PhD candidate at SOAS where she specialises in African identity. She was recently short-listed for the London Short Story Prize 2016.
Hodan Omar Dhuule, daughter of renowned musician, Omar Dhuule. (English)
Kayd Somali Arts & Culture
07903 712 949
ayan_mahamoud@kayd.org
www.kayd.org
£10 | Everyone

ART CLUB
Monday 23 October
10:30 – 11:15
IDEA STORE CHRISP STREET
With African-themed songs and stories, have fun gaining a new cultural experience with your family.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Under 5s

ART CLUB
Monday 23 October
18:30
OXFORD HOUSE
The Anglo-Somali Society is a non-profit-making international friendship society whose objective is to foster friendship and understanding between Somalis and the English-speaking world, and to develop cultural and social relations between them. (English)
Kayd Somali Arts & Culture
07903 712 949
ayan_mahamoud@kayd.org
www.kayd.org
FREE | Everyone

ICON KEY
Dance, Drama & Music
Film
Literature, Storytelling & the Spoken Word
Arts, Crafts & Exhibitions
Other Cultural Events
Heritage
SOMALI WEEK FESTIVAL: CATASTROPHE – POETRY TRANSLATION EVENT

Monday 23 October
20:00
OXFORD HOUSE

Catastrophe is a long narrative poem addressing the forced migration of the Somali people by Xasan Daahir Weedhsame (a student of the great Gaarriye). The poem, which will be launched in a special, illustrated Poetry in Translation Centre edition, reads like a cry of fury about the ongoing refugee crisis across Europe and has an urgent message for everyone in the UK in 2017.

Aar Maanta, British singer-songwriter and instrumentalist, will perform his eclectic fusion of Somali traditional rhythms and contemporary music, appealing to both Somali and non-Somali audiences. (English)

Kayd Somali Arts & Culture
☎ 07903 712 949
✉ ayan_mahamoud@kayd.org
🌐 www.kayd.org
£5 | Everyone

PRIME TIME
Tuesday 24 October
10:30 – 12:00
BETHNAL GREEN LIBRARY

This is a chance for older residents to come together each week, meet new and familiar friends and chat with staff about new books. Throughout October we will celebrate Black History Month with a variety of topics and this week we focus on the poetry of Benjamin Zephaniah.

Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Adults

HALF-TERM SCULPTURE WORKSHOP
Tuesday 24 October
14:00 – 16:00
TOWER HAMLETS LOCAL HISTORY LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

Inspired by the exhibition A Necessary Fiction and themes of recorded and un-recorded family history and recollection, this creative workshop for families and children will utilise shape and form and the beauty of the fragment to create a 3D form using Modrock sculpting material.

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives
FREE | Everyone Families and children (under 13)

BOOK BREAK
Tuesday 24 October
14:00 – 15:30
IDEA STORE CRISP STREET

Take a break as we read stories and poems together and enjoy a shared experience. Talk about the issues and topics raised over a cup of tea and biscuits. This October we are reading short stories from ‘What Is Not Yours is Not Yours’ by Helen Oyeyemi. The reader is invited into a world of lost libraries and locked gardens, and a city where all the clocks have stopped.

Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Adults

JOURNEY TO JUSTICE, INSPIRING ACTION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE – MLK’S 1967 VISIT TO NEWCASTLE-U-TYNE
Tuesday 24 October
19:00 – 21:00
LAB 1, IDEA STORE WHITECHAPEL

Journey to Justice hosts an evening about action for social justice through history and the arts. With a powerful film about Martin Luther King’s visit to Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1967, we will make links between his speech on war, racism and poverty and ways of taking up the same issues today.

Journey to Justice
☎ 07711 199 198
✉ carriesupple1@gmail.com
🌐 www.journeytojustice.org.uk
[@freedemandjobs](https://www.facebook.com/journeytojustice.org.uk)
£4 tickets on the door | Everyone
SCREENING: I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO
Tuesday 24 October
19:00
GENESIS CINEMA
Nominated for the Best Documentary Feature at the 89th Academy Awards, I Am Not Your Negro (2016) by Raoul Peck offers an incendiary snapshot of James Baldwin’s crucial observations on American race relations. Part of The Amazing James Baldwin course – see p19 for details. This is on a first come, first served basis as those enrolled on the course have priority.

