



London Unseen 2022

Aspirations and Assets. A Resource of the Season.

MAYOR OF LONDON

[London Unseen](#), a dynamic season of community heritage tours, talks and workshops took place between July and November 2022. This stimulating programme of over 45 events was offered to the public free of charge, thanks to funding from the [Mayor of London's Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm](#).



All London Unseen Illustrations by Natsko Seki

The project's aspirations were to:

- ✿ Bring together community heritage practitioners in a sharing of expertise on different facets of London's histories which are seeped into public spaces, but whose narratives are often hidden in plain sight.
- ✿ Acknowledge the importance of the heritage work taking place within London's communities.
- ✿ Draw more Londoners into spaces where they could learn about these, largely unheard, histories.

We also hoped to offer community heritage practitioners opportunities to network, collaborate and co-create, and whilst doing so, share good practice.

This ebook brings together a summation of the season as a form of resource. It includes a directory of the incredible people who have been involved in delivering the events; an outline and reminder of the richness of the programme; and a section with insights and guidance to practitioners working in community heritage.

Thank you to everyone who has given so much energy to making this season happen!

May it surge and swell further and wider.

Vanessa and Damali

ABOUT

DAMALI & VANESSA

Damali has worked across the fields of community practice and arts education as a producer, curator and researcher for over 16 years. She works to develop and deliver ambitious projects that are collaborative, connective and are focused on enabling change. Her current research is focused on identity, belonging and finding new ways to increase access within the arts and community sectors.

Vanessa's impulses are to learn and to educate. Her career has centred on creating opportunities for people to engage with ideas, texts, culture and art in ways which are meaningful to them. Her path, after many years as a secondary school teacher, wound its way towards other public spaces - in the arts and cultural fields - where she could engage in advocacy and campaigning for greater visibility of marginalised voices.

Damali and Vanessa met whilst working at Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts). Having a shared sense of the urgency of decolonial work and a love of arts and education, the opportunity to curate London Unseen drew them in because of the programme's inherent capacity to feed into the heritage work that is happening at a grassroots level.



[01]



Angela Mascolo

Researcher

A researcher and museum practitioner with an MA Public History from Royal Holloway, University of London, and a passion for LGBTQI+ issues and heritage in Haringey.

[02]



Asif Shakoor

Researcher, Scholar, Author, Speaker, Tour Guide

Researcher and scholar specialising in South Asian History, Empire and Seafaring Histories

[03]



Dr. Hannah-Rose Murray

Historian, Tour Guide

Researches African American activism in Britain and Ireland during the nineteenth century.
www.frederickdouglassinbritain.com

[04]



Iyamide Thomas

Curator, Educator

Passionate about showcasing her history, heritage and culture and its unique link to Britain, Iyamide is active in The Krios Dot Com and Krio Descendants Union heritage groups.

[05]



Jody Burton

Author, Librarian, Creative

A bibliophile who, recognising the need for more books to be published on Black British History, has co-authored one and also a map on London's Black History.

[06]



Sam L. Jacobs

Author, Certified City of London Tour Guide

Researcher and Tour Guide specialising in the Jewish History of The City of London & Whitechapel

[07]



S I Martin

Historian, Writer, Educator

Historian specialising in Black British history and Literature, bringing diverse histories to wider audiences.
www.simartin.org.uk

[ORGANISATIONS]

[08]



A little History of the Sikhs

A community initiative which researches Sikh, Anglo-Sikh and Panjab history, and works to deliver walking tours in London, day trips in the South-East of England and study trips across the UK and Western Europe
www.alittlehistoryofthesikhs.org

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Rav Singh

Founder of A little History of the Sikhs, Collector, Tour Guide, Longstanding Champion of Community Heritage Practice

[12]



Black History Walks

Organisaton specialising in Black History, offering walking tours, educational talks and film screenings. Working with museums, schools, communities and universities, they deliver learning experiences for diverse audiences.

www.blackhistorywalks.co.uk

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Tony Warner

Founder of Black History Walks, Author, Co-founder and Chair of the African Odysseys programme, Tour Guide, Longstanding Champion of Community Heritage Practice

[7]

[09]



Association of Sikh Art & Cultural Heritage (ASACH)

A Sikh community non-profit organisation dedicated to educating, inspiring and celebrating the artistic and cultural heritage of the Sikhs. It creates community cohesion and positive change in society through its cultural programme, including walking tours of London.

