



TOWER HAMLETS



Photo © Asikò

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

OCTOBER 2023

Celebrate the richness of Black culture and heritage through a varied programme of events and activities.

X THevents f TowerHamletsEvents @ TowerHamletsNow #THBHM

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/blackhistorymonth



**TOWER
HAMLETS**
TH IS EAST LONDON

Welcome to Black History Month

Black History Month is an important, annual opportunity to showcase the immense contributions made by those of African and Caribbean descent to British Society. In 2023, we will also pay tribute to the black women who have helped to shape history, inspire change, and build communities in line with the theme 'Celebrating our Sisters'.

We are proud to celebrate those individuals and communities in our borough by supporting a busy month-long programme of activities through which those of all backgrounds can come together, enjoy a diverse line up of what's on offer, learn and engage.

The council is commissioning a range of projects including film strands from the Fragments Festival, and UK premieres of films with an African heritage.

Young creatives can learn skills through performing arts sessions resulting in an evening of performance, or help drive a programme titled 'Celebrating our Sisters' in line with the national 2023 theme. This is also central to an evening exploring the challenges faced by Muslim black woman in media as part of the Somali Week Festival.

Upcoming musicians can take part in development sessions and performances to share uplifting traditions from across

Africa. New and emerging artists can join live music and poetry nights, and further performances include styles such as Jazz, reggae, Afro-beat and soul.

Mental health and well-being for adults will be tackled by a community-based party at St Paul's Church and an intergenerational celebration of culture heritage will include reminiscence, storytelling, drumming and more.

Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives are presenting a free, day-long event including talks and an interactive 'collections care' workshop to look at African & Caribbean collections and how they have contributed to highlighting the histories of Black people in the East End.

With the thrill of live music from across the diaspora, theatre, exhibitions, workshops, screenings, lectures, Q&As, walks and much more, the wider programme offers residents an enriching and immersive experience of Black arts, culture and history as both audiences and participants.

Check out our online listings for full details and updates.

Mayor Lutfur Rahman

**Councillor Iqbal Hossain,
Cabinet Member for Culture and
Recreation**



Arts and crafts



Market



Comedy



Music



Dance



Online event



Exhibition



Photography



Family



Talk



Film



Theatre



History



Workshop



**Literature/
storytelling**

Celebrating arts, culture and history

X Thevents  TowerHamletsEvents  TowerHamletsNow #THBHM

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/blackhistorymonth

CONTENTS

Indo + Caribbean: The creation of a culture	10	Let's Walk and Learn - Docklands Black History Month Walks	34
Autumn Art Classes	11	Oral Storytelling for Heritage Workshop	35
LindyHopEastLdn	12	Black-Owned Makers Market with Live Music	36
Somali Museum: Any-Space-Whatever	13	Pulse of Africa	37
Rebecca Ferguson	14	Public Lecture. Wars Within Wars: Black History's Warning to the World	38
Whites Can Dance Too – Launch Party	15	Journalling Together: Write your way to self-discovery and personal growth	39
Fragments Festival and Prism of Black present: A Black History Month Launch	17	Celebrating Black History Month	40
Mama Sound and Movimientos present Bia Ferreira	18	Kayd Somali Arts and Culture and Partners Proudly Present:15th Annual Somali Week Festival	41
Exhibition: Kay Kanté: Black History Month, Home/Heritage	19	Afribeanafest	42
Living Legacies: 75 Years On	20	How Did We Get Here? Exploring Climate Change, Youth Engagement, and Our Future	43
House Gospel Choir Presents Sing With HGC – Assembly	21	Children's Entertainment	44
African History Month 2023 (BHM23) Launch Event	22	Somali Fabric Workshop with Hafza Yusuf	45
The Island of St Helena	23	Creative Café: Celebrating female entrepreneurship and their fashion	46
Let's Walk and Learn - Docklands Black History Month Walks	24	Somali Books Day	47
Queen Nanny: Legendary Maroon Chieftainess screening + Q&A	25	Express yourself: workshop with Selina Brown	48
Reuben Richards: Soul Night	26	Trap Live'O Showcase	49
Here and NowBlack History Month Photography Exhibition	27	Recognising the Global Afrikan Contribution - a Community-led African History Event (BHM23)	50
The Mixer Event - Open Mic & Friday Night Social London	29	An evening Comedy Night	51
Jay Johnson Live! Plus optional songwriting workshop	30	Jah Shaka Memorial	52
GUO Open Workshop	31	Celebrating Our Sisters: A Youth Led Response	53
Jordan O – Friday Sessions	32		
Wayne Hernandez Soul and RnB	33		

CONTENTS

Celebrating Black History Month at NatWest	54	Black History Month Celebration	74
Anglo-Somali Society	55	Young adults career advice	75
Creating space for the next generation creatives: Inspiring stories of British-Somalis in Media	56	Centre Stage Black History Month Special	76
Festival of Spice War Stories	57	Somali Books Day	77
Book launches	58	Sharing Stories: A Black History Month Showcase	78
Olivette Otele in conversation	59	Black Excellence – a Staff – led Celebration of History, Culture and Food	79
Launch of new Play in partnership with Side eYe Productions	60	We Rebuild, We Reclaim	80
Let's Walk and Learn - Docklands Black History Month Walks	61	Lost Soulz	81
'Homelands' outdoor screening	62	Final Beats Closing Concert	82
PP Arnold	63	COBO: Comedy Shutdown Black History Month Special – Bethnal Green	83
The Cycle	64	Clashing Differences	84
Academic research on Somali plants and Qaraami Music	65	Dusty & Stones	86
Pulse of Africa Half term workshops	66	Exploring East End African and Caribbean archive collections	87
What We Have Become - Panel discussion with Rudy Loewe and Basil Olton	67	Celebrating Cultural Heritage through the Generations	88
Grand Union Re:Generation Band – Friday Sessions	68	#SLACfest presents: 'In Conversation with the Artists'	89
Swinging at the Savoy	69		
Ceramics Workshop Constructing Memory	70		
'Coree home go, Souldania go, home go'	71		
Resilient Rhythms: Celebrating Black Music and Culture	72		
Daryeel Autism	73		

Programme may be subject to change.
Please see our website for updated information.
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/blackhistorymonth

DATE	EVENT	PAGE
SEPTEMBER		
To 19 Nov	Indo + Caribbean: The creation of a culture	10
20	Autumn Art Classes	11
25	LindyHopEastLdn	12
26	Somali Museum: Any-Space-Whatever	13
28	Rebecca Ferguson	14
29	Whites Can Dance Too – Launch Party	15
OCTOBER		
1	Fragments Festival and Prism of Black present: A Black History Month Launch	17
	Mama Sound and Movimientos Present Bia Ferreira	18
	Exhibition: Kay Kanté: Black History Month, Home/Heritage	19
2	Living Legacies: 75 Years On	20
	House Gospel Choir Presents Sing With HGC – Assembly	21
3	African History Month 2023 (BHM23) Launch Event	22
5	The Island of St Helena	23
	Let's Walk and Learn - Docklands Black History Month Walks	24
6	Queen Nanny: Legendary Maroon Chieftainess screening + Q&A	25
	Reuben Richards: Soul Night	26
	Here and Now Black History Month Photography Exhibition	27
	The Mixer Event - Open Mic & Friday Night Social London	29
7	Jay Johnson Live! Plus optional songwriting workshop	30
13	GUO Open Workshop	31
	Jordan O – Friday Sessions	32
	Wayne Hernandez Soul and RnB	33
14	Let's Walk and Learn - Docklands Black History Month Walks	34
	Oral Storytelling for Heritage Workshop	35
	Black-Owned Makers Market with Live Music	36
	Pulse of Africa	37

DATE	EVENT	PAGE
17	Public Lecture. Wars Within Wars: Black History's Warning to the World	38
	Journalling Together: Write your way to Self-discovery and Personal Growth	39
18	Celebrating Black History Month	40
20	Kayd Somali Arts and Culture and Partners Proudly Present: 15th Annual Somali Week Festival	41
21	Afribeanafest	42
	How Did We Get Here? Exploring Climate Change, Youth Engagement, and Our Future	43
	Children's Entertainment	44
	Somali Fabric Workshop with Hafza Yusuf	45
	Creative Café: Celebrating female entrepreneurship and their fashion	46
	Somali Books Day	47
	Express yourself: workshop with Selina Brown	48
	Trap Live'O Showcase	49
	Recognising the Global Afrikan Contribution - a Community-led African History Event (BHM23)	50
22	An evening Comedy Night	51
	Jah Shaka Memorial	52
23	Celebrating Our Sisters: A Youth Led Response	53
	Celebrating Black History Month at NatWest	54
	Anglo-Somali Society	55
	Creating space for the next generation creatives: Inspiring stories of British-Somalis in Media	56
24	Festival of Spice War Stories	57
	Book launches	58
	Olivette Otele in conversation	59
	Launch of new Play in partnership with Side eYe Productions	60
25	Let's Walk and Learn - Docklands Black History Month Walks	61
	'Homelands' outdoor screening	62
	PP Arnold	63
	The Cycle	64

CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	PAGE
26	Academic research on Somali plants and Qaraami Music	65
	Pulse of Africa Half term workshops	66
	What We Have Become - Panel discussion with Rudy Loewe and Basil Olton	67
27	Grand Union Re:Generation Band – Friday Sessions	68
	Swinging at the Savoy	69
28	Ceramics Workshop Constructing Memory	70
	'Coree home go, Souldania go, home go'	71
	Resilient Rhythms: Celebrating Black Music and Culture	72
	Daryeel Autism	73
	Black History Month Celebration	74
	Young Adults Career advice	75
	Centre Stage Black History Month Special	76
	Somali Books Day	77
	Sharing Stories: A Black History Month Showcase	78
	Black Excellence – a Staff – led Celebration of History, Culture and Food	79
29	We Rebuild, We Reclaim	80
	Lost Soulz	81
	Final Beats Closing Concert	82
	COBO: Comedy Shutdown Black History Month Special – Bethnal Green	83
30	Clashing Differences	84
NOVEMBER		
1	Dusty & Stones	86
4	Exploring East End African and Caribbean archive collections	87
	Celebrating Cultural Heritage through the Generations	88
5	#SLACfest presents: 'In Conversation with the Artists'	89

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023

**SEPT
EMBER**

Indo + Caribbean: The creation of a culture



31 August - 19 November

10am-5pm

Museum of London Docklands,
No 1, West India Quay, Hertsmere
Road, E14 4AL

Admission: Free

A new, free display exploring the underrepresented history of Indian indenture in the British Caribbean

This new display spotlights the lesser-known history of Indian indenture in the British Caribbean and the personal stories of Indo-Caribbean culture in London, exploring migration to the United Kingdom today.

Following the end of enslaved African labour, British planters in the Caribbean devised a new scheme to source cheap labour for their plantations: recruiting workers from India to work for three to five years in return for transport, a minimal wage and some basic provisions.

The first indenture ships set sail in 1838 and between then and its end in 1917, around 450,000 Indians undertook the long journey, taking up to five months, to the British Caribbean.

Conditions on board were poor and the



Portraits of Zainab (Jane) Gani in Guyana
© Salina Gani

journeys difficult, though strong bonds were forged between migrants as they crossed the Kala Pani or 'dark waters'.

The display features letters petitioning the government from planter Sir John Gladstone, as well as contracts, shipping company records, postcards and papers from the Parliamentary Archives that give insights into the realities of life under indenture. The display also draws on photos, jewellery, film and artwork to uncover personal stories and family memories from London's Indo-Caribbean community.