Genesis Cinema
FREE | Rated PG-13

TRIBAL INSPIRED BEADED JEWELLERY
Wednesday 25 – Friday 27 October
13:00 – 15:00
IDEA STORE WHITECHAPEL
Inspired by African tribal jewellery, you are invited to create your own contemporary beaded pieces. You are welcome to attend one session or all three. All materials will be supplied. Booking required.

Idea Store Learning
FREE | Booking required | Everyone
bhmjewellery.eventbrite.co.uk

AFRICAN AND CARIBBEAN BUSINESS SHOWCASE
Wednesday 25 October
13:00 – 19:00
IDEA STORE WHITECHAPEL
This is a chance for the African and Caribbean community to showcase their unique talents and skills, build links with the wider business community as well as give opportunities to the unemployed, returners to work and young people.

Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Everyone

BOOK BREAK (GET INTO READING)
Wednesday 25 October
14:00 – 15:30
IDEA STORE WATNEY MARKET
Sit back and relax whilst listening to stories and poems, or join in with the reading and conversation if you want to. Get Into Reading groups are an enjoyable way to meet new people. This October we will be looking at authors and stories with particular relevance to Black History Month.

Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Everyone

SKA AND REGGAE MUSIC WORKSHOP
Wednesday 25 – Thursday 26 October
18:00 – 19:00 Workshop
19.30 – 20.00 Free Reggae Acoustic Guitar Lesson
IDEA STORE WHITECHAPEL LAB 2
Gain an insight into the migration of a fictional female during the 1960s from Jamaica to London. Look into the world she left behind, the folk songs, the dialect and be part of the transition to the new life, with ska and reggae music from the era. Audience participation is welcomed. Bring your own acoustic guitar for a free lesson. Booking required.

Idea Store Learning
FREE | Booking required
bhmmusicworkshop.eventbrite.co.uk
Adults and young adults – 13+

HALF-TERM CREATIVE WORKSHOP
Thursday 26 October
10:00 – 12:00
TOWER HAMLETS LOCAL HISTORY LIBRARY & ARCHIVES
Inspired by text, texture and the transient meaning of images, this creative workshop for families will use mixed media and cut-out shapes to create an A3 collage banner. Part of the events programme for the A Necessary Fiction exhibition.

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives
FREE | Families and children (under 13)

ICON KEY

- Dance, Drama & Music
- Film
- Heritage
- Literature, Storytelling & the Spoken Word
- Other Cultural Events
- Arts, Crafts & Exhibitions

Image courtesy of Genesis Cinema

Image courtesy of Libraries and Idea Stores

Image courtesy of Libraries and Idea Stores

Image courtesy of Libraries and Idea Stores

Image courtesy of Libraries and Idea Stores
BOOK BREAK
Thursday 26 October
14:30 – 16:00
BETHNAL GREEN LIBRARY
Relax and enjoy the riveting The Woman Next Door by Yewande Omotoso. Two widowed next-door neighbours in a South African suburb face their past whilst firing insults at one another. The novel’s discussion of difficult topics such as racism, apartheid, grief and the past add a depth that a lesser novel would lack.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Everyone

POETRY TRIBUTE
Thursday 26 October
18:30 – 19:30
CUBITT TOWN LIBRARY
Gita Jaggan is a poet and songwriter from Trinidad and Tobago who lives in Tower Hamlets. Her father was a descendent of the indentured labourers who worked on the sugar plantations on the islands. Gita’s work reflects on this history. She will present a selection of her poems.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Adults

RADICAL BLACK
ACTIVISM IN THE
1930s EAST END
Thursday 26 October
18:30 – 19:30
TOWER HAMLETS LOCAL HISTORY LIBRARY & ARCHIVES
A talk from historian Dr Hakim Adi about Chris Braithwaite and other black radicals, trade unionists and communists active in the inter-war east end. Part of the events programme for the A Necessary Fiction exhibition.
Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives
FREE | Everyone

