

## **Culture**

The Mayor's Cultural Strategy identifies a range of barriers that prevent disabled people from participating across a range of cultural activities. Evidence from research, *Taking Part*, cited in the Strategy, emphasises that disabled people have significantly lower levels of engagement with arts and culture.

These general findings have been echoed within specific cultural sub-sectors and amongst Londoners. For instance, 42% of those with a disability answer yes to the question "Have you visited a museum in the last 12 months", compared to 56% without a disability.

### **What we have done**

The Mayor's Strategy identifies an evidence-led approach to addressing barriers preventing disabled people from taking full part across all cultural activities in London. A core priority is to improve understanding of the barriers and to remove them.

The GLA supports the Liberty Festival, the one-day festival in Trafalgar Square promoting the rights of disabled people and celebrating the diverse talents of disabled artists and performers. There are street arts, circus, comedy, visual arts, music and children's activities in the square. The seventh annual event took place in September 2009, achieving an increase by 12 per cent in attendance with that of the previous year.

### **What we plan to do**

- Disability Access Campaign to increase participation in London's culture by 2012. This programme will address the low take-up in arts and cultural activity from disabled people in London. A scoping study will be undertaken, with baseline data established and organisations and venues in the sector engaged, prior to developing a high-profile media campaign intended to increase uptake.
- The GLA will continue to support the annual Liberty Festival