🏠 [www.museumoflondon.org.uk/
museum-london-docklands](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london-docklands)

Autumn Art Classes



20 September - 18 October

**Wednesdays,
1-3pm, 6.30-8.30pm**

The Brady Arts and Community
Centre, 192-196 Hanbury Street,
E1 5HU

Admission: £8 per session

Come along on Wednesday afternoons or evenings to hone your skills or learn how to use a variety of media. The theme for the first half of the Autumn term 2023 is Black History Month and sources of inspiration for the creation of portraits, pattern design and mask making include the British Museum, the work of Yinka Shonibare and Carnival!

Drop-in or sign-up.

For further details, please email
ginnyhawke5@hotmail.co.uk.



Tower Hamlets offers a selection of email newsletters to keep you up to date on a variety of topics.



If you haven't already subscribed to our monthly Event Highlights Ebulletin you can sign up to this or any others here.

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/signup

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

MON 25

LindyHopEastLdn



25 September - 9 November

Mondays, 7.30-9pm

No class 16 and 23 October

Chisenhale Dance Space,
Chisenhale Road, E3 5QZ

**Admission: £110 term /
£60 half term, £12 drop-in**

**Dance Classes in Lindy Hop and Jazz
with Angela Andrew**

Lindy Hop (or Swing Dance as it is sometimes known), is a partner dance originating in the late 1920s Jazz Era. In the most part developed in ballrooms across the USA - notably at The Savoy Ballroom in Harlem, New York. Its popularity peaked in the mid-1940s and was featured often as a speciality act in many Hollywood movies such as Hellzapoppin'. Lindy Hop continues to be enjoyed socially throughout the world. Most famous dancers: George Snowdon, Norma Miller, Frankie Manning Willa-Mae Ricker.

Angela "Cookie" Andrew is a veteran on the London and international scene. Born and raised in Hackney, Angela utilises her knowledge and experience in different dance styles to create a unique teaching approach. Her dream is to share her passion for the Lindy Hop and Jazz dance with the black community.



🏠 www.lindyhopeastldn.co.uk
[#LindyHopEastLdn](https://twitter.com/LindyHopEastLdn)
[#BlackLindyHoppersofLondon](https://twitter.com/BlackLindyHoppersofLondon)

**General level, beginner
friendly.**



Class followed by hang/
practice/dance. Come from
7pm and make yourself a cuppa.

Or if you are an absolute beginner,
why not join 'The BBC' – aka The
Beginner's Basics Club for newbies
before joining the main class.

Be a part of your local Hackney
and Tower Hamlets jazz dance
community with this fun class -
taught by UK's leading Black Lindy
Hop teacher, Angela Andrew.

Somali Museum: Any-Space- Whatever



26 September - 1 October

Daily, 11am-6pm

Whitechapel Gallery, 77-82

Whitechapel High Street, E1 7QX

Admission: Free

Somali Museum UK is a virtual and physical container for the varied stories of Somalia and Somali people based globally and in the UK. Combining an art gallery, library, archive, museum, dance and music studio in one space, the museum radically reimagines what a 'museum' is and what it can do.

Presenting a selection of film, photography, music and sound media, Somali Museum: Any-Space-Whatever is the first exhibition of the museum. It includes work by artists who have been in conversation with the museum, including Elmi Original, Rahma Hassan, Ahmed Abokar, Fuad Abdulaziz and Amaal Alhaag with Nadine Stijns of The Anarchist Citizenship. Specially commissioned artworks will be gifted to the museum.

The exhibition engages with museum practices and ethics concerning the acquisition of art collections and the



role of artefacts in fostering cultural understanding. Together with a public programme and series of writings, the exhibition acts as an 'atelier' or workshop for Somali Museum UK within and contra Whitechapel Gallery.

Somali Museum UK is incubated and led by Numbi Arts, a Somali-originated, globally-focused, Pan-African cross-arts organisation based in Tower Hamlets. Named after a Somali dance, Numbi is about healing, release, and celebrating the joy of community.

🏠 [www.whitechapelgallery.org/
exhibitions/somali-museum-any-
space-whatever](http://www.whitechapelgallery.org/exhibitions/somali-museum-any-space-whatever)

Rebecca Ferguson



28 September

Thursday

Please see website to check the performance times

Boisdale of Canary Wharf, 15 Cabot Square, E14 4QT

Admission: From £75

Rebecca is a supremely talented multi-genre artist who has gone on to achieve commercial and critical success throughout much of Europe and Oceania.

She has co-written four solo albums (Heaven, Freedom, Lady Sing the Blues and Superwoman) and is currently penning her fifth album with music royalty – the legend, Nile Rodgers. Over the past 10 years, Rebecca has not only written with but performed alongside some of the biggest and most acclaimed names in the industry including Lionel Ritchie, Andrea Bocelli and Burt Bacharach.

After her incredible sell-out residencies at Canary Wharf, we are delighted to welcome Rebecca back for an intimate evening.

Once again she'll be choosing a selection of her favourite soul classics alongside a few of her own compositions including 'Shoulder to Shoulder', 'Teach Me How to be Loved', and 'Nothing's Real But Love'.



"In the same league as Aretha Franklin."
The Telegraph

"Rich, tender, soulful...with sass and feeling."

The Telegraph review of her tribute Album to Billie Holiday The Lady Sings the Blues

"Her talent is undeniable."
The Guardian

🏠 www.boisdaletickets.co.uk

Whites Can Dance Too – Launch Party



29 September

Friday, 8pm

Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road,
E1 6LA

Admission: £15

Age: 18+

Celebrate the launch of Kalaf Epalanga's debut novel *Whites Can Dance Too*.

Join us for a conversation with Kalaf Epalanga chaired by Maaza Mengiste, readings from Catarina Mira and Nástio Mosquito, plus DJ sets from Branko and Jamz Supernova & Kuduro dancing!

"Epalanga's satisfying debut novel... about the power of music and dance fizzes with energy."

The Guardian

 **Kalaf Epalanga**

 **Kalaf Epalanga**

 **Kalaf Epalanga**



If you have any access requirements, please contact the box office team on **020 7613 7498** or email boxoffice@richmix.org.uk

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023

OCT
OBER

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

SUN 1

Fragments Festival and Prism of Black present: A Black History Month Launch



1 October

Sunday, 12-4pm

Genesis Cinema, 93-95 Mile End
Road, E14UJ

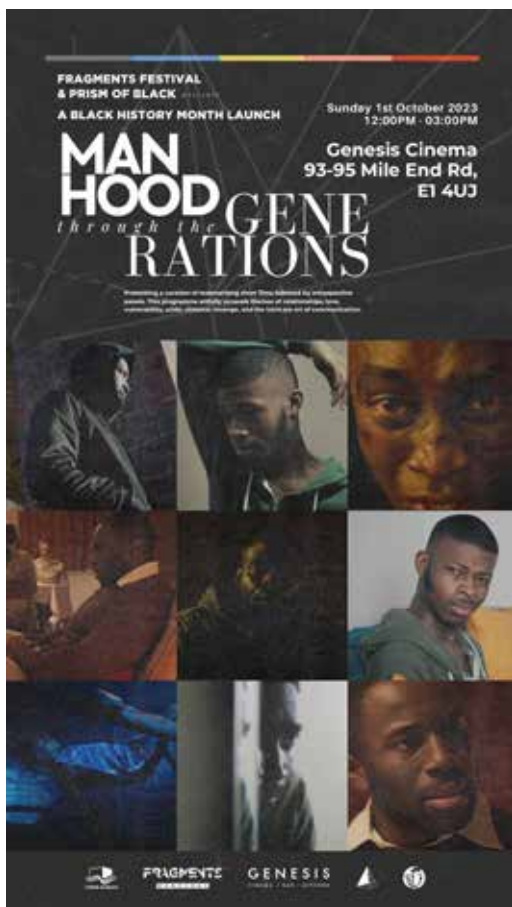
**Admission: £8.50, with an allocation
of free tickets for Tower Hamlets
residents**

Manhood through the Generations

Presenting a curation of mesmerizing short films followed by introspective panels. This programme artfully unravels themes of relationships, love, vulnerability, pride, violence, revenge, and the intricate art of communication

🏠 www.genescinema.co.uk/movie/tower-hamlets-council-fragments-festival-and-prism-of-black-present-a-black-history-month-launch

In partnership with Tower Hamlets
Council



Mama Sound and Movimientos present Bia Ferreira



1 October

Sunday, 7.30pm

Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road,
E1 6LA

Admission: £12

Brazilian singer and multi-instrumentalist Bia Ferreira joins us for her debut London show!

Navigating through Afrodiasporic rhythms like soul, R&B and rap, combined with Brazilian music references such as samba and repente, she creates art that moves both mind and body.

Known for composing blunt, and straightforward lyrics, Bia aims to facilitate the understanding of important topics like necropolitics, racial quotas, anti-racism, and the rights of women and the LGBTQIAP+ community.

🏠 www.richmix.org.uk/book-online/1209202

📷 www.instagram.com/igrejalesbiteriana



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

SUN 1

Exhibition: Kay Kanté: Black History Month, Home/ Heritage



1 - 31 October

Daily, 9am-5pm

Yurt Café, 2 Butcher Row, E14 8DS

Admission: Free

Kay's husband is Senegalese, and they have two children. Kay paints east London streetscenes, reflecting life around their home in east London. She also paints Senegalese streetscenes that reflect extended family life in Dakar. Together, these paintings reflect the cherishing of one family's history. They reflect a connection between a home in London and a heritage elsewhere that will feel familiar to many Londoners.

🏠 www.kaykantelondonartist.wordpress.com

📷 [#kaykante](https://www.instagram.com/kaykante)



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

MON 2

Living Legacies: 75 Years On



2 October - 26 November

Daily, 9.30am-9pm

Poplar Union, 2 Cotall Street, E14 6TL

Admission: Free

Shilonite Simon-Mathurin's project 'Living Legacies: 75 Years On' commemorates the 75th anniversary of Windrush and documents and explores the stories of individuals from the 1st and 2nd generation. The project aims to create conversation and connection around the impacts and experiences of migration, as well as highlight the continuation of the legacies of those before us.

In partnership with Tower Hamlets
Council

 www.poplarunion.com



Subscribe to our email
newsletter to receive
updates about what's
happening at Poplar Union!



www.poplarunion.com

**poplar
Union**

House Gospel Choir Presents Sing With HGC – Assembly



2 October

Monday, 6.30pm

Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road,
E1 6LA

Admission: £13

This is an 18+ event.

Time to assemble and join the
congregation!

Join House Gospel Choir for one night
a month and learn from their repertoire
taught by the formidable Daniel Thomas.
We will be joined by special guests and
later dance into the night with tunes
played by our resident DJ.

🏠 www.richmix.org.uk



About Rich Mix



We are Rich Mix. We
welcome the communities
of the world in East London to create,
enjoy and share culture.

Open since 2006, we are a charity
connecting some of the city's most
adventurous and diverse audiences
to a vital, exciting and ambitious
programme of contemporary culture.

Rooted in the city but open to the
world, we champion diversity in
everything we do.