RAW TALENT
WORKSHOPS/AUDITIONS
Thursday 26 October
18:30 – 21:00
BRADY ARTS CENTRE
Can you perform grime, RnB or hip-hop? Or have you got your own unique sound? Try out your bars, beats and lyrics if you want to have an opportunity to shine at Raw Talent, the Tower Hamlets talent competition of the year. Young people who live, work or study in the borough can drop in to any of these sessions on a Thursday night during October as fantastic preparation for the main event on December 9th, with industry professionals on the judging panel.
‘A’ Team Arts
☎ 020 7364 7911/7912
✉ canan.salih@towerhamlets.gov.uk
FREE | 12-19yrs

SHADOWPLAY:
DECOLONISING OUR
MINDS & KHIDIR COLLECTIVE
Thursday 26 October
19:30
TOYNBEE STUDIOS
We live here, we survive here, we thrive here. From Bethnal Green to Ladbroke Grove, we live here too. Decolonising Our Minds and Khidir Collective host Shadowplay – a monthly evening of poetry and music by emerging artists in London and beyond. Artists will be performing work which responds to the theme of ‘We Live Here Too’ with short discussions following each performance.
Artsadmin
£8/£5 | Adults

HOMEWORK CLUB
Friday 27 October
16:30
IDEA STORE WATNEY MARKET
Homework to do? We will help you find the answers with Britannica Online and other online and printed resources. This October, we will be looking at authors and stories with particular relevance to Black History Month.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Children up to 16 years
HOLD TIGHT: HOW TO READ GRIME MUSIC
Saturday 28 October
11:00 – 13:00
IDEA STORE WHITECHAPEL
With great humour and insight, author Jeffrey Boakye dissects grime tracks to see what the genre tells us about millennials, black masculinity and being a Londoner.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE – Booking required: holdtight.eventbrite.co.uk

TOUSSAINT LOUVERTURE: A BLACK JACOBIN
Saturday 28 October
14:00
IDEA STORE WHITECHAPEL
Charles Forsdick and Christian Høgsbjerg, authors of Toussaint Louverture: A Black Jacobin in the Age of Revolutions (Pluto Press), will explore Louverture’s fascinating life through the prism of his radical politics, championing this ‘black Robespierre’ whose revolutionary legacy had inspired people and movements in the two centuries since his death. Booking required.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Everyone
Booking – blackjacobin.eventbrite.co.uk

SOMALI WEEK FESTIVAL: YUSUF CAN’T TALK
Saturday 28 October
14:00
OXFORD HOUSE
This afternoon session follows the festival tradition of raising awareness of prevalent social issues through the arts. A performance of one-woman show Yusuf Can’t Talk by Nura Aabe explores autism and the Somali community. A workshop and discussion after the show will open up broader discussion of mental health and migration with health professionals.
Kayd Somali Arts & Culture
☎ 07903 712 949
✉ ayan_mahamoud@kayd.org
[url]www.kayd.org[/url]
FREE | Everyone

THEATRE PRODUCTION: SIDE EFFECTS BY IMAN QURESHI
Saturday 28 October
16:00
CHRISTIAN STREET CENTRE
Five young people struggling with zero-hours contracts, ridiculous rents and sky-high university fees sign up to take part in a clinical drugs trial for some extra cash – the side effects of which leave the participants changed forever…
Purple Moon Drama
☎ 07838 131 764
[url]www.purplemoondrama.co.uk[/url]
FREE (Donations encouraged)
Adults + Young People
SOMALI WEEK FESTIVAL:
SOMALI BOOKS DAY
Saturday 28 October
18:00
OXFORD HOUSE
This lively and popular annual event provides an unparalleled platform to profile and celebrate recently-published Somali books. It is the only book fair for Somali writers in Europe to showcase their work. Writers including Osman Abdinur, former BBC journalist from Laas Anood and member of Akaaraha, a critical cultural institution, will be presenting as well as discussing new publications.
Kayd Somali Arts & Culture
☎ 07903 712 949
d董事_ mahamoud@kayd.org
✈ www.kayd.org
FREE | Everyone