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Jasleen Kandhari

Founder & Director of ASACH, Curator, Art & Textiles History Tutor (University of Oxford), Leading Sikh Art Expert, Tour Guide.

[13]



Brick Lane Circle

A voluntary company that transforms the intellectual landscape of the Bangladeshis in the UK. They discover and promote the shared common roots of Britain's diverse population through research and knowledge sharing.

www.bricklanecircle.org

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Muhammad Ahmedullah

Founding Member of Brick Lane Circle, Tour Guide, Author

[10]



Aswarm

A company that draws on creative use of sound, digital technology, immersive installation, site-specifics and concepts to transform places, enabling the people that use them to play, contemplate and re-evaluate their agency within them.
www.aswarm.com

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Thor McIntyre-Burnie

Artist and Artistic Director of Aswarm

[14]



British South-Asian Visual Art Post Cool Britannia

This research group was set up to respond to the comparative invisibility of British South-Asian artists. The impetus to establish this group was the result of anti-racism and decolonising discussions between academics, artists and students in the Camberwell College of Art's painting studios.

www.britishartnetwork.org.uk/research/british-south-asian-visual-art-post-cool-britannia/

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Raksha Patel

Artist, Writer, Socially-Engaged Practitioner, Senior Lecturer at Camberwell College of Arts. Leads the British South-Asian Visual Art Post Cool Britannia research network

[11]



Avril's Walks and Talks

Company specialising in African Caribbean history by producing educational Black history live and virtual tours & talks; books and maps. In conjunction with co-author, Jody Burton produced the first tour guiding book of London from the Black perspective called Black London: History, Art & Culture in over 120 Places. The Black London History Map was published in September 2022.

www.avrilswalksandtalks.co.uk

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Avril Nanton

Founder of Avril's Walks and Talks, Professionally qualified Tour Guide, Author, Historian, Longstanding Champion of Community Heritage Practice.

[15]



Bruce Castle Museum

From Manor house to museum, Bruce Castle Museum and Archive contains over 1,000 years of stories and community heritage for the London borough of Haringey.
www.brucecastle.org

Deborah Hedgecock

Museum Curator of Bruce Castle and Researcher with expertise in community histories and engagement.

[19]



Halal Tourism Britain

Halal Tourism Britain is an award winning company which focuses on providing guided tours based on years of research into Muslim history in Britain.
www.halaltourismbritain.com

AbdulMaalik Tailor

Founder of Halal Tourism Britain, Britain's first professionally qualified Muslim Tour Guide, Longstanding Champion of Community Heritage Practice

[9]

[16]



Eastside Community Heritage

An organisation which uses digital storytelling and creative arts to engage youth and communities working in Newham and East London oral history and heritage.
www.hidden-histories.org

Judith Garfield MBE

Founder & Executive Director of ECH, Activist, Tour Guide, Longstanding Champion of Community Heritage Practice

Freya Hope

Digital Community Officer

Kaaren Cruse

Deputy Director of ECH, Hidden Histories, Heritage Project Management

[20]



History Speak

Creative consultancy specialising in designing and facilitating participatory workshops and walking tours which explore contested heritage and decolonising spaces.
<http://www.historyspeak.co.uk/>

Manasi Pophale

Founding Member & Creative Director of History Speak, Tour Guide

[17]



Everyday Muslim

Everyday Muslim Heritage and Archive Initiative is a long-term project which is creating a central archive of Muslim lives, arts, education and cultures from across the UK
www.everydaymuslim.org

Sadiya Ahmed

Founder of Everyday Muslim, Longstanding Champion of Community Heritage Practice

[21]



Kakilang (formerly Chinese Arts Now)

A National Portfolio Organisation supported by Arts Council England, Kakilang produces and presents world-class art, and pioneers multi-disciplinary artforms from a wide spectrum of Southeast and East Asian voices.
www.kakilang.org.uk