African History Month 2023 (BHM23) Launch Event



3 October

Tuesday, 12noon-4pm

Grocers Wing, Tower Hamlets Town
Hall, 160 Whitechapel Road, E1 1BJ

Admission: Free

"Staying Together As One" an exhibition of Somali artefacts from personal collections and from Powell Cotton Museum in Kent to be launched by Women's Inclusive Team (WIT), a Somali-led charity in Tower Hamlets, thanks to support from the Mayor of Tower Hamlets. Part of a migration theme about the History of African heritage communities in Tower Hamlets, the exhibition will be a tool for telling stories which have been airbrushed out of history but need to be remembered so we can make a sustainable difference in tackling Afriphobia and empowering marginalised communities. WIT will be working with other African and African-Caribbean communities to share culture, history, achievements and contributions. The exhibition and workshops are open to all

For further information, please contact Safia at WIT safiaj@wit.org.uk



The Island of St Helena



5 October

Thursday, 11.15am-12.45pm

Cubitt Town Library, 52 Strattondale Street, E14 3HG

Admission: Free

Linda Yon explores the history of St Helena, its role in the slave trade, as well as its present-day people, culture and island life.

🏠 www.ideastore.co.uk/visit-us/cubitt-town-library



About Tower Hamlets Idea Stores Service



Idea Stores are more than just a library or a place for learning. As well as library services, they offer a wide range of adult learning courses and an extensive activities and events programme.

Sign up to receive the latest Idea Store [here](#).

Be the first to hear the latest news from Idea Store membership benefits and our What's On programme of FREE events and activities for all ages.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

THU 5

Let's Walk and Learn - Docklands Black History Month Walks



and finish at the Entrance to Museum of London Docklands. We will be looking at the history and how it's related to the transatlantic slave trade. The Let's Walk & Learn walks cover a short distance with stops at various points along the walk where the walk leader will share information related to the transatlantic slave trade. Toilets are available at the beginning and end of the walk in the Museum of London Docklands. As part of each walk we invite you to stop with us at the Museum of London Docklands for a hot or cold drink in the cafe as part of the walk (we will provide these). We encourage you to then look around and visit the free exhibitions.

5 October

**Thursday, 10-11.15am,
12-1.15pm, 2-3.15pm**

Entrance to Museum of London Docklands, No 1, West India Quay, Hertsmere Road, E14 4AL

Admission: Free

The walks, run by Canal & River Trust, will be led by walk leaders who are also full of interesting information about the local area. The short circular walk will start

🏠 www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/717785745487

Canal & River Trust
Making life better by water

Let's Walk & Learn!

Docklands Black History Month Guided Walks

Book a place at eventbrite.co.uk/e/428673974397

Charity Number 146792

PEOPLE'S POSTCODE LOTTERY

HEALTHY LIVING

Queen Nanny: Legendary Maroon Chieftainess screening + Q&A



6 October

Friday, 6.30pm

Museum of London Docklands,
No 1, West India Quay, Hertsmere
Road, E14 4AL

Admission: Free

Museum of London Docklands is partnering with The New Black Film Collective for a screening of Queen Nanny: Legendary Maroon Chieftainess, a documentary about Jamaica's only female National Hero.

The documentary Queen Nanny: Legendary Maroon Chieftainess – by award-winning Jamaican-born American filmmaker, Roy T. Anderson and Dr Harecourt Fuller – explores one of the most revered heroines in the history of the 'New World': Nanny of the Maroons. Her victory is celebrated in the present with her image appearing on the Jamaican \$500 note and a posthumous award of Order of National Hero. Her resistance is an inspirational example of the many ways in which women have undermined slavery throughout history. Join us and learn more about this African



warrior queen whose military prowess led her people to victory over the British army.

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion and Q&A with special guest speakers.

Booking required

🏠 [www.museumoflondon.org.uk/
museum-london-docklands/whats-
on/queen-nanny-legendary-maroon-
chieftainess-screening-q?id=338608](https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london-docklands/whats-on/queen-nanny-legendary-maroon-chieftainess-screening-q?id=338608)

Reuben Richards: Soul Night



6 October

Friday

Live music: 9.30-11.30 pm

Additional late set: 12-12.45am

Boisdale of Canary Wharf, 15 Cabot Square, E14 4QT

Admission: From £89

London's original soul man Reuben Richards is an award-winning singer who's performed all over the world and gained widespread recognition for his Otis Redding inspired vocals.

With an extraordinary voice and charismatic stage presence, Reuben is one of the best performance artists in the country, being a must-see performer in today's live music arena. Best known for the recent release of his highly acclaimed debut album "About Time", which became Radio 2 Album Of The Week, followed up by the sublime single "ASAP", which also became Radio 2 Single Of The Week.

Reuben went on to achieve his highest accolade when he was awarded 'Best Soul Singer 2016' presented by Jools Holland. Lookout for 'Reuben James Richards' & his new cutting edge band,



"Richards has a crunchy, scrunchy sub-Otis bawl that would have sounded dandy in front of the MG's or the Memphis Rhythm Section".

Independent on Sunday

Booking required

🏠 www.boisdaletickets.co.uk

Here and Now Black History Month Photography Exhibition



6 - 28 October

Monday-Friday 9am-7pm

Saturday 10am-4pm

Preview: Thursday 5 October,
6pm-8pm

Brady Arts Centre, 192-196 Hanbury
Street, E1 5HU

Admission: Free

Alternative Arts presents a diverse exhibition of images by black British photographers exploring a wide range of contemporary topics inspired by African and Caribbean culture in London, unknown fishermen in Lagos, memories of a mixed race childhood, Nigerian cuisine, the rich tapestry of Somali experiences, with interweaving narratives and social celebrations. Photographers include:-

- Asiko celebrates the black woman as a mother inspired by Renaissance images.
- Fatima Ali experiments with abstract image making.
- Rio Blake captures intimate portraits at the Notting Hill Carnival.
- Samantha Brown uses nature to represent the spirit of the person in the portrait.



© Nicholas Olawunmi



© Asiko

Here and Now ... contd

- Raymond Daley documents expressions of African & Caribbean culture in London.
- Tzion Essel explores the dreamlike, painterly quality of romantic pictorialism.
- Taishan Henry observes the alternative rap musician, Denzel Himself.
- Tanesha Lewis explores memories of her mixed-race childhood.
- Trisha McCauley presents a selection of images about the history of the Royal Docks.
- Mohamed Mohamud spotlights the rich tapestry of Somali experiences.
- Olufemi Olaiya highlights the involvement of African soldiers in the World Wars.
- Nicholas Olawunmi focuses on ingredients common in Nigerian cuisine.
- Keleenna Onyeaka photographed fisherman, while crossing a bridge in Lagos.
- Stefan Pyne records the waveforms on the Cornish coast.

Curated by Sarah Ainslie & Maggie Pinhorn

The exhibition launched online at www.alternativearts.org.uk. It will also be available at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/blackhistorymonth

For further information and images contact info@alternativearts.co.uk



© Taishan Henry



© Tanesha Lewis

In partnership with Tower Hamlets Council

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

FRI 6

The Mixer Event - Open Mic & Friday Night Social London



6 October

Friday, 6-10.30pm

Poplar Union, 2 Cotal Street, E14 6TL

Admission: Free

Come down to enjoy an open mic night with food, drinks, music and good vibes.

The Mixer is an Open Mic Night and social also featuring a fresh lineup of guest artists invited to perform on the night, the stage is open for any artists, producers or Djs in the audience to showcase their art, music or performances in between guest sets.

In partnership with Tower Hamlets Council

www.poplarunion.com



Subscribe to our email newsletter to receive updates about what's happening at Poplar Union!



www.poplarunion.com

poplar
Union

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

SAT 7

Jay Johnson Live! Plus optional songwriting workshop



7 October

Saturday

Gig: 7pm

Songwriting workshop: 8pm

Poplar Union, 2 Cotall Street, E14 6TL

**Admission: Free (donations
welcome)**

Age: 16+

Experience a wonderful evening with seasoned musician, Jay Johnson, as he performs and provides a songwriting workshop.

Join Jay Johnson, a musician with two decades of experience, as he performs his breathtaking music live at Poplar Union. Not only are you in for an unforgettable experience as you listen to Jay's critically acclaimed songs, he's also agreed to provide a short songwriting workshop for members of the audience who are interested in the craft. Jay's been writing songs for over 10 years and is sure to provide extremely valuable insights into the craft of songwriting.



**poplar
Union**

 www.poplarunion.com

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

FRI 13

GUO Open Workshop



13 October

Friday, 6-8pm

St John on Bethnal Green, 200
Cambridge Heath Road, E2 9PA

Admission: Free

Grand Union Orchestra are offering an open workshop in African chants and traditional songs. Participants will be invited to take part in the Pulse of Africa performance on Saturday 14 October!

In partnership with Tower Hamlets
Council

🏠 www.grandunion.org.uk



About GUO



There is no musical organisation on the planet quite like the Grand Union Orchestra. For over 40 years, we have brought together musicians & singers born or brought up in all major musical traditions worldwide to create spectacular live shows, combining music and theatre to reflect vividly the society we live in today. Grand Union Orchestra is the acknowledged pioneer and leading exponent of cross-cultural music-making in the UK.

GRAND UNION ORCHESTRA

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

FRI 13

Jordan O – Friday Sessions



13 October

Friday, 7-9.30pm

Poplar Union, 2 Cotall Street, E14 6TL

Admission: Free

Soul Café celebrates Black History Month with a special lineup of performances celebrating a diversity of Black History experiences.

Soul Café is an intimate monthly music event running from Poplar Union, featuring Music and Poetry from creatives around London.

On Friday 13th October we will be celebrating our Black History Month themed event championing and celebrating black history through a range of performers with different styles.

In partnership with Tower Hamlets Council

www.poplarunion.com



**poplar
Union**

Wayne Hernandez Soul and RnB



13 October

Friday, 9.30-11pm

Boisdale of Canary Wharf, 15 Cabot Square, E14 4QT

Admission: From £19

Let's get it on with a special evening of the very best of Soul by the charismatic Wayne Hernandez, featuring the work of Marvin Gaye and other Soul Giants.

An intimate evening of Motown soul, filled with silky vocals, thrilling harmonies and infectious energy when Wayne Hernandez and his band take to the Yamaha Music London stage at one of London's most prestigious and intimate music venues.

Wayne, who began singing in a gospel choir at the age of nine, and who has worked with such music legends as Kool And The Gang, Tina Turner, Jay Z, Ed Sheeran, Tina Turner, Gorillaz, Tori Amos, Blur, Grover Washington, Roberta Flack, Quincy Jones and Madonna, will reprise the music of the soul icons such as Marvin Gaye, Smokey Robinson and other legends from the Motown studios in his own inimitable style.



www.boisdaletickets.co.uk

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

SAT 14

Let's Walk and Learn - Docklands Black History Month Walks



and finish at the Entrance to Museum of London Docklands. We will be looking at the history and how it's related to the transatlantic slave trade. The Let's Walk & Learn walks cover a short distance with stops at various points along the walk where the walk leader will share information related to the transatlantic slave trade. Toilets are available at the beginning and end of the walk in the Museum of London Docklands. As part of each walk we invite you to stop with us at the Museum of London Docklands for a hot or cold drink in the cafe as part of the walk (we will provide these). We encourage you to then look around and visit the free exhibitions.

14 October

**Saturday, 10-11.15am,
12-1.15pm, 2-3.15pm**

Entrance to Museum of London Docklands, No 1, West India Quay, Hertsmere Road, E14 4AL

Admission: Free

The walks, run by Canal & River Trust, will be led by walk leaders who are also full of interesting information about the local area. The short circular walk will start

🏠 www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/717790248957

Canal & River Trust
Making life better by water

Let's Walk & Learn!