FILM AFRICA 2017
Saturday 28 October —
Saturday 4 November
Times vary
RICH MIX AND VARIOUS OTHER VENUES
London’s biggest celebration of African cinema returns for its seventh edition, bringing you the best contemporary and classic African cinema. Join us at Rich Mix and other venues across the city for ten days of discovery, lively debate, family fun, live music and parties!
Film Africa & Rich Mix
☎ 020 7613 7498
✈ www.filmafrica.org.uk
✈ FilmAfricaUK
✈ filmafrica
£10.00 / £8.00 | Adults, Young adults (14+)

ART CLUB
Sunday 29 October
14:15 – 15:30
IDEA STORE CANARY WHARF
Our regular Sunday art club for children will be taking inspiration from African art and design to create our own beautiful patterns and pictures.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE Children (5-14)

AFRICAN-THEMED STORY TIME
Monday 30 October
10:30 – 11:15
IDEA STORE CHRISP STREET AND IDEA STORE WATNEY MARKET
With African-themed songs and stories, have fun gaining a new cultural experience with your family. Young children who are read to every day get on better and do well, in a wide range of subjects, when they get to school.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Under 5s

PRIME TIME
Tuesday 31 October
10:30 – 12:00
BETHNAL GREEN LIBRARY
This is a chance for older residents to come together each week, meet new and familiar friends and chat with staff about new books. Throughout October we will celebrate Black History Month with a variety of topics and this week, we focus on an African and Caribbean odyssey. Sample the beautiful melodic acoustic music with a mock cocktail and fruits.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Adults

BOOK BREAK
Tuesday 31 October
14:00 – 15:30
IDEA STORE CHRISP STREET
Sit back and relax as we read stories and poems together and enjoy a shared experience. Talk about the issues and topics raised over a cup of tea and biscuits. This October we are reading short stories from ‘What is Not Yours is Not Yours’ by Helen Oyeyemi. The reader is invited into a world of lost libraries and locked gardens, and a city where all the clocks have stopped.
Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores
FREE | Adults

Image courtesy of Rich Mix
**FILM SCREENING:**  
**LOOK HOW FAR WE'VE COME**  
Tuesday 31 October  
18:30 – 20:30  
**IDEA STORE CHRISP STREET**

History consultant Kwaku uses the screening of his ‘Look How Far We’ve Come’ documentary to lead a discussion on African-British civil rights struggles.
He explores how far society has come, or regressed, in engaging with racism within a post-Brexit Britain 52 years after the enactment of the first Race Relations Act. This is an inclusive event aimed at an inter-generational, multi-cultural audience.

Akoben Awards in conjunction with Tower Hamlets Libraries and Idea Stores  
Tel: 020 8450 5987  
akobenawards@gmail.com  
AfricanHistoryPlus.eventbrite.com  
www.ideastore.co.uk

FREE | Adults

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**FROM SPANISH TOWN TO GLOBE TOWN**

**ST JOHN ON BETHNAL GREEN**

An audio-visual exhibition charting the life of local resident Pearl Charles. Join us as we celebrate a journey of hope, change, achievement and strength, told in her voice and seen through her eyes.

ST John on Bethnal Green
FREE | Everyone

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**HANDA’S SURPRISE**

**HALF MOON THEATRE**

A magical play for ages 2-6 by Little Angel Theatre combining puppetry, traditional African instruments and songs. Travel to Kenya and meet Handa, who has a present to deliver – seven delicious fruits. On her journey she meets some cunning animals who try to steal her gifts. Will they succeed?

Half Moon Theatre
£7 | Under 5s
Handa’s Surprise, a play for ages 2-6 by Little Angel Theatre @ Half Moon.