An Ting Chang

Artistic Director & CEO of Kakilang, Pianist, Composer, Theatre Director

Donald Shek

Artist, Tour Guide

[18]



Future Hackney

A grassroots led initiative and long-term, co-authored project dedicated to documenting social change, rendering communities visible and preserving images and narratives. They use digital mediums to tell stories through street and documentary photography, oral histories and current issues. They create community dialogues, street exhibitions, living archives, online platforms, social media, print and press.
www.futurehackney.com

Wayne Crichlow

Founder of Future Hackney, Co-Creator of Living Archives. Photographer, producer, co-author and workshop facilitator working with Dalston communities

Don Travis

Founder of Future Hackney, Co-Creator of Living Archives. Photographer, producer, co-author and workshop facilitator working with Dalston communities

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[22]



Museum of Slavery and Freedom

A small community group with strong roots in Deptford, this new organisation is made up of people who are passionate, enthusiastic and working to reveal the forgotten history of slavery, abolition and Empire in Deptford.
www.mosaf.org.uk

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Sue Davies

Founding member of Museum of Slavery and Freedom, Tour Guide

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Judith Hibbert

Deputy Chair & Founding Member of MoSaF, Tour Guide

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Paul Smith

Volunteer at MoSaF, Tour Guide

[26]



Royal Hospital Chelsea

The Royal Hospital Chelsea is the home of the iconic Chelsea Pensioners, who are all retired soldiers of the British Army. It is a Grade I and II listed site and an architectural legacy. Maintenance of the site continues today with ongoing restoration work.
www.chelsea-pensioners.co.uk

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The Chelsea Pensioners

Tour Guides

[11]

[23]



Nubian Jak Community Trust

The Nubian Jak Community Trust is a Commemorative Plaque and Sculpture Scheme focused on Memorialising the Historic Contributions of Black and Minority Ethnic People in Britain and Beyond.
www.nubianjak.com

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Jak Beula

Founder of the Nubian Jak Community Trust, Activist, Longstanding Champion of Community Heritage Practice

[27]



Shape Arts, NDACA and NDMAC

Shape Arts is a disability-led arts organisation which works to improve access to culture for disabled people by providing opportunities for disabled artists, training cultural institutions to be more open to disabled people, and through running participatory arts and development programmes. NDACA (National Disability Arts Collection & Archive) holds the heritage story of the disability arts movement. NDMAC (National Disability Movement Archive and Collection) is Shape Arts' latest large scale heritage project.
www.shapearts.org.uk www.the-ndaca.org

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Alex Cowan

Archivist Researcher & Producer, Project Archivist on NDACA

[24]



Pascal Theatre Company

A community company which runs heritage projects to unearth hidden histories. Current project: Women Activists in 19th century Bloomsbury.
www.pascal-theatre.com

-
Julia Pascal

Founder & Artistic Director of Pascal Theatre

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Sally Mijit

Senior Researcher

[28]



Shared City

Shared City is a community interest company based in Brent, delivering heritage, culture and wellbeing walks across London
www.sharedcity.org/

-
Caroline Bourne

Tours, Trails and Events Practitioner

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Irina Porter

Historian & London Blue Badge Tour Guide

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Christine Coker

Fitness Coach, Mindfulness Practitioner & Guide

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Deborah Chatterjee

Archivist & Cross Cultural Practitioner & Guide

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Rachel Lum

Photography & Art Practitioner

[25]



Queer Tours of London

Queer Tours of London was founded in 2016, the brainchild of Dan Glass, who realized that nothing was being done to mark the upcoming 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalization of homosexuality. They have been running LGBTQI+ tours and events in London since then.

www.queertoursoflondon.com

-
Dani Singer

Founding Member of Queer Tours of London and Tour Guide

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Dan de la Motte

Tour Guide, Performer and Creative Practitioner

[29]



Summerstown182

A community history project in south west London focussed on researching and sharing community heritage in Wandsworth.
summerstown182.wordpress.com

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Geoff Simmons

Founder of Summerstown 182, Tour Guide, Longstanding Champion of Community Heritage Practice

[12]

[30]



Syrup

Syrup is a design studio working with people and communities to explore places through exhibitions, experiences and events. Our projects are collaborative and explore storytelling, heritage, accessible research and technology.

www.syrupmagazine.co.uk

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Grace Crannis

Designer, Researcher, and Collaborative Design Practitioner. Co-founder of Syrup. Curator of Southwark Today: A Practical Guide to Working with Community Stories workshop.