Docklands Black History Month Guided Walks

Book a place at eventbrite.co.uk/e/428673974397

Charity Number 1461792

PEOPLE'S POSTCODE MOVEMENT | CHARITY PARTNER

Oral Storytelling for Heritage Workshop



14 October

Saturday, 10.30am-1.30pm

Grocers Wing, Tower Hamlets Town Hall, 160 Whitechapel Road, E1 1BJ

Admission: Free

Age: 13+

IROKO Theatre Company present a workshop which involves hands-on exploration of oral storytelling performance techniques. Oral storytelling is a brilliant way to tell a story using voice and gestures. It can include poems, chants, rhymes, songs and more. It is a unique platform allowing people to come together, reminisce, share cultural folk tales, create new stories or swap narratives.

This is a great way to build connections between people as well as between the past and the present.

This workshop is specifically designed to enhance the performance skills of participants. It is ideal for using oral storytelling as a vehicle for preserving and/or raising awareness of heritage, especially amongst those who would normally not engage in it.

This is an IROKO/AIM Awards Quality Marked Training Programme.



🏠 [www.iroko_storytelling_workshop.
eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.iroko_storytelling_workshop.eventbrite.co.uk)

Black-Owned Makers Market with Live Music



14 October

Saturday, 4-10pm

Poplar Union, 2 Cotall Street, Poplar, E14 6TL

Admission: Free

Join us for an afternoon into evening market with live music to share and celebrate Black Culture.

This October, as part of Poplar Union's Black History Month celebrations, we're delighted to share our Black-Owned Makers Market. And this year, our market will carry on into the evening with live music.

Here you will find a variety of black-owned and run start-ups and businesses from clothing and accessories to the finest health and beauty products.

This market is open to all but is a celebration of our wonderful partnering Black-owned businesses.

No need to book, just turn up!



Image: Nick Wright

We're delighted to announce our first performance of the evening will be from singer/songwriter Takunda Garwe. With a decade-long journey, Takunda stands as a musical storyteller whose melodies and heritage intertwine with effortless grace.

🏠 www.eventbrite.com/e/black-owned-makers-market-with-live-music-tickets-712903081307?aff=odcleoeventsincollection&keep_tld=1

Pulse of Africa



14 October

Saturday, 7.30pm

**St John on Bethnal Green,
200 Cambridge Heath Road, E2 9PA**

Admission: Pay what you can afford

A celebration of cultural traditions and music from the African diaspora.

The Grand Union Orchestra celebrates traditions and music from the African diaspora with an evening of rhythm and chant featuring an extraordinary range of musicians and instruments ranging from berimbau, dikanza, balafon and kalimba to djembe, panlogo and talking drum.

Once memorably commended for 'making cultural diversity an art-form', Grand Union continues to blaze a trail unrivalled by any other organisation, characterised by its story-telling and the authentic lived experience of its artists. Our music encompasses Indian ragas, Latin American salsa, Chinese harmonies, Bengali songs, reggae basslines, West African and South African drumming, Bhangra and Samba rhythms, Eastern European styles and big band Blues. Many Grand Union musicians are first-generation migrants.



In partnership with Tower Hamlets Council

🏠 www.grandunion.org.uk

Public Lecture. Wars Within Wars: Black History's Warning to the World



17 October

Tuesday, 6pm

**Peston Lecture Theatre, Graduate
Centre, Queen Mary University of
London, 327 Mile End Road, E1 4NS**

Admission: Free

A Public Lecture by Professor Vincent Brown (Harvard) – Wars Within Wars: Black History's Warning to the World

The past several years have witnessed transatlantic efforts to deny and disparage Black perspectives on our common history. This is a denial of our right to critically analyse all of our history from points of view that emerge from a history of enslavement, impoverishment, and racial violence, and that question the customary disavowal that these things constitute fundamental features of the Atlantic experience. Reframing narratives of the Age of Revolution, this lecture highlights the ways in which Black history is world history, and as such it has lessons – and warnings – for the world.



Courtesy of www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk

Vincent Brown is Charles Warren Professor of American History and Professor of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. He is the author of *The Reaper's Garden: Death and Power in the World of Atlantic Slavery* (2008) and *Tacky's Revolt: The Story of an Atlantic Slave War* (2020). He is also the producer of *Herskovits at the Heart of Blackness* (2009), an audiovisual documentary broadcast on the PBS series *Independent Lens*, and the short video series *The Bigger Picture* (2022) for PBS Digital Studios.

🏠 www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/public-lecture-wars-within-wars-black-historys-warning-to-the-world-tickets-715213943157?aff=ebdssbdestsearch

Journalling Together: Write your way to self-discovery and personal growth



17 October

Tuesday, 6.30pm

Poplar Union, 2 Cotall Street, Poplar,
E14 6TL

Admission: £3.50

Age: 18+

Our monthly journalling sessions provide a safe and supportive space for individuals to explore their thoughts, feelings, and experiences together through the act of journalling.

These workshops are designed to help participants develop a regular journalling practice and reap the many benefits that come with it.

Through various prompts and exercises, participants will explore the ups and downs of life's journey and discover the beauty in each step of the way. Guided by Henrietta Cyrille, participants will learn to embrace challenges, review past issues and successes, celebrate accomplishments, and set new goals for the future.



By participating in this event, you will have the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals; build a journalling community and help you cultivate a positive mind-set, develop resilience, reduce stress and find joy in the present moment.

Each session lasts for approx. 60mins and is held monthly, focusing on different themes related to growth, self-awareness and mindfulness.

In partnership with Tower Hamlets Council

🏠 www.poplarunion.com/event/journalling-together-write-your-way-to-self-discovery-and-personal-growth-3

Celebrating Black History Month



18 October

Wednesday, 2-6pm

**Mile End Children and Family Centre,
9 Bede Square, E3 4GY**

Admission: Free

Join us on the 18th of October for a special event for Family Hubs, celebrating Black History Month!

Discover a variety of displays and timelines showcasing important moments in Black History. Learn about influential figures who helped shape our world.

We are excited to welcome Barrister Ife Thompson as our guest speaker who will enlighten us on the impact of Black History in the UK, as well as discuss the importance of diversity in Tower Hamlets. She has a background in international human rights law, youth work and has worked as an independent researcher on Black-British history.

Don't miss your chance to be a part of this incredible event. Mark your calendars and join us for a day of networking, celebration and education. Let's come together in a unique way with Family Hubs and celebrate our richness and the significance of Black history.



About Children and Family Centres



There are 12 Children and Family Centres in Tower Hamlets. These are free and open for all parents and carers with children from birth-19 years of age (up to 25 for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), who live in the borough to access a range of services including:

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/health_social_care/children_and_family_care/Early_Help/Children-and-Family-Centres/Children-and-Family-Centre.aspx

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

FRI 20

Kayd Somali Arts and Culture and Partners Proudly Present: 15th Annual Somali Week Festival

20 - 29 October

Friday-Sunday, times vary

Admission: Prices vary

Trailblazers & Innovators: celebrating creatives who are paving a new way

Kayd Somali Arts & Culture, in collaboration with its partners, is excited to present the upcoming 15th Annual Somali Week Festival, themed Trailblazers & Innovators: celebrating creatives who are paving a new way. This year's festival will coincide with the United Kingdom's Black History Month from Friday 20th October to Sunday 29th October 2023 across London.

As a milestone year, the festival celebrates 15 years of being the largest Somali festival outside the Horn. The festival will spotlight trailblazers from the Somali community, wider diaspora, and the Horn of Africa who have been pioneers in reshaping the artistic and cultural landscape through their groundbreaking work.



For event details, locations, schedules, and ticket information, please visit our website or follow us on our social media handles.

🏠 www.kayd.org
[@KaydsSomaliArts](https://www.instagram.com/KaydsSomaliArts)
[@somaliweekfest](https://www.instagram.com/somaliweekfest)

Afribeanafest



21 October

Saturday, 12-5pm

6g Roman Road, E2 oQN

Admission: Free

Afribeanafest is a market/mini food festival celebrating and showcasing the best African and Caribbean black owned businesses. We are taking over Roman Road Market for this amazing event.

This event is about inviting people of all backgrounds to celebrate African and Caribbean culture.

Saturday 21st October we will be having a special Black History event.

We have some mouth watering food vendors to give you a taste of the island!

- Thirst quenching beverages
- Amazing clothing, jewellery and beauty products.
- And of course a few sweet treats!
- And also some amazing tunes playing throughout the day and some vibrant costume dancers.

This is a family friendly event so bring the whole family.

🏠 www.Afribeana.com



Tower Hamlets offers a selection of email newsletters to keep you up to date on a variety of topics.



If you haven't already subscribed to our monthly Event Highlights Ebulletin you can sign up to this or any others here.

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/signup

How Did We Get Here? Exploring Climate Change, Youth Engagement, and Our Future



21 October

Saturday, 2-3pm

Oxford House, Derbyshire Street,
E2 6HG

Admission: Free

Language: Somali/English

Panelist: Zamzam Ibrahim, Hashem Abdi, Amin Rashish

This panel will address the history of climate change in the Horn of Africa, as well as how young engagement might drive change in the future. The conversation will be led by a group of climate activists and educators. Zamzam Ibrahim is a British-Somali activist, she has spent the past decade representing students and young people advocating various causes related to social justice, education, and the environment. Hashem is a Somali-Canadian sustainability activist and climate educator. He is passionate about community organizing and faith-based climate action. He was a participant at COP27 and was involved in multiple initiatives related to global



efforts around climate activism, climate disclosure and how to increase youth engagement. Amin is a Somali-British sustainability consultant working at PwC where he works across a range of strategy and risk projects in several different industries.

Part of Somali Week Festival

🏠 www.kayd.org

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

SAT 21

Children's Entertainment



21 October

Saturday, 3-4.30pm

Oxford House, Derbyshire Street,
E2 6HG

Admission: £2

Language: English/Somali

An afternoon of storytelling, film, face-painting, educational programmes, and general kid-friendly entertainment provided by Galool, and Somalitoons. Parents will also be able to enjoy adult programmes while their children are having fun.

Galool is a Somali-language publishing, teaching, and storytelling endeavor for children that encourages Somali language writing and reading for children in the UK using cultural and linguistic tools they have created. Somalitoons is a children's cartoon streaming website and application that aims to preserve the Somali language by engaging Somali children in their own language.

Part of Somali Week Festival

 www.kayd.org



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

SAT 21

Somali Fabric Workshop with Hafza Yusuf



21 October

Saturday, 2-5pm

Oxford House, Derbyshire Street,
E2 6HG

Admission: £10

Language: English

This event is a creative workshop showcase where Hafza presents her work and discusses the design process, with the opportunity to purchase the textiles. Hafza is a textile design artist who is motivated by her culture and background to bring gorgeous clothes to life with brilliant colours and designs. The studio is based in Bow Arts' R.A.W Studio in Newham, and it not only provides space for Hafza to design, but it also hosts her community for arts programmes throughout the year.

Part of Somali Week Festival

🏠 www.kayd.org



Creative Café: Celebrating female entrepreneurship and their fashion



21 October

Saturday, 5-8pm

Oxford House, Derbyshire Street,
E2 6HG

Admission: £5

Language: English

**Panelists: Hafza Yusuf, Sagal Jama,
Sulleqa and Nafiso Adan**

This exciting event includes a panel discussion with the designers where they discuss their work, journey, craft, making strategies, and sustainability. The discussion will be followed by a fashion exhibition showcasing the designers' work in order to express their creativity, skills, and designs. At the event, their collections will be on display, and attendees will be able to talk with the designers and purchase their work. Panelists include Hafza Yusuf, textile design artist Hafza studio, Sagal Jama, a beauty business based in the UK that is inspired by the age-old beauty traditions of Somali women. Nafiso Adan is



a founder of Aqal brand offering everyday pieces prioritizing comfort, style, and sustainability, designed with eco-friendly materials. Sulleqa is Fashion designer/Entrepreneur and the founder of Osomodest a modest fashion brand providing both Islamic & cultural clothes in the west from Somali bridal Diracs & Baati's to Abaya's & Khamis's.