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**BLACK HISTORY MONTH FOR CHILDREN – WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE**

Freshwater Theatre Company offers a wide range of interactive drama workshops for schools, museums, libraries and cultural centres to support Black History Month. This year we commemorate its 30th anniversary and invite children to meet the celebrated nurse Mary Seacole. Scramble aboard the Windrush, discover more about the abolition of slavery and travel through Africa and the Caribbean before ending up at Notting Hill Carnival.

Workshops last 60 minutes and can cater for both small and large groups of up to 120 children. Please get in touch for more information.

Tel: 0844 8002870  
Email: info@freshwatertheatre.co.uk

Freshwater Theatre Company  
St Margaret’s House  
21 Old Ford Road, London, E2 9PL

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Throughout the year the council supports and provides a wide range of courses and workshops aimed at both adults and young people who are interested in attaining skills or qualifications, or just learning a something new. Many of these are either free or low cost, and many are arts and culture-based.

For more information about Idea Store Learning courses and how to enrol, go to [https://www.ideastore.co.uk/learning](https://www.ideastore.co.uk/learning)

The council’s Youth Arts division co-ordinates FREE Youth Arts programmes across the borough aimed at young people aged 12-19 years, and up to 25yrs with SEN, who live or study in Tower Hamlets.

Using theatre, textiles, design and music, artists and young people learn, discover and experiment. There are opportunities to get involved in Music Academy with CM Sounds, achieve an accredited arts award or engage with special projects, sex and relationships education.

For more information,  
Call 020 7384 7911  
Email geraldine.bone@towerhamlets.gov.uk  
Web [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts)

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For a weekly digest of arts jobs, funding, opportunities and more across east London, sign up for our Arts Forum Online newsletter at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts)

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For more information,  
Call 020 7384 7911  
Email geraldine.bone@towerhamlets.gov.uk  
Web [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts)
MUSEUM OF IMMIGRATION BHM OPEN DAY
Saturday 4 November
11:00, 13:00, 15:00
19 PRINCELET STREET

Though closed for most of the year, the Museum of Immigration and Diversity is opening the doors of its beautiful but fragile historic premises as a celebration of both Black History Month and the Silk River Project. This building is a poignant reminder of this area’s unique heritage. Space is limited to 30 people per tour and must be booked in advance. Organised in partnership with Tower Hamlets Council’s Youth Arts Team.

‘A’ Team Arts
020 7364 7911
canan.salih@towerhamlets.gov.uk
£10 – booking deposit refunded by request
Everyone

FROM SPANISH TOWN TO GLOBE TOWN
Saturday 4 & Sunday 5 November
18.00 – 21.00
ST JOHN ON BETHNAL GREEN

An audio-visual exhibition charting the life of local resident Pearl Charles. Join us as we celebrate a journey of hope, change, achievement and strength, told in her voice and seen through her eyes.

St John on Bethnal Green
FREE | Everyone

SUSSO
Monday 6 November
19:30
RICH MIX
Fusing the traditional sounds of the Mandinka people with contemporary electronica.
Rich Mix
£14.50 | Adults

SCREENING: HIDDEN FIGURES
Tuesday 7 November
21:00
GENESIS CINEMA

Hidden Figures (2016) by Theodore Melfi tells the story of a team of female African-American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the US space programme. Part of The Amazing James Baldwin course – see p.19 for details. This is on a first come, first served basis as those enrolled on the course have priority.

Genesis Cinema
FREE | Rated PG

SCREENING: THE STUART HALL PROJECT
Tuesday 14 November
21:00
GENESIS CINEMA

This 2013 film by John Akomfrah centres on cultural theorist Stuart Hall, one of the founding fathers of the new left and a key architect of cultural studies in Britain. Part of The Amazing James Baldwin course – see p19 for details. This is on a first come, first served basis as those enrolled on the course have priority.

Genesis Cinema
FREE | No rating
REMEMBERING DARCUS HOWE

The writer and broadcaster campaigned for black rights for more than 50 years and organised the 1981 Black People’s March after the New Cross fire in which 13 black teenagers died.