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Lisa Soverall

Facilitator at the Southwark Today: A Practical Guide to Working with Community Stories workshop

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Judy Aitken

Curator, Library and Heritage Team

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Jessie Goodison-Burgess

Heritage Officer, Libraries and Heritage Team
www.heritage.southwark.gov.uk

Laurie Belgrave

Founder of The Chateau and facilitator at the Southwark Today: A Practical Guide to Working with Community Stories workshop

[13]

[31]



The Space to Come

A collaborative lab led by Founder and Creative Director Gaylene Gould that tests ways to build a new world for compassionately connected citizens. They bring together caring artists, creatives, thinkers and the public to create new imaginative experiences and products that help people better connect to themselves, each other and the world.

www.thespacetocome.com

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Gaylene Gould

Cultural Director and Facilitator. Founder and Creative Director of The Space to Come

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Zaynab Bunsie

Producer for The Space to Come & Trainee Psychotherapist

[32]



Centre for Research on Migration, Refugees and Belonging | University of East London

CMRB works to build awareness of the related issues of migration, refugees and belonging through interdisciplinary conversations and providing space for debate and creative thinking amongst academics, practitioners, activists, migrants and refugees, in order to make positive changes to society at large.

www.uel.ac.uk

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Dr. Georgie Wemyss

Co-Director of CMRB, Researcher, Writer and longstanding facilitator of walks around London's East India Docks.

[33]



Unseen Tours

Unseen Tours is a Social Enterprise training people who have been affected by homelessness to curate and lead walking tours of London.

www.unseentours.org.uk

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Jayni Gudka

CEO of Unseen Tours

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David

London Bridge Tour Guide

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Ben

Kings Cross and Clerkenwell Tour Guide

[14]

[CALENDAR OF EVENTS]

The following pages illustrate the range of events which have taught new audiences about histories they previously were unaware of, giving them opportunities to engage with fresh knowledge.



[JULY]

12

[WALK]



The Rise and Fall of the British Empire
by Manasi Pophale (History Speak)

This walking tour around Westminster, led by Manasi Pophale, explored the beating heart of British politics that was once the centre of a global empire. Even though Britain's imperial power is relegated to history, the long process of colonisation and decolonisation defines the world we live in today, and were very much the focus of Manasi's tour. Participants had the chance to consider how narratives and ideas from history connect to our present through the Black Lives Matter movement, the Gurkha Justice Campaign, the Retain and Explain law and the Policing Bill 2021.

16

[WALK]

Ben's tour - King's Cross to Clerkenwell: Building Monuments, Building Communities
by Ben (Unseen Tours)

This walk launched a new tour for Unseen Tours, curated by Ben. His exciting and dramatic tour explored how King's Cross and St. Pancras got their names, the wild old days of highwaymen and bandits, and elephants and Celtic insurgents. It included a skyscraper which doesn't scrape the sky and a Catholic church which isn't Catholic. The importance of Fleet - both the river and the street - were explored, and the tour questioned the blurry line between public and private space. Travelling from the bustling transport hubs to the tranquil squares and backstreets, the tour ended with a look at the alternative history of radical Clerkenwell.



27

[WALK]



Hidden Pride of Haringey: 400 years of LGBTQ+ Heritage in Tottenham
by Deborah Hedgecock and Angela Mascolo (Bruce Castle Museum)

Guides Angela Mascolo, Postgraduate in Public History at Royal Holloway, and Deborah Hedgecock, Curator of Bruce Castle Museum, led this guided walking tour from north to south Tottenham, along and near Tottenham High Road. They explored buildings and places that uncovered hidden histories, revealed fascinating new research and inspiring stories of Haringey's LGBTQ+ heritage from the past four centuries.