Part of Somali Week Festival

🏠 www.kayd.org

Somali Books Day



21 October

Saturday, 8-10pm

Oxford House, Derbyshire Street,
E2 6HG

Admission: £5

Language: English

**Panelist: Fadumo Yusuf, Nimco Nuur,
Hamda Hussien**

In this event, four female writers will discuss their literature and recent publications. They will also highlight some of the issues and challenges that they experience during publications and writing process and the importance of representation in the Somali literature scenery.

Fadumo Yusuf is the author of Ayan, of the Lucky and Ebyan, Waqti Iyo Waayaha Jacayl. She is one of the authors featured in Green Card Voices Book, STEM Voice – Stories from Minnesota Immigrants Working in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Hamda Hussien is an author and a podcast host based in London. She will be presenting her new book Rejo. Nimco Nuur: is a Somali-Finish author. She is a Somali teacher in one of the schools in



Finland and published five books and articles both in English and Somali. Most recently, she published Ilays Af Soomaali books (Somali curriculum). These books can be found both as digital and memory form games.

Part of Somali Week Festival

🏠 www.kayd.org

Express yourself: workshop with Selina Brown



21 October

Saturday, 2-4pm

Poplar Union, 2 Cotall Street, Poplar,
E14 6TL

Admission: Pay what you can afford
Age: 16+

This workshop explores Black history whilst challenging people's view on self and others through fun and creative exercises to connect.

As children, we could create our own world through play. A lump of mud would magically become a chocolate cake, and a box could morph into a car. We were unaware of the colour of our skin, and the history buried within it. Express yourself provides a creative and fun environment that explores Black history because it's just history. An opportunity to re-define words like Black British through games and storytelling.

In partnership with Tower Hamlets
Council



🏠 www.eventbrite.com/e/express-yourself-workshop-with-selina-brown-tickets-712908948857?aff=odcleoevent-sincollection&keep_tld=1

**poplar
Union**

Trap Live'O Showcase

21 October

Saturday, 8-10pm

Poplar Union, 2 Cotall Street, Poplar,
E14 6TL

Admission: Free

Age: 18+

The 'Trap Live'O Showcase' is about promoting and highlighting the upcoming talent that's within the scene from artists, to producers, to writers etc. All are welcomed to a new creative world where everyone will be inspired to create and collaborate.

🏠 www.eventbrite.com/e/trapliveo-showcase-tickets-712916130337?aff=odcleoeventsincollection&keep_tld=1



About Poplar Union



Poplar Union is an arts & community centre based in Tower Hamlets and opened its doors in 2017.

What we do and how we do it

Committed to supporting the local community through art, culture and wellbeing, we offer a diverse programme of events, including live music, theatre, comedy and dance, family activities, health and wellbeing classes, community workshops and festivals, and much more. We strive to enhance physical and social prosperity through creativity to unite and celebrate the lives in and around Poplar.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

SAT 21

Recognising the Global Afrikan Contribution - a Community-led African History Event (BHM23)

21 October

Saturday, 12noon-6pm

Ecology Pavilion, Mile End Park,
125 Grove Road, E3 5RP

Admission: Free

Join us at the Ecology Pavilion for a family friendly event to mark the African History Season thanks to support from the Mayor of Tower Hamlets. Recognising the Global Afrikan is open to the public from all communities and will include a community market featuring stalls from Tower Hamlets' Afrikan-led voluntary and community sector, businesses, dance and drumming workshops, history presentations, poetry, spoken word, music and food from Global Afrika. This is an opportunity to celebrate the Afrikan contribution in Tower Hamlets through history and culture.



An evening Comedy Night



22 October

Sunday, 6-10pm

Oxford House, Derbyshire Street,
E2 6HG

Admission: £10

Comedy Night with Guribaraawi

A night of laughs is provided by two popular comedians with quite different styles and cultural references. This promises to be a fantastic night out for Somali and English speakers alike. Ismail Abdilahi Ali (Guri Barwaaqo) is a well-known Somaliland comedian who lives in Burco. He is a first-generation stand-up comedian, following the death of a large Somali comedy tradition in the Somali region. His humorous acts are well-known, and his YouTube videos has millions of views.

Somali-born comedian, Simba Rabshais a winner of the notorious Top Secret Gong Show Nov 2022 and Big Belly's Ding Dong Show September 2022 as well as a finalist in the Max Turner Prize 2022. Simba's quick fire delivery and self-reflective material has made him one to watch on the comedy circuit. The evening will be closed with Nimco Degan.



Part of Somali Week Festival

🏠 www.kayd.org



Jah Shaka Memorial

22 October

Sunday, 7pm

**#Unit 2, 110 Pennington Street,
E1W 2BB**

Admission: £15

Come together for conversation, reflection, and to remember and never forget the greatest Sound Man that ever lived. The Mighty JAH SHAKA.

This event is the only official memorial gathering for JAH SHAKA who left this earth for his next journey on April 12 2023. Brought to you by the Shaka Family and Culture Promotions, E1 in Shadwell London hosts a gathering where people can remember the great Zulu Warrior.

Sound System vibes with son of Jah Shaka, Young Warrior; Shaka Crew; Live stage performances with Mafia & Fluxy Band, Megumi Mesaku; Earl 16; Sister Audrey; Norman 'Twinkle Brothers' Grant; Beat Alliance and a whole host of other guests still to be announced. Shaka visuals, exhibition and memories for each and everyone.



Courtesy of www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk

Rest In Peace and Power Jah Shaka.

Under 18s can enter this event free of charge with an adult ticket holder but will be asked to leave the venue by 7pm as E1 is a licensed venue.

Photo ID on arrival please as part of the E1 licensed conditions.

🏠 www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/listings/region/tower-hamlets/jah-shaka-memorial

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

MON 23

Celebrating Our Sisters: A Youth Led Response



23 - 27 October

Monday-Friday, 1-5pm

Spotlight, 30 Hay Currie Street,
E14 6GN

**Admission: Free for young people
aged 11-19**

Join experienced artists to create a youth led response to the national Black History Month Theme 'Celebrating our Sisters'. Do you have an inspiration, a strong female figure or want to know more about women from the Diaspora? This project is for you!. Over the week you will work as a group to create a final piece and a celebration event to be held at Spotlight, this could be music, art, theatre, spoken word – whatever you chose! This project is FREE for young people aged 11-19.

**In partnership with Tower Hamlets
Council**

🏠 www.wearespotlight.com



About Spotlight



Spotlight is a youth service like no other. We're here to help you have fun, find new skills and try new things – and our youth work team is always on hand to support you with anything that might be going on in your life.

(Also it's all free, and who doesn't like free stuff).

Ready to get started? Visit the website to see some of the big things you could be getting up to...

Celebrating Black History Month at NatWest



23 October

Monday, 3-5pm

250 Bishopsgate, E1 6AA

Admission: Free but places are limited

Under this year's theme of Celebrating Our Sisters, we'll be highlighting the crucial role that Black women have played in inspiring change.

NatWest is committed to championing potential, helping people, families and businesses to thrive. We have always been supporters of ethnic minority businesses and communities and will continue to build strong relationships and contribute to positive change wherever we can.

We're proud of the results we're achieving which are reflected across the bank, for instance 34% of our March 2023 Accelerator cohort being from ethnic minority backgrounds – surpassing our goal of 20%. We have also developed partnerships with stakeholders such as Black Seed as well as contributing to thought leadership through supporting Aston's University's Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship.



Courtesy of www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk

Join us as we celebrate Black History Month where we'll be hearing inspiring stories from Black women in business to highlight the crucial role that Black women have played in shaping history, inspiring change, and building communities

Attendees are encouraged to dress in cultural wear or any other way they'd like to express their heritage and culture

🏠 www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/celebrating-black-history-month-at-natwest-tickets-633492692697?aff=ebdstestsearch

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

MON 23

Anglo-Somali Society



23 October

Monday, 6-7.30pm

Oxford House, Derbyshire Street,
E2 6HG

Admission: Free

A friendly evening conversation with Abira Hussein on heritage. Abira Hussein is a PhD student at UCL, specializing in Somali heritage, digital archives, Open Culture, and GLAM. As a curator and independent researcher, she has collaborated with prestigious institutions like the Barbican, Magnum Photos, British Museum, and The National Archives. The aim of this discussion is to create safe space for Somali diaspora and refugees while bringing different thematic discussions such as heritage, education, history, culture, and arts.

Part of Somali Week Festival

🏠 www.kayd.org



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

MON 23

Creating space for the next generation creatives: Inspiring stories of British-Somalis in Media



23 October

Monday, 7.30-10pm

Oxford House, Derbyshire Street,
E2 6HG

Admission: £5

Panelist: Zahra Warsame, Khadra Salaad, Anisa Omar, Ikran Dahir

The panel of vibrant Somali journalists and creatives will discuss the role they can play in mainstream media's balanced reporting of the Somali population in the UK. Zahra Warsame is a British media personality who works as a broadcast and digital journalist for Channel 4 News, covering a variety of national and international events. Khadra Salaad is a BBC journalist and communications specialist with vast experience in print, radio, and television. Anisa Omar is a TRT World journalist, producer, and presenter. She previously worked as a communications professional for Amnesty International and Plan Global. Ikran Dahir is a BuzzFeed News online culture correspondent located in London.



She is a journalist and co-founder of S.Y.T. (Strong Young Thing). She worked as a reporter and producer for London360 and Media Trust.

We will conclude the session with live music and poetry.

Part of Somali Week Festival

In partnership with Tower Hamlets Council

🏠 www.kayd.org

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

TUE 24

Festival of Spice War Stories



24 October - 4 November

11am-6pm

Art Pavilion, Mile End Park, Clinton Road, E3 4YQ

Admission: Free admission to view the exhibition. Some other activities may be ticket/require booking.

This exhibition is part of the East India Company Spice War Stories Project (1600-1625) by Brick Lane Circle which also incorporates a historical fiction launch, theatre performances, dance performance, exhibitions, and a screening as well as seminars and workshops.

Brick Lane Circle has been running a unique historical fiction writing project, through community research into the first 25 years of the English East India Company and its aggressive competition with the Dutch East India Company to secure highly valuable eastern spices. Participants have been studying numerous archives and academic perspectives and present their discoveries at the Festival of Spice War Stories. Open 11am to 6 pm, except Wednesday 25 November 2023 (11am – 9pm).



It has been funded by The National Lotteries Heritage Fund.

🏠 www.bricklanecircle.org

About the Art Pavilion



The Art Pavilion in Mile End Park is a large, stunning gallery space. The building is buried in a grass bank and has a glass frontage that overlooks a small lake. The pavilion is the perfect space for your exhibition, event or celebration.

For more information, click [here](#).

Book launches



24 October

Tuesday, 6-10pm

Oxford House, Derbyshire Street,
E2 6HG

Admission: £5

Language: Somali

Chairman: Boodhari Warsame

In this event, the following authors will discuss their literature and the evolution of the Somali film making industry. The current rebirth and cultural renewal of the Somali film industry and the future challenges will be highlighted. Both these writers will present their books and work during the event.

Boodhari Warsame is an independent researcher, literary translator (Somali-English). He is also a teacher and writer-editor. He speaks multiple languages including Somali, English, Swedish, and Kiswahili. Some of his work includes *Guban and Koombe's Struggle*.