Howe died peacefully in his sleep at his Streatham home on Saturday 1 April 2017. In 2009, Howe wrote in The Guardian about his prostate cancer diagnosis, “Long live the NHS”, he wrote, after describing how his treatment had been successful following the 2007 diagnosis.

Howe was born on 26 February 1943 in Trinidad, where his father was a vicar and his mother a teacher. He came to the UK in 1961.

Howe, who lived in Brixton for more than 30 years, started his journalism career with the magazine Race Today, where he was editor for 11 years, and more recently he was a Voice Newspaper columnist.

He made his name in the British Black Panthers, successfully challenging racism in the police during the Mangrove Nine trial at the Old Bailey in the early 1970s.

As a journalist, Howe contributed to a wide range of newspapers and had a regular column in the left-wing New Statesman magazine. He began his broadcasting career in the 1980s, presenting shows for the BBC, LWT and Channel 4.

In 2003 he wrote and presented the controversial series White Tribe, which explored the idea of Englishness and involved travelling around the country.

The campaigner also spoke out after the London riots in the summer of 2011, which were sparked by the shooting of Mark Duggan.

“Great loss”

His biographer, Robin Bunce, told the BBC that Howe was “an outstanding black activist” and a “powerful voice for black rights in Britain. … Taking on the police in the 70s at a time of enormous police racism and police corruption was an incredibly courageous thing to do. He was able to turn the table on his accusers and he was able to win his case.

Poet and friend Linton Kwesi Johnson told the BBC: “Darcus was a fearless warrior in the struggle against racial injustice in this country.”

Friend and writer Farrukh Dhondy, a former commissioning editor at Channel 4, told the BBC that Howe was “one of the bravest, one of the most courageous, and one of the most significant activists for black people’s rights in this country”.

He was a “very modest leader who would speak directly to the people,” Mr Dhondy said.

Courtesy of www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk
### CELEBRATING AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND BLACK BRITISH ARTS, CULTURE AND HISTORY

#### OCTOBER 2017

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Audience</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exhibition Launch: A Necessary Fiction</strong></td>
<td>Thur 5 Oct</td>
<td>Everyone</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Workshops: Black Herstory Month</strong></td>
<td>Sat 7 Oct</td>
<td>Everyone, Families &amp; Children</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Workshop: Print – African Design</strong></td>
<td>Sat 7 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Inspired by Yinka Shonibare</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Art Club</strong></td>
<td>Sun 8 Oct</td>
<td>Children (5-14)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Workshops: Black Herstory Month</strong></td>
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<td>Everyone, Families &amp; Children</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Art Club</strong></td>
<td>Mon 9 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RPS International Photography Exhibition 160</strong></td>
<td>Fri 13 – Mon 16 Oct</td>
<td>Everyone</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>West Indians: Forefathers of the Metropolitan Police</strong></td>
<td>Fri 13 Oct – Sun 14 Jan</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Everyone</td>
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<td><strong>Art Club</strong></td>
<td>Sun 15 Oct</td>
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<td>Mon 16 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Discussion: The Politics of Exhibiting</strong></td>
<td>Thur 19 Oct</td>
<td>Everyone</td>
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<td><strong>Art Club</strong></td>
<td>Sun 22 Oct</td>
<td>Children</td>
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<td><strong>Half-Term Sculpture Workshop</strong></td>
<td>Tue 24 Oct</td>
<td>Everyone, Families &amp; Children</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Workshop: Tribal Inspired Beaded Jewellery</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Talk: Radical Black Activism in the 1930s East End</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Talk: Once, We Came to a New Home</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Half-Term Creative Workshop</strong></td>
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<td>Sat 21 Oct</td>
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<td><strong>SWF: Pure Poetry</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Talk: Toussaint Louverture: A Black Jacobin</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SWF: Somali Books Day</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Play: Handa’s Surprise</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Music: Susso</strong></td>
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### LITERATURE, SPOKEN WORD AND STORYTELLING