27

[WALK]

Sikhopoly: Trafalgar Square and Whitehall
by Rav Singh (A little History of the Sikhs)

The team revealed stories and episodes from Anglo-Sikh and Sikh history at the Monopoly Board locations of the Strand, Trafalgar Square, Whitehall, Pall Mall and Northumberland Avenue. Bringing alive episodes from Sikh history, the walk included the stories behind the citations seen at the statues of General Havelock, Sir Charles Napier, John Lawrence and Sir James Outram, and explored events associated with Maharaja Duleep Singh, Prince Victor Duleep Singh and Princess Sophia Duleep Singh.

31

[WALK]

Missing Medals: Unearthing Invisible Seafaring Histories of Empire
by Asif Shakoor

Asif Shakoor delivered an inspiring walk that delved into British imperialism and migration, exploring the arrival of early South Asian seafarers at Royal Victoria Dock and the Royal Albert Dock in the London Borough of Newham. Asif unearthed invisible seafaring histories of Empire and took participants around the unseen sites of Royal Victoria Dock and it's vicinity.



[AUGUST]

04

[WALK]

Sikhopoly: Trafalgar Square and Whitehall
by Rav Singh (A little History of the Sikhs)

The team revealed stories and episodes from Anglo-Sikh and Sikh history at the Monopoly Board locations of the Strand, Trafalgar Square, Whitehall, Pall Mall and Northumberland Avenue. Bringing alive episodes from Sikh history, the walk included the stories behind the citations seen at the statues of General Havelock, Sir Charles Napier, John Lawrence and Sir James Outram, and explored events associated with Maharaja Duleep Singh, Prince Victor Duleep Singh and Princess Sophia Duleep Singh.

06

[WALK]

London Bridge Walk with David
by David (Unseen Tours)

David, a Londoner all his life, took participants on a fascinating walk on the south side of the Thames, an area full of mystery and historical tales. The path followed the river on the South Bank, before veering off into Borough's most mysterious alleys. Along the route, the world's greatest food market, a gothic cathedral, an infamous prison, and a secret archaeological dig. David shared his knowledge of the powerful symbols of inequality and social injustice on the way, and told sordid stories of crimes and ghosts – before ending up at one of London's oldest pubs.

08

[TOUR]



Muslim Connections at The British Museum
by AbdulMaalik Tailor (Halal Tourism Britain)

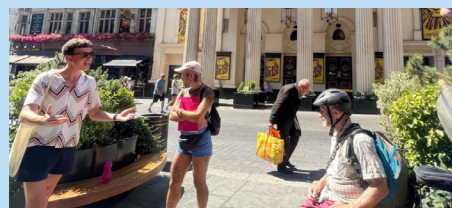
Highlights of this tour included exploring the Muslim pioneers in the Reading Room; looking at the Islamic objects which have been placed outside the Islamic Gallery; examining Britain's oldest connection with Muslims, Vikings, Salahuddin and Richard I; and having a glimpse at the Islamic Gallery to consider the ways objects are labelled and collections organised.

10 [TOUR]

Royal Hospital Chelsea
by The Chelsea Pensioners

This Chelsea Pensioner led tour provided a warm and welcoming visit to the Royal Hospital Chelsea. The tour guide told the story of the 330-year history of the Hospital, taking in the splendour of the Grade I and II listed buildings, inclusive of artistic masterpieces. The tour brought to life the long-standing ambassadorial role of the Chelsea Pensioners, inclusive of anecdotal personal stories of their time at the Hospital.

11 [WORKSHOP]



Queer West-End Tour and Routes / Roots Workshop
by Dani Singer and Dan de la Motte (Queer Tours of London)

Dani and Dan from Queer Tours of London led participants on a tour of London's Theatreland and West End, taking in incredible true stories about some of London's better and lesser-known queer performance icons from the decades before decriminalisation, including 'the cult of the clitoris' and Polari - the secret gay code. Then they were off to the iconic Bishopsgate Institute (home of the Queer Tours of London archive) for a workshop on 'Mapping Your Own Queer Routes/Roots'.

[19]

12 [EVENT]



Partition 75 Years On - A Very British History
by Sadiya Ahmed (Everyday Muslim) for London Unseen

Curated by Sadiya Ahmed, Partition 75 Years On was an evening of discussion with historians, academics, creatives and community members. The event examined the repercussions of the events and intergenerational impact of the partition of India 75 years ago, on the British Asian community in London and throughout the UK. Notably this was the first ever event in recognition of Partition held at City Hall.