Abdirahman Mahammed (Fiili) is a poet, songwriter, and screenwriter. He has been involved in literature for the last 14 years. He composed some of the most famous Somali songs, such as *Yarta Raadiya* sang by SuldaanSeeraar. *Hab I Sii* sang by Ayana and Asad Faqdi. *Dhulkeygaan Ku AhayNabad* sang by Hassan Gantaal. He is currently involved in the writing and acting of the first



Somali TV series. Abdirahman is also an author, he is launching his new book called *World Cinema*, and will present his collection of poetry called *Dhamal*.

Said Saalax is a poet, educator, playwright, and a filmmaker. For the last few decades, Salah had made a tremendous contribution to Somali culture and literature. Saalax will be presenting his latest book: "*Samayntii, Lumiddii, iyo Heliddii Filinkii 'Darwiishka Soomaaliyeed'*". The book is about the history of the Somali film making in general, and particularly the history of making one epic film, losing it, and finding it if after tracing it for about 30 years in the diaspora.

Part of Somali Week Festival

🏠 www.kayd.org

Olivette Otele in conversation



24 October

Tuesday, 6.30pm

**Museum of London Docklands,
No 1, West India Quay, Hertsmere
Road, E14 4AL**

Admission: £12

Join Olivette Otele at Museum of London Docklands for a special in-conversation with Renée Landell highlighting the role of Black women in resistance, abolition and anti-colonial movements across the globe. From Queen Nzinga to Fanny Coker, hear the stories of revolutionary sisters inspired by this year's Black History Month theme: 'Saluting Our Sisters'.

Olivette Otele is a Distinguished Research Professor of the Legacies and Memory of Slavery at SOAS, University of London. She has written numerous scholarly papers and books, including *African Europeans: an Untold History* (2020) and has been a broadcaster and consultant on numerous films and documentaries including Netflix's *African Queens* (2023). She also works extensively with policy makers and institutions to engage with histories of colonial slavery and restorative justice strategies.



Renée Landell is a writer, literary critic and cultural historian. She is the founder of Beyond Margins UK, a race equity and justice movement and runs events and designs strategies for UK universities, museums, charities and other organisations.

🏠 www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london-docklands/whats-on/olivette-otele-conversation?id=337008

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

TUE 24

Launch of new Play in partnership with Side eYe Productions



24 - 25 October

Tuesday-Wednesday, 7-9pm

**Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road,
E1 6LA**

Admission: £10

Language: English

Following the success of previous sold-out plays, Kayd Somali Arts and Culture and Side eYe will collaborate for the fourth time this evening to create a brand-new production for 2023 titled *Desperate Times*, about a young Somali teacher by day who tells multiply lies, uncovering unexpected benefits and self-discovery in this comedic one woman show. During the week, the play will be performed at Rich Mix two times, and at Barking theater on 26th October 2023. Last year's play *Dugzi Days*, won the Edinburgh Untapped Award in 2023 and the Popcorn Award for new literature.

The screen will be followed by Q&A with the incredible cast and Side eYe to update the Somali Week Festival audience on their incredible journey since performing at this venue last year.



Part of Somali Week Festival

🏠 www.kayd.org



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

WED 25

Let's Walk and Learn - Docklands Black History Month Walks



and finish at the Entrance to Museum of London Docklands. We will be looking at the history and how it's related to the transatlantic slave trade. The Let's Walk & Learn walks cover a short distance with stops at various points along the walk where the walk leader will share information related to the transatlantic slave trade. Toilets are available at the beginning and end of the walk in the Museum of London Docklands. As part of each walk we invite you to stop with us at the Museum of London Docklands for a hot or cold drink in the cafe as part of the walk (we will provide these). We encourage you to then look around and visit the free exhibitions.

25 October

**Wednesday, 10-11.15am,
12-1.15pm, 2-3.15pm**

Entrance to Museum of London Docklands, No 1, West India Quay, Hertsmere Road, E14 4AL

Admission: Free

The walks, run by Canal & River Trust, will be led by walk leaders who are also full of interesting information about the local area. The short circular walk will start

🏠 www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/717793007207

'Homelands' outdoor screening



25 October

**Wednesday, 6pm (from
sunset)**

**Mallon Gardens, Commercial Street,
E1 6LP**

Admission: Free

Homeland was a year long series of global tours and worldwide explorations featuring Terri Walker saskila, shakka and Diztotion – each artist revisiting their unique personal roots in the UK and their shared cultural roots overseas. They all created and performed new music in response to their homeland journeys.



Directed by Jaha Browne and Tara Manandhar

🏠 www.toynbeehall.org.uk

About Toynbee Hall



Toynbee Hall was created in 1884 by **Samuel and Henrietta Barnett**. Samuel was a Church of England vicar, and Henrietta was a teacher, philanthropist and social activist. Once married, they established Toynbee Hall in response to a growing realisation that enduring social change would not be achieved through the existing individualised and piecemeal approaches. The radical vision was to create a place for future leaders to live and work as volunteers in London's East End, bringing them face to face with poverty, and giving them the opportunity to develop practical solutions that they could take with them into national life.

Toynbee Hall continues to work alongside people facing poverty and injustice to build a fairer and happier East London. It is a charity that provides vital support and works in partnership with local communities to tackle unfairness and ensure everyone has an equal chance to thrive.

PP Arnold



25 October

Wednesday, 9.30pm

Boisdale of Canary Wharf, 15 Cabot Square, E14 4QT

Admission: From £19

'The First Cut Is The Deepest' and 'Angel Of The Morning', 'It Wont be Christmas Without You', and more

Living legend and queen of soul Pat 'P.P.' Arnold needs no introduction having accumulated a lifetime of show-stopping performances in the studio and on stage through her successful solo work with '60s hits like 'The First Cut Is The Deepest' and 'Angel Of The Morning', and her critically acclaimed 2019 solo album 'The New Adventures Of'. P.P. was also the lead in the iconic Ikettes, performing with rock and soul legends Ike and Tina Turner, Small Faces, Stevie Wonder, Roger Waters and Nick Drake amongst others.



Following the release of her Uncut & Rough Trade Book Of The Year 2022 autobiography Soul Survivor and Christmas single, 'It Wont be Christmas Without You', time hasn't diminished the power and resonance of P.P. Arnold's voice, which soars and touches the soul with the same power that it did years ago when she first burst onto the global music scene.

🏠 www.boisdaletickets.co.uk

The Cycle



25-26 October

Wednesday-Thursday, 6pm

**Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road,
E1 6LA**

Admission: £15

A Black Deaf woman who is caught up in domestic violence and lost in translation. But should this be taken at face value?

She's lonely. In fact, abused and trapped in silence by her abuser. The trauma she experiences from the abuse means she is unable to live a normal life. Until one day she builds up the courage and grabs an opportunity. Police officers arrive at her house. Will she be heard? Will the police protect her, or will she be another statistic? Things do not turn out the way she expected.

This screening will be followed by an exclusive panel discussion with the director and film team, as well as representatives from a charity for domestic abuse. There will also be networking opportunities for visionaries.

The event is fully accessible with provisions of British Sign Language Interpreters, subtitles, and spoken English.



🏠 richmix.org.uk/events/the-cycle

If you have any access requirements, please contact the box office team on **020 7613 7498** or email boxoffice@richmix.org.uk

Academic research on Somali plants and Qaraami Music



26 October

Thursday, 6-10pm

Oxford House, Derbyshire Street,
E2 6HG

Admission: £5

Language: Somali

Somali Week Festival is pleased to host a combined event of book launch in conversation with the author of "Qaraami: the fading out melody of Somali classic music", 2023, Dr Jama Musse Jama. Followed by Dr Ahmed Ali academic research presentation on the scientific usefulness of Somali plants, frankincense, and its commercialisation.

Night will be closed with Qaraami Live Music Night performed by a mix of foreign and Somali musicians.

Part of Somali Week Festival

 www.kayd.org



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

THU 26

Pulse of Africa Half term workshops



26-27 October

**Thursday - 10am-12.30pm,
Friday 1.30-4pm**

The Tramshed Digby Street, Bethnal
Green, E2 0LS

Admission: Free

African Fables, East End Tales

Join Grand Union Orchestra for a participatory musical project exploring diverse African cultures and the musical heritage of Tower Hamlets' communities. Development sessions and performance will be led by artists born or brought up in musical traditions ranging from South Africa and Zimbabwe, through Angola, DR Congo and Sierra Leone to Nigeria, Ghana and Somalia. Participants will shape and develop the project from the beginning with their own material, stories and experiences and have opportunities to share musical traditions.



To find out more and to take part please contact us at mail@grandunion.org.uk

 [www.instagram.com/
grandunionorchestra](https://www.instagram.com/grandunionorchestra)

 [www.facebook.com/
grandunionorchestra](https://www.facebook.com/grandunionorchestra)

 [Grand_union](https://twitter.com/Grand_union)

[www.soundcloud.com/
grandunionorchestra](https://www.soundcloud.com/grandunionorchestra)

What We Have Become - Panel discussion with Rudy Loewe and Basil Olton

26 October

Thursday, 6.30-7.30pm

Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archive, 277 Bancroft Rd, Bethnal Green, E1 4DQ

Admission: Free, no booking required

Panel discussion with Rudy Loewe and Basil Olton exploring how rupture can assist in the creation of a cultural identity. This talk, followed by Q&A will serve as a prelude for an exhibition planned for February next year and will introduce the themes/ artists and be used as a place for discussion and debate.

Basil Olton is an artist, curator and researcher with studies in ceramics, fine art practice and arts management and public policy.

He is the current project lead for the British Art Network's Decolonisation Ceramics Practice Seminar and is chair for the Decolonisation of Ceramics and Textiles Presentation as part of the British Ceramics Biennale and British Textiles Biennale.



His practice is influenced by the relationship between materiality and the still image, to explore the effect of colonialism on institutional memory, commemoration and identity and the wider relationship with private and public space, power and display. Through exploration of personal and collective histories, Basil creates an aesthetic to re-imagine the rupture of Caribbean art and culture.

Utilising archives as a mode of expression and social document, Basil has curated exhibitions *A Necessary Fiction* (2017) at Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archive an investigation into the decolonisation of narratives that occupy public institutions; *Look We Here: Curating the Caribbean* (2018) at the V&A, London, unpacking the meaning and representation of Caribbean art and culture; and *Black Plaques* (2018), a critique of the erasure of Black histories.

Basil is the founder and director of Highgate Art School, promoting a diverse understanding of contemporary art at a grassroots community level; member of the Emerging Curators Group 2021-2022; ECG representative of the British Art Network Steering Group and a consultant for the British Arts Network with the remit to widen participation, re-interpreting existing structures and narratives to promote a wider view of British art history.

 www.ideastore.co.uk/local-history

Grand Union Re:Generation Band – Friday Sessions



27 October

Friday, 7-10pm

Poplar Union, 2 Cotal St, Poplar,
E14 6TL

Admission: Free

Grand Union Re:Generation Band... Residents of Poplar Union Arts Centre are 2nd generation musicians of the orchestra, hot on the heels of their debut EP release – the band pick up their autumn residency in black history month – celebrating the West African and Caribbean elements of the group and leading with a stunning percussion ensemble fused with afro/jazz compositions.

The Grand Union Orchestra is the acknowledged pioneer and leading exponent of cross-cultural music making in the UK. The Re:Generation Band are 2nd generation musicians that

Share each others heritages exploring West African, Caribbean, Bengali, European and Korean music forms. Our Poplar Union monthly residency in its 4th year showcases musicians from all of these cultures.