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>African-Themed Story Time</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reading Aloud</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Book Break (Get into Reading)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Book Break</strong></td>
<td>Tue 10 Oct</td>
<td>Adults</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Discussion: Whose Voice Is It?</strong></td>
<td>Tue 10 Oct</td>
<td>Adults</td>
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<td><strong>Book Group</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Music: Susso</strong></td>
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### HERITAGE

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<td>Everyone</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Homework Club</strong></td>
<td>Fri 6 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Caribbean Family History Day</strong></td>
<td>Sat 7 Oct</td>
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<td><strong>Prime Time</strong></td>
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<td>Over 55s</td>
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<td><strong>Homework Club</strong></td>
<td>Fri 13 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>East End Wì Celebrating BHM</strong></td>
<td>Tue 17 Oct</td>
<td>Women Only</td>
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<td><strong>Talk: Black Victorian Children in a Barnardo’s Home</strong></td>
<td>Wed 18 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Homework Club</strong></td>
<td>Fri 20 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Screening and talk: MLK’s 1967 Visit to Newcastle-U-Tyne</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Homework Club</strong></td>
<td>Fri 27 Oct</td>
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<td><strong>BHM Open Day: Museum of Immigration</strong></td>
<td>Sat 4 Nov</td>
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### OTHER CULTURAL EVENTS

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<tr>
<td><strong>SWF: Anglo-Somali Society Event</strong></td>
<td>Mon 23 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SWF: Yusuf Can’t Talk</strong></td>
<td>Sat 28 Oct</td>
<td>Everyone</td>
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VENUES

19 Princelet Street
London E1 6QH
020 7247 5352
www.19princeletstreet.org.uk
office@19princeletstreet.org.uk
Restricted access (see website)
Tube: Liverpool Street
Local buses: 8, 26, 35, 205, 242 and 388

Autograph ABP
Rivington Place (off Rivington Street)
London, EC2A 3BA
020 7749 1269
www.autograph-abp.org.uk
020 7749 1269
www.autograph-abp.co.uk
@autographabp
Full disabled access
Tube: Old Street / Liverpool Street
Local buses: 25, 15, 48, 57, 65, 78, 149, 242, 243.

Bethnal Green Library
Cambridge Heath Road
London E2 0HL
020 8980 3902
www.bethnalgreenlibrary.org
info@bethnalgreenlibrary.org
Full disabled access
Tube: Bethnal Green
Local buses: 8, 15, 106, 205, 254

Christian Street Community Centre
36 Challoner Walk, London E1 1AZ
www.christianstreet.org.uk
info@christianstreet.org.uk
Full disabled access
Tube: Shadwell
Local buses: 3, 25, 106, 205

Cubitt Town Library
Stratford Lane, London, E14 3HJ
020 7987 3152
www.cubitttownlibrary.org.uk
info@cubitttownlibrary.org.uk
Full disabled access
Tube: Bethnal Green
Local buses: D3, 25, 254, 8

Brady Arts Centre
192 – 196 Hanbury Street
London, E1 6HU
020 7364 7900
www.bradyartscentre.com
info@bradyartscentre.com
Full disabled access
Tube: Whitechapel
Local buses: D3, 25, 254, 106, 205

Genesis Cinema
93-95 Mile End Road
London, E1 4UJ
020 7700 2009
www.genesis-cinema.co.uk
info@genesis-cinema.co.uk
Full disabled access
Tube: Whitechapel
Local buses: 25

Half Moon Theatre
43 White Horse Road
London E1 OND
020 7709 8900
www.halfmoon.org.uk
admin@halfmoon.org.uk
Full disabled access
Tube: Shadwell
Local buses: 135

Mulberry & Bigland Green Centre
171 Trafalgar Road
London, E2 7AA
020 7703 6327
www.mulberrybiglandgreen.org
info@mulberrybiglandgreen.org
Full disabled access
Tube: Limehouse
Local buses: 115, 135

Museum of London Docklands
No.1 Warehouse
Churchill Place
London, E1 4SR
020 7364 4332
www.museumoflondon.org.uk
docklands
info@museumoflondon.org.uk
Full disabled access
Tube: Canary Wharf
Local buses: D3, 25, 254, 106, 205