13 [WALK]

Black Culture Tours: Islington Walk
by Avril Nanton (Avril's Walks and Talks)

This walk took participants on a journey through Islington and included sites such as where the first Black arts centre in London was opened, where the African National Congress (ANC) had their British headquarters and the location of the Eritrean Embassy.



[AUGUST]

15/17 [Exhibition/Talk]



Narratives of Refugee Memories
by Dr Sanjukta Ghosh and Lata Desai (British Ugandan Asians at 50 & Dr Sanjukta Ghosh, SOAS South Asia Institute)

These events included a tour of the exhibition and a talk by Dr Sanjukta Ghosh and Lata Desai from British Ugandan Asians at 50. Held at SOAS's Wolfson Gallery, in the SOAS Library building, the talks and exhibits provided a creative lens to look again at the archives of Partition in 1947 and the post-Partition settlement history of displaced people of South Asia and beyond.

21 [WALK]



Clapham's Hidden Links to Sierra Leone: The Province of Freedom
by Iyamide Thomas and S.I. Martin

This walk through Clapham Common, facilitated by historian Steve Martin and curator and educator, Iyamide Thomas provided the often untold story of how Britain, through involvement in the Transatlantic Slave Trade and its abolition is uniquely linked to Sierra Leone and its 'Krio' people. The Krio are mainly the descendants of previously enslaved African, African-American and Caribbean people.

23 [WALK]

Black Abolitionist Walking Tour
by Hannah-Rose Murray

Dr. Hannah-Rose Murray took participants to several sites related to Black activism, sharing stories of powerful oratory, literary work, and the relentless campaigns against slavery made by both Black women and men.

24 [WALK]

City of London Tour
by AbdulMaalik Tailor (Halal Tourism Britain)

The tour covered numerous locations around London's 'Square Mile'. It took participants through some of Salahuddin's connections, and the earliest Muslim statues in UK. This guided walk revealed England's most famous immigrant from the Middle East, and uncovered many more hidden gems including architecture, crime stories, the Crusades/Jihad, health, drink, the Great Fire of London and other legends.

23 [WALK]

The Enchanted Forest Of Queen's Park
by Caroline Bourne, Christine Coker and Irina Porter (Shared City)

A spellbinding journey through the magic of nature, this walk included legends about nature from around the world, stories from local history, poetry, art and music, as well as weaving in meditation and mindful movement practices.



31 [WALK]

The Enchanted Forest of Barham Park
by Caroline Bourne, Christine Coker and Irina Porter (Shared City)

Shared City supported participants in opening up their conscious mind to nature by bringing together storytelling, creative arts, meditation and mindful movement on a walk in Barham park.

[SEPTEMBER]

03 [WALK]



Special Event: Four Histories Relay Walk
by Tony Warner (Black History Walks), Rav Singh (A little History of the Sikhs), AbdulMaalik Tailor (Halal Tourism Britain) and Manasi Pophale (History Speak)

Bringing together four experts in their field, each with different areas of historical knowledge, London Unseen's relay walk was a unique opportunity for participants to be led through iconic areas of central London and learn about these spaces through the lenses of Black history, Sikh history, Muslim history and the history of the British Empire

08 [TALK]

Missing Medals: Unearthing Invisible Seafaring Histories of Empire
by London Unseen with Asif Shakoor and Dr. Georgie Weymss

An online conversation between independent scholar Asif Shakoor and Dr Georgie Weymss, Co-Director of Centre for Research on Migration, Refugees and Belonging (CMRB) at University of East London.

Newham resident Asif Shakoor revealed how he discovered that his grandfather had served in Britain's Merchant Navy during the First World War. Since this discovery Asif has carried out considerable research into his grandfather's life as he travelled between continents, including his visit to the Royal Victoria Docks in 1917.



14 [VIRTUAL WALK]

Virtual Black Abolitionist Walking Tour
by Hannah-Rose Murray

Black freedom fighters travelled to the British Isles during the 19th century to educate audiences about the brutalities of slavery, to write and publish their narratives, raise money to legally purchase themselves or family members, or to settle and work here. In their radical and politicised journeys of freedom, they travelled thousands of miles to give lectures in large cities like London and Edinburgh, to small villages like Bakewell, Keswick and Pembroke. This virtual walk took participants on a journey around these sites to explore this important history.

21 [WALK]

Remembering the 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremonies: Exhibition and Walk
by Judith Garfield and Kaaren Cruse (Eastside Community Heritage)

This event brought together an exhibiton launch, tea and cakes and a guided walking tour! The Olympic Park was the site of this shared experience where participants were guided to remember the spectacular Olympic and Paralympic Opening Ceremonies 10 years on and the volunteers who made it all happen. This evocative walk also explored the broader industrial history of the area.



22 [EVENT]



Holding the Flame: A New Form of Public Statue That Speaks to Us All
by Thor McIntyre-Burnie (Aswarm)

Holding the Flame, a prominent Augmented Reality Statue of living civil rights campaigner Marcia Rigg, was specifically created to be in dialogue with its site - a small square outside Brixton Police station. The project was developed in partnership with 81 Acts of Exuberant Defiance (1981-2021) and supported by Lambeth Council, the Met and Arts Council England. This should say: This event marked the launch of a new version of the Holding the Flame app, with a statue viewing, talks and a Q&A with Marcia Rigg and local cultural leaders.

23 [WALK]

Follow the Footsteps of Activist and Workers Champion Francis Kitz
by Geoff Simmons (Summerstn 182)

'Frankie Goes to Collywood' was a walk dedicated to the life and times of a remarkable individual called Francis Kitz who devoted his life to supporting people caught up in the turbulent period of the late industrial revolution.

24 [WALK]

Augmented Chinatown: Guided Walk
by Kakilang (formerly Chinese Arts Now)

London's Chinatown, and the area it sits in, has been the stage for a multitude of stories over its constantly evolving history. Augmented Chinatown 2.0 brought some of those stories to life in an immersive augmented reality experience which mixed striking visuals, miniature audio dramas, atmospheric music and a guided tour through the area's past and present and how it became the centre of the Chinese community in London.

26 [WALK]

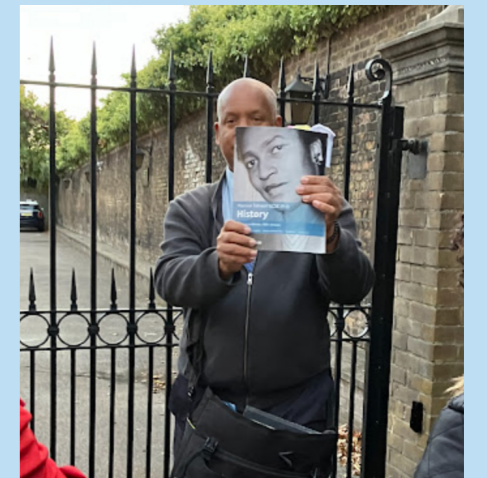
Secrets of Soho
by Tony Warner (Black History Walks)

This special walk delved into an amazing depth of African Caribbean history between Soho Square and Russell Square including: Ancient African civilisations, Black female entrepreneurs, the Marcus Garvey connection, academia and the white curriculum, Black British civil rights activists, forgotten African genocide of the 20th century, Black women broadcasters, equality in the military, Mary Seacole, Walter Rodney and Ivan Van Sertima.

28 [TALK]

How to Teach GCSE Black History with Authors Robin Walker and Tony Warner
by London Unseen, with Tony Warner and Robin Walker

A conversation between Robin Walker 'The Black History Man' and author and founder of Black History Walks, Tony Warner. Robin and Tony discussed their publications, which support the teaching and learning of Black history at secondary school and GCSE level and considered the broader context of Black history in the curriculum.



29 [WALK]

Jewish History Walk Through the City of London from Newgate to Aldgate
by Sam L. Jacobs

The Jewish story of the City of London - from penniless immigrants to the Jewish Lord Mayors of London. In this visit participants looked at the financial heart and wealthiest part of London and it's Jewish history from 1066 onwards.

[OCTOBER]

01 [WALK]

'Up The Junction' Celebrating Romany Gypsy and Traveller Heritage

by Geoff Simmons (Summerstown 182)

The 'Up the Junction' guided walk was the perfect warm-up to 'The People of Wardley Street' project, unveiling a plaque to celebrate Romany Gypsy and Traveller heritage in Wandsworth a few weeks later.

02 [WALK]

Black History Bus Tour
by Tony Warner (Black History Walks)

A three-hour drive which showed London's top tourist attractions from an African Caribbean perspective. This private bus tour provided at least 2000 years of Black history to its participants! The journey started in Brixton before leaving for a circular tour of London's typical attractions (Tower of London, Trafalgar Square, Houses of Parliament etc.) but with a difference - it shared and explained all the hidden Black connections in these well-known public spaces.

01 [WALK]



Deptford's History of the Slave Trade
by Museum of Slavery and Freedom (MōSaF)

MōSaF's guided walk provided a historical snapshot of how, and exactly where on Deptford's streets and bankside, our citizens, businesses and institutions were involved in the trade. Starting at the Thames riverside it explored the area's historic connections to the triangular slave trade and the fight for freedom from it, marking out places where the fight for abolition took place.

[23]



02 [WALK]

Planet Tooting Walk
by Geoff Simmons (Summerstown)

In an extraordinary ceremony on 2nd October, residents (who had come from all over the world to live in the area) gathered on Tooting Market to unveil the Planet Tooting Plaque, which celebrates the contributions of migrants to the area. Early migrants were Huguenots, Jewish tailors and Irish people who arrived to work in the hospital, but arrivals in the last sixty years have made this corner of south west London the vibrant and supportive community it is today. Geoff's walk showcased everything from the first South Asian grocery business in Tooting to the reggae recording studio, now a West Indian bakery, the history of yesterday very much connecting with the reality of today.

06 [WALK]



Jewish History Walk Around Whitechapel
by Sam L. Jacobs

This walk went through and past a Roman gate, a Medieval Church, sculptures, Synagogues Ashkenazi, Sephardi and Dutch. On the tour, walkers learned about Jack the Ripper, monasteries, basketball heroes, entertainers, painters and street markets. Participants explored stories from and about Chaucer, the Huguenots, Irish, Jewish and Sylhet migrants through to socialists, revolutionaries and soup kitchens.

08 [WORKSHOP]

Girls Talk: Celebrating the Day of the 'Girl-Child'
by Pascal Theatre Company

October 11th is the International Day of the Girl Child. To mark this day, Pascal Theatre welcomed girls to a safe space to reflect on being 'girl children' and consider what it means to be a girl or young woman in 2022. The workshop questioned how different or similar the pressures are on young women now to those on girls 150 years ago. How similar or different too are their aspirations and the opportunities open to them? In this workshop, Pascal Theatre explored barriers women have faced over the years and discussed how we can look to trailblazers from previous generations, such as Octavia Hill, for inspiration and to learn from.

15 [WALK]

Re-Tracing Localities: an artist led walk and exploration of Brick Lane

by British South-Asian Visual Artists

BSAVA was set up by artist / interim course leader, Raksha Patel and artist / professor in painting, Daniel Sturgis, from Camberwell College of Arts. This walk formed part of their research project entitled British South-Asian Visual Art Post Cool Britannia that explores contemporary art from the South-Asian diaspora. Led by sound artist DJ Ritu, the walk explored the area's rich changing culture, topics of migration, settlement and community with a focus on the history of the local Bangladeshi community. A mix of staff and students from Camberwell College of Arts alongside the public came together to experience this walk and were also invited to respond through artwork, examples of which were shown at City Hall.



[24]

08/16 [WORKSHOP]

Same Place, Different Perspectives
by Rav Singh (A little History of the Sikhs), The Chelsea Pensioners and Manasi Pophale (History Speak)

These workshops, spread over two days, invited young people to explore the Royal Hospital Chelsea from two different perspectives. Hearing and learning about this heritage site from the Chelsea Pensioners and then from Rav Singh (A little History of the Sikhs), this workshop, devised by Manasi