In partnership with Tower Hamlets Council

🏠 www.eventbrite.com/e/grand-union-regeneration-band-friday-sessions-tickets-712920433207?aff=odcl_eoeventsincollection&keep_tld=1

poplar
Union

Swinging at the Savoy



27 October

**Friday, 7pm doors,
7.30pm start**

**Mulberry Hall, St Margaret's House,
21 Old Ford Road, E2 9PL**

Admission: £10, £15, £20

Join us for a historical jazz dance revue, choreographed by Jreena Green and featuring the Jazz Dance Elite company. Step into the vibrant world of the Harlem Renaissance as this show celebrates the iconic Savoy Ballroom and its pivotal role in shaping African American dance and culture. Combining dance with live vocal performances, the show pays homage to the early years of the Savoy Ballroom. The performers recreate the spirit of the Tranky Doo, Big Apple, and Shim Sham, capturing the infectious energy that swept through this historic venue. The stage pulsates with dynamic movement, taking the audience back to the birth of these iconic dance routines. Historical images and videos are featured throughout the piece, depicting the lively dancefloor and showcasing how the Savoy became a focus for African American excellence.

Expect some audience participation as we get people on their feet dancing!



🏠 [www.stmargarethouse.org.uk/
events/swinging-at-the-savoy](http://www.stmargarethouse.org.uk/events/swinging-at-the-savoy)

About St Margaret's House



An Arts Council England
National Portfolio
Organisation, creating healthier and
happier communities

Our mission is to promote positive social change by providing opportunities for people to come together and take part in their community. Our arts and wellbeing projects provide spaces to meet, learn, create, eat, shop, and enjoy a diverse cultural programme.

Ceramics Workshop Constructing Memory



28-29 October

**Saturday-Sunday, 10am-1pm
(time to be confirmed)**

**Shadwell Ceramics Studio, Shadwell
Centre, The Highway E1**

**Admission: £29 per person through
Idea Store Learning**

Through investigation of personal and collective histories, this workshop will help you to develop the creative, sculptural and decorative possibilities of ceramics to create objects inspired by individual, family and community histories, memory and the act of commemoration.

On this course you will have the opportunity to develop clay hand building and surface decoration techniques. You will explore the creative possibilities of clay concentrating on building and assembling techniques and learn how to use a variety of decorative techniques such to apply texture and pattern.



Arts & Creative Industries



We have a fantastic range of creative courses for you to join, learn new skills, or update your existing knowledge, whilst making new friends along the way.

So, if you are up for a challenge why not browse the course search to discover our range of courses on offer.

We are delivering some of our courses in classrooms and some online. The majority of courses are run at the Shadwell Centre which have fully equipped studios to support your learning.

www.ideastore.co.uk/learning

'Coree home go, Souldania go, home go'



28 October

Saturday, 1-3pm

The Art Pavilion, Mile End Park,
Clinton Road, E3 4QY

Admission: Free

The English East India Company and the
Story of Corey, the Saldhanian

A presentation for Black History Month
by Dr M Ahmedullah, Secretary of Brick
Lane Circle

Corey, described as a 'reluctant immigrant', was the first Black boy from the Cape of Good Hope (situated on the southern tip of present-day South Africa) to be brought to London by an East India Company (EIC) ship in the autumn of 1613. He was accommodated by Sir Thomas Smythe, governor of the East India Company, in his house, who took 'responsibility for equipping him for civilised life', giving Corey a nice diet, providing facilities for entertainment and living in the comfort of the English society of the time. But Corey wasn't interested in any of these; in broken English, he constantly uttered, 'Coree



home go, Souldania go, home go.' As such, he was sent back to his beloved land after six months, and upon arrival in Saldanha Bay in June 1614, he threw away all his Western clothes and ran away to live the life he loved.

To book, email
bricklanecircle@yahoo.co.uk

Resilient Rhythms: Celebrating Black Music and Culture



28 October

Saturday, 3pm

The Works Café, 384 Abbott Road,
E14 0UX

Admission: Free but will be ticketed

“Resilient Rhythms” is an immersive live music experience that celebrates the diverse genres and contributions of Black music and culture. The event features a curated lineup of local Black musicians, bands, and spoken word artists, representing various music genres such as jazz, reggae, Afrobeat, and soul. Through captivating performances and engaging storytelling, attendees will be transported on a journey that highlights the resilience, creativity, and cultural significance of Black music.

For further details about how to book, please go to www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/leisure_and_culture/Black-History-Month/Black-History-Month-Whats-on.aspx

In partnership with Tower Hamlets
Council



About The Works Café



The Works Café has been an integral part of the Tower Hamlets community for the past three years. They have actively participated in various community events, supporting local artists, musicians, and cultural initiatives. The café has hosted art exhibitions, live music performances, and poetry evenings, creating a vibrant space for artistic expression and community engagement.

Daryeel Autism



28 October

Saturday, 2-6pm

Oxford House, Derbyshire Street,
E2 6HG

Admission: Free

This workshop aims to provide a safe space for parents with autistic children to discuss autism while providing comprehensive knowledge. The Founder and the CEO of Daryeel Autism, Samia Ali will be facilitating this workshop. She will share her own experience as mother of a 23 year old autistic son alongside her husband Hashim Duale MBE; the event is beneficial to all parents with autistic children. Samia will also present her book for the first time translated in Somali Language.



Part of Somali Week Festival

🏠 www.kayd.org

About Kayd Somali Arts and Culture



Kayd Somali Arts and Culture is an arts organisation that was founded in 2009 by Ayan Mahamoud MBE in Tower Hamlets, London to build and expand on Somali arts projects that previously took place in Oxford House in Bethnal Green. These projects were created to provide a platform and space for the newly arriving Somali immigrants and refugees from the late 80's onwards as part of Oxford House's arts and educational projects. As a result of Oxford House losing their major arts and educational project grants in 2008, there was a huge gap in providing a space for Somali arts and culture to thrive as well as the local community to have a hub, which is why the founder decided to get together with a group of friends to continue this important work through a new organisation, which then developed into Kayd.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

SAT 28

Black History Month Celebration



28 October

Saturday, 2pm til late

St Paul's Church, St Stephen's Road,
E3 5JL

Admission: Free

Everyone is welcome at the St Pauls Black History Month Celebration. There will be a lively programme with something for everyone including interactive workshops with guest speakers, food and refreshments, open mic contest, karaoke, music, dance and much more. Just turn up!

**In partnership with Tower Hamlets
Council**

Tower Hamlets offers a selection of email newsletters to keep you up to date on a variety of topics.



If you haven't already subscribed to our monthly Event Highlights Ebulletin you can sign up to this or any others here.

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/signup



Young adults career advice



28 October

Saturday, 2-4pm

Oxford House, Derbyshire Street,
E2 6HG

Admission: £2

Language: Somali, English

As part of the annual Somali Week Festival held in October as an integral part of Black History Month; this year we want Somali children and young adults exploring professions and encouraging career exploration. Somali children and young adults face many challenges in finding meaningful careers and achieving their dreams. One major obstacle is the lack of exposure to different professions and career paths as well as role models from the community. This event aims to address this gap by providing an opportunity for Somali children and young adults to meet and learn from Somali professionals and experts in various fields.

Part of Somali Week Festival

 www.kayd.org



About Kayd



Kayd means preservation in Somali language and seeks to promote arts, culture and heritage for the benefit of the public, including musical, literary, dramatic, performance, dance and visual arts as well as talks and workshops by organising and delivering arts and cultural events and festivals. Since 2009, the flagship event by Kayd has been its annual Somali Week Festival, which is the largest Somali festival outside of the Somali Horn and takes place in UK's Black History Month in October each year.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

SAT 28

Centre Stage Black History Month Special



28 October

Saturday, 4-10pm

Poplar Union, 2 Cotal St, Poplar,
E14 6TL

Admission: £5 online, £10 on the door

Age: 16+

Centre Stage will present panel discussions, live music and a pop-up market as part of their Black History Month celebrations.

Centre Stage presents a specially curated group of up-and-coming artists to join their live band for a conscious celebration of Black History in Music.

Additionally, there will be a live and interactive panel discussion, and pop-up market with African Caribbean food and books for sale.

In partnership with Tower Hamlets Council

🏠 www.eventbrite.com/e/centre-stage-black-history-month-special-tickets-712927875467?aff=odcleoeventsincollection&keep_tld=1



About Centre Stage



Centre Stage is a live music & artist development platform. Founded by FFP in 2018 with support from its partners, Centre Stage has become one of the go-to places to network and enjoy the best in live acts, jams, and entertainment, with a special focus on providing opportunity for the youth in Tower Hamlets & London.

Somali Books Day



28 October

Saturday, 6-10pm

Oxford House, Derbyshire Street,
E2 6HG

Admission: £5

Language: Somali

Chairman: Abdibashiir

This lively and popular annual event gives Somali writers an opportunity to present and launch their work. It attracts writers from across the continents to showcase their work, interact with each other, and share their new publications with the audience. All Somali writers who have published books are welcome to set up stalls and sell their books, giving the Somali audience unmatched access to the latest publications. The following writers will present their work, Mohamed Hirso Guleed (Abdibashiir), Maxamuud Ibraahim Jaamac (Xaaji, Hussein Abdillahi Shukri, Maxamed Yuusuf Bidhiid, Musa M. Isseis and others.

Part of Somali Week Festival

 www.kayd.org



About Somali Week Festival



Somali Week Festival has grown over the last decade from a small festival taking place exclusively in Oxford House in Bethnal Green to a large festival with partnerships with key arts establishments such as the British Library and Southbank Centre. We also work to provide opportunities to develop emerging artists and to support individuals to pursue careers in the creative sector.

Sharing Stories: A Black History Month Showcase



28 October

Saturday, 7-10pm

Brady Arts & Community Centre,
192-196, Hanbury Street, E1 5HU

Admission: Free

Our Black History Month Sharing seeks to honour the achievements and narratives of emerging young Black artists while also paying tribute to renowned figures within the Black community.

Sharing Stories seeks to honour the creative achievements and narratives of emerging young Black artists, showcasing the rich diversity and talent within the Black Community. Come be inspired by the voices and visions that shape our cultural landscape, whilst also paying tribute to renowned black figures who've paved the way. Presented by Purple Moon Drama.

In partnership with Tower Hamlets
Council

 www.purplemoondrama.co.uk



About Purple Moon Drama



Purple Moon Drama actively engages with the Tower Hamlets community through a range of activities and initiatives. Since 2015 Purple Moon have delivered numerous school holiday drama clubs across Tower Hamlets. Our Drama clubs are free to families on universal credit and we provide each child with a free, daily hot meal. This is an essential service to be offering within a cost of living crisis and one we are very proud to deliver to the community. We also invite family and friends to a community performance at the end of each club, encouraging community cohesion by celebrating work created by the children.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

SAT 28

Black Excellence – a Staff – led Celebration of History, Culture and Food



28 October

Saturday, 11am-6pm

Grocers Wing, Tower Hamlets Town Hall, 160 Whitechapel Road, E1 1BJ

Admission: Free

Join us at the first major event at the new town hall celebrating African and Caribbean culture brought to you by the Mayor of Tower Hamlets. Learn about the contributions and achievements of these communities.

Immerse yourself in a day celebrating black excellence through music and traditional dancers also come and support a variety of small black businesses.

Traditional food from Global Africa on offer.

For further details, keep an eye on www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/blackhistorymonth



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

SUN 29

We Rebuild, We Reclaim



29 October

Sunday, 3pm

Genesis Cinema, 93-95 Mile End
Road, E1 4UJ

**Admission: Free entry for Tower
Hamlets residents**

Raindance Film Festival is celebrating
Black History Month at Genesis Cinema.

We Are Parable is working with the British Council to curate 'We Rebuild, We Reclaim', a touring programme of seven short films, in collaboration with Raindance Film Festival, that explore Black British experience, and reflect on the cultural significance and legacy of the Empire Windrush – the ship that brought over 500 Caribbeans to the UK in 1948.

This is one of four screenings of programmes celebrating the talent of the African diaspora in front and behind the camera, all of which will be happening on the big screen of your local Genesis. All films will be UK Premieres and therefore as residents of Tower Hamlets, you will have a chance to watch these films fresh off the festival circuit and participate in the post-screening Q&As with the filmmakers. Entry for all Tower Hamlets residents will be free, just show up on the day and claim your free tickets!



In partnership with Tower Hamlets
Council

🏠 www.raindance.org

FOR THE LOVE OF FILM
**RAINDANCE
FILM FESTIVAL**
LONDON 25 OCT - 04 NOV
Supported by
mango-

Lost Soulz



29 October

Sunday, 6pm

Genesis Cinema, 93-95 Mile End Road, E1 4UJ

Admission: Free entry for Tower Hamlets residents

Raindance Film Festival is celebrating Black History Month at Genesis Cinema.

International Premiere. Propper's debut feature is a story about grappling with shame and overcoming hardships in pursuit of one's dreams and inspired by true aspects of Sauve's life, a young rapper who leaves everything behind and embarks on an odyssey of self-discovery, music and friendship in this slow-burning Texas-bound roadtrip movie.

Nominated for Discovery Award

This is one of four screenings of programmes celebrating the talent of the African diaspora in front and behind the camera, all of which will be happening on the big screen of your local Genesis. All films will be UK Premieres and therefore as residents of Tower Hamlets, you will have a chance to watch these films fresh off the festival circuit and participate in the post-screening Q&As with the filmmakers. Entry for all Tower Hamlets residents will be free, just show up on the day and claim your free tickets!



(dir. Katherine Propper)

In partnership with Tower Hamlets Council

🏠 www.raindance.org/festival-programme/lost-soulz-qa

FOR THE LOVE OF FILM
**RAINDANCE
FILM FESTIVAL**
LONDON 25 OCT - 04 NOV
Supported by
mango™

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

SUN 29

Final Beats Closing Concert



29 October

Sunday, 6-10pm

Queen Mary University, The People's Palace, Mile End Road, E1 4NS

Admission: £20

Language: Somali

Our highly anticipated and popular closing concert of the festival allows us to celebrate the most exciting current artists in a grand musical concert. This year we welcome visiting artist and headliner's Amina Farah Waberi and Abdikariim Ali Shaah. They will be joined on stage and supported by established Somali artists in an evening of popular music, including British-Somali Nuur Dalacay and Farhiya Fiska, Nimco Yasin.

Part of Somali Week Festival

www.kayd.org



About Kayd



Kayd's aim is to link both our communities as well as our artists to engage with mainstream arts organisations and venues to access them as audiences and practitioners and to develop creative skills through community initiatives.

COBO: Comedy Shutdown Black History Month Special – Bethnal Green



29 October

Sunday, 7.30-11pm

Backyard Comedy Club, 231
Cambridge Heath Road, E2 0EL

Admission: £18

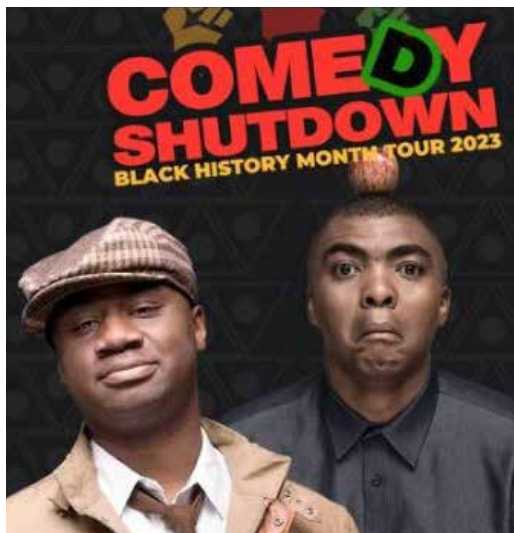
COBO: Comedy Shutdown brings a Black History Month Special to a venue near you. Round up your friends & family and join us for an uplifting night of laughter!

Acts:

- Robbie Gee (The Real McCoy, Netflix)
- Eddie Nestor (The Real McCoy, BBC London)
- Trixx (Stand Up Comedian & Web Star From Toronto)
- Loyiso Gola (Live At The Apollo, Comedy Central)

If you've never been to one of these nights before then get ready for an evening of rip-roaring, back slapping belly laughs!

It's a comedy night that is not only packed to the brim with jokes but also celebrates the vast array of comedic talent throughout Black History Month.



Courtesy of www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk

We pride ourselves on championing comedians who appeal to comedy lovers of all backgrounds – so grab your tickets and head down for a night of good vibes!

COBO : Comedy Shutdown is brought to you by LuvEntertainment, a Multiple Award Winning provider of comedy events since 2009.

🏠 www.coboevents.co.uk

🏠 backyardcomedyclub.co.uk/event/cobo-comedy-shutdown-black-history-month-special

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

MON 30

Clashing Differences



30 October

Monday, 6pm

Genesis Cinema, 93-95 Mile End Road, Bethnal Green, E1 4UJ

Admission: Free entry for Tower Hamlets residents

Raindance Film Festival is celebrating Black History Month at Genesis Cinema.

In order to avoid being cancelled, the House of Womxn association changes up their proposed panel to satisfy a diversity checklist. The resulting summit of personalities, brought together to prepare for the international women's conference, threatens to destroy its public image entirely.

(dir. Merle Grimm)

Nominated for the Best International Feature.

This is one of four screenings of programmes celebrating the talent of the African diaspora in front and behind the camera, all of which will be happening on the big screen of your local Genesis. All films will be UK Premieres and therefore as residents of Tower Hamlets, you will have a chance to watch these films fresh off the festival circuit and participate in the post-screening Q&As with the



filmmakers. Entry for all Tower Hamlets residents will be free, just show up on the day and claim your free tickets!

In partnership with Tower Hamlets Council

www.raindance.org/festival-programme/clashing-differences-qa

FOR THE LOVE OF FILM
**RAINDANCE
FILM FESTIVAL**
LONDON 25 OCT - 04 NOV
Supported by
mango™

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

**NOVE
MBER**

Dusty & Stones



1 November

Wednesday, 6pm

Genesis Cinema, 93-95 Mile End Road, Bethnal Green, E1 4UJ

Admission: Free entry for Tower Hamlets residents

Raindance Film Festival is celebrating Black History Month at Genesis Cinema.

This remarkable debut intimately chronicles the ride of Gazi "Dusty" Simelane and Linda "Stones" Msibi. Dusty and Stones struggle to sustain a country music career in their tiny African Kingdom of Swaziland and yearn for greater recognition. When they are unexpectedly nominated to compete in a Texas battle of the bands, the two cousins journey to the heart of American country music, determined to win big.

Nominated for best Documentary Feature

This is one of four screenings of programmes celebrating the talent of the African diaspora in front and behind the camera, all of which will be happening on the big screen of your local Genesis. All films will be UK Premieres and therefore as residents of Tower Hamlets, you will have a chance to watch these films fresh off the festival circuit and participate in the post-screening Q&As with the



filmmakers. Entry for all Tower Hamlets residents will be free, just show up on the day and claim your free tickets!

(dir: Jesse Rudoy, USA)

In partnership with Tower Hamlets Council

🏠 www.raindance.org/festival-programme/dusty-stones-qa

FOR THE LOVE OF FILM
**RAINDANCE
FILM FESTIVAL**
LONDON 25 OCT - 04 NOV
Supported by
mango

Exploring East End African and Caribbean archive collections



4 November

Saturday, 10.30am-4.30pm

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives 277 Bancroft Road, E1 4DQ

Admission: Free, booking required

How are the East London borough archives caring for African & Caribbean history? Come and find out at this community event taking place at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives featuring guest speakers from Hackney.

We will hear from both archivists and community members about the process of depositing their collections at borough archives, and the ways in which the histories of African & Caribbean communities in the East End are being preserved and celebrated. Find out how to care for your own records at home too in an interactive workshop.

11am-12.30pm

Singer, Songwriter and Activist, Janice Knight explores her archive collection with Dr Etienne Joseph, Archives Manager, Hackney Archives

12.30-1.30pm

Light refreshments – provided



1.30-2.30pm

Harry Cumberbatch MBE, community worker, talks about depositing his archive at Tower Hamlets in conversation with Richard Wiltshire, Archives Manager, Tower Hamlets Council

2.30pm-4pm

Interactive 'DIY collections care' workshop with Genova Messiah and Richard Wiltshire from Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives. Bring examples or stories from your own records at home and find out how to keep them safe!

In partnership with Tower Hamlets Council

🏠 www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/exploring-east-end-african-caribbean-archive-collections-tickets-710301540027?aff=oddttdtcreator

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
OCTOBER 2023**

SAT 4

Celebrating Cultural Heritage through the Generations



4 November

Saturday, 4.30-9pm

Bernie Cameron Community Centre,
32 Merchant Street, E3 4LX

Admission: Free

An intergenerational celebration of Black History Month exploring the achievements, successes and legacy of the Windrush generation. This will be a joyous and meaningful way to engage with Afro Caribbean cultural heritage with delicious food, entertainment, music, spoken word, dance, and drumming workshop as well as a look at issues impacting black health.

david_nacrc@yahoo.co.uk

In partnership with Tower Hamlets
Council

London Borough of Tower Hamlets
in Collaboration with Newham African
Caribbean Resource Centre welcomes
you to celebrate

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SATURDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2023
4PM - 9PM

**"OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE - PAST,
PRESENT AND FUTURE"**

Arthur Torrington
OBE -Windrush
and Sam Smith
Panel Discussion:
Preserving Our
Heritage, addressing
long term health
conditions.

Vasco Stevenson
Freedom - West
Africa?
Windrush Quiz
Youth Song and
Dance
Showcase

Alexander D.
Great, UK 2023
Calypso
Monarch
IROKO Theatre
Group
Errol Wynter -
Sooken Word

VENUE: BERNIE CAMERON COMMUNITY CENTRE,
32 MERCHANT STREET, BOW E3 4LX

FREE ADMISSION & REFRESHMENTS



#SLACfest presents: 'In Conversation with the Artists'



5 November

**Sunday, 2-5pm, doors open at
1.30pm**

Poplar Union, 2 Cotall Street, Poplar,
E14 6TL

**Admission: Pay what you can afford,
suggested minimum donation £5**

Hot off the heels of a full day of events at Brixton House, join us for the closing day of the Sierra Leone Arts & Culture Festival, #SLACfest2023. The Sunday programme puts a spotlight on the accompanying festival exhibition, and the artists who made it possible.

Join #SLACfest co-founder and co-curator, Siana Bangura, in conversation with Sierra Leonean visual artists, based in London and in Freetown, exploring identity, belonging, home, the Sierra Leonean diaspora, Sierra Leonean history and culture, and the role art plays in both archiving our stories – past and present – as well as re-imagining them for the future. How do we take on the mantle as artists and 're-introduce' our country here and now, and 're-emerge' towards a new, more positive season of Sierra Leone's story? We will reflect on this and more.



After the conversation, there will also be an opportunity to explore the exhibition in the space and network and connect with fellow attendees.

🏠 www.eventbrite.com/e/slacfest-presents-in-conversation-with-the-artists-tickets-712943662687?aff=odcleoeventsincollection&keep_tld=1



TOWER HAMLETS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

OCTOBER 2023

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/blackhistorymonth