Idea Store Canary Wharf
300 Canary Wharf
London, E1 3SA
020 7709 6022
www.ideastore.org.uk
info@ideastore.org.uk
Full disabled access
Tube: Canary Wharf
Local buses: D3, D7, D8, 277

Idea Store Watney Market
260 Commercial Road
London, E1 2PB
020 7364 4332
www.ideastore.org.uk
info@ideastore.org.uk
Full disabled access
Tube: Whitechapel
Local buses: D3, 25, 254, 106, 205

Idea Store Whitechapel
321 Whitechapel Road
London, E1 8QY
020 7364 4332
www.ideastore.org.uk
info@ideastore.org.uk
Full disabled access
Tube: Whitechapel
Local buses: 25, 106, 205

Rich Mix
35 – 47 Bethnal Green Road
London, E1 6LA
020 7613 7498
www.richmix.org.uk
info@richmix.org.uk
Full disabled access
Tube: Bethnal Green
Local buses: D8, 388

Rich Mix
35 – 47 Bethnal Green Road
London, E1 6LA
020 7613 7498
www.richmix.org.uk
info@richmix.org.uk
Full disabled access
Tube: Bethnal Green
Local buses: D8, 388

Museum of London
77 – 82 Whitechapel High Street
London, E1 7QX
020 7252 7999
www.museumoflondon.org.uk
info@museumoflondon.org.uk
Full disabled access
Tube: Whitechapel
Local buses: D3, 25, 254, 106, 205

Whitechapel Gallery
77 – 82 Whitechapel High Street
London, E1 6PG
020 8800 2092
info@whitechapelgallery.org
Full disabled access
Tube: Whitechapel
Local buses: D3, 25, 254, 106, 205

Toynbee Studios
28 Commercial Street
London, E1 6AB
020 7247 5102
www.toynbee-studios.org.uk
info@toynbee-studios.org.uk
Full disabled access
Tube: Liverpool Street
Local buses: 25, 205

Old Truman Brewery
F Block G4
91 Brick Lane
London, E1 6QJ
020 7770 6022
www.oldtrumanbrewery.com
info@oldtrumanbrewery.com
Full disabled access
Tube: Liverpool Street
Local buses: 67, 388

Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives
277 Bancroft Road
London, E1 4QD
020 7364 1290
www.ideastore.org.uk
info@towerhamlets.gov.uk
Full disabled access
Tube: Bethnal Green
Local buses: 8, 15, 106, 205, 254

V&A Museum of Childhood
Cambridge Heath Road
London, E2 9PA
020 8983 5200
www.museumofchildhood.org.uk
moc@vam.ac.uk
Full disabled access
Tube: Bethnal Green
Local buses: 254, 8

Nomadic Community Garden
200 Heathcote Road
London, E2 9AQ
020 8800 1742
www.nomadiccommunitygardens.org
info@nomadiccommunitygardens.org
Full disabled access
Tube: Whitechapel
Local buses: D3, 25, 254, 106, 205

London Borough of Tower Hamlets cannot take responsibility for any of the events mentioned in this brochure or for any incidents that may take place. Please take care of all personal belongings. It is advisable to contact the venue before you leave to check access arrangements. For further information on transport links go to: www.tfl.gov.uk or call 020 7222 1234.
LOG ON FOR WHAT’S ON!

Brochure information correct at the time of going to print. However, this may be subject to change. For up-to-date programme information please refer to our website –  
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts

You can not only find full online listings for Black History Month here, but can download a PDF version of this programme as well as checking out a whole host of other arts based events and activities across the borough.

You can also follow us on twitter @THevents, and become a friend of ours on Facebook – facebook.com/TowerHamletsEvents

FEED BACK!

We would love to hear your views about Black History Month events and would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to fill out a short survey.

Either scan us on your smartphone or log on to:  
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WGGBK5X or download from www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts (What’s On? / Black History Month)

If you require this in another format please contact us by emailing blackhistorymonth@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Image courtesy of Rich Mix – Black Ghetto Pride