

MAYOR OF LONDON

Len Duvall OBE AM

Chair of the London Assembly
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Our ref: MGLA191124-5230

Date: 10 September 2025

Dear Len,

London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting 7 November 2024 – Motions

Thank you for the letter about the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 7 November. My reply to Motion 3.11 is below, and my apologies for the delay.

Motion 3.11 – London Art Trail

I agree that Londoners deserve to access art and culture where they live and across all London boroughs. Art in the public realm has the power to enrich communities by reflecting the city's diversity; revitalising public spaces; fostering civic pride and engagement; and driving tourism and economic growth. That is why I have supported new public art for Londoners and tourists across my programmes. For those interested in exploring public art in their borough, I have partnered with Art UK to create an open-source map showcasing all public artworks and memorials across London. This rich dataset reveals that outer London boroughs host an extraordinary array of high-quality public art right on their doorstep—from David Mach's iconic tumbling phone boxes *Out of Order* in Kingston to community-engaged new work *Was. Is. Will Be.* from Turner Prize winner Jasleen Kaur in Thamesmead.

My programmes have helped to support the growth of more public art in outer London boroughs. The London Borough of Culture programmes have regularly included commissioning new artworks. A recent example is Croydon's Music Heritage Trail, launched in 2023. This is a permanent walking tour, accessed via an app, which highlights 25 venues, artists and more, including a permanent mural in The Queen's Garden, in the centre of the borough.

The Brent Biennial, which took place during the Covid-19 pandemic, presented 20 brand-new artworks in public spaces across Brent, attracting over 100,000 visitors. This included three permanent large-scale murals; with one by Dawn Mellor in Kingsbury celebrating George Michael and two by Pio Abad on Kilburn High Road, inspired by still life paintings. In 2027 in Haringey, we can look forward to a series of public art pop-ups and permanent artworks created by residents across the borough.

In 2020, I established the Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm. It helped to enrich and add to the current public realm, enhancing the representation of women, disabled people, Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and LGBTQI+ figures in our public spaces. Through the Commission's Untold Stories programme, over £1m was awarded to 70 community-led projects in 24 London boroughs. Over 410 new objects or artworks existing in the public realm and over 600 performances, trails and tours have been created through Untold Stories.

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Projects include:

- A new public artwork and trail to commemorate murdered teenager, Rolan Adams, and the anti-racist marches that followed in Bexley.
- A new mural in Lambeth to celebrate the women activists and mural painters in the 1970s and 1980s, whose work is rapidly disappearing.
- A walk of fame celebrating the role of Irish and Pakistani workers in Cricklewood.

Finally, through the Good Growth Fund, I have invested around £80m in place-based regeneration projects across the capital that support local economies, create more integrated communities through active citizenship and collaboration at a neighbourhood level, and make better places by enhancing existing assets and qualities. Projects that incorporate public art include:

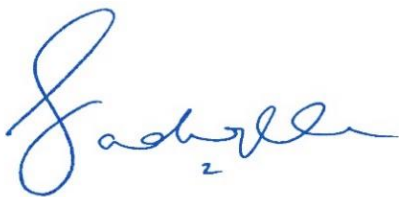
- An artist-designed courtyard garden forming the entrance to Studio Voltaire in Lambeth.
- A new artwork on Goathouse Bridge in South Norwood, which was co-designed with local pupils in Croydon.
- Fore Street – A high street focused local regeneration project based in Angel Edmonton, Enfield, with several projects, including public art murals across the town centre.
- A local artist designed public artwork on the facade of the Wood Green Mall's car park in Haringey. The artwork covers an area of over 200 square metres, and members of the Youth Advisory Board were trained to help the artist with the painting.

Beyond borough-specific projects, London hosts a range of public art initiatives that span the entire city. In September 2024, I supported the London Mural Festival, which brought together over 300 artists to create 140 permanent artworks across ten boroughs, including Kingston upon Thames, Lambeth, and Walthamstow.

London's transport network is often described as the largest free art gallery in the world. Public art is woven into the daily experience of commuters, with both permanent and temporary works commissioned for station platforms, trains and Tube map covers. Mark Wallinger's *Labyrinth* comprises a series of 270 unique artworks, one for each London Underground station.

Meanwhile, Trafalgar Square's Fourth Plinth continues to be a focal point for contemporary public art. Alongside the featured artwork, it runs a significant Schools Awards programme, inviting children aged 5–15 from across London to imagine what they would place on the plinth. Since its launch, nearly 40,000 students from every borough have taken part, helping to foster awareness and appreciation of the role of public art in shaping the city.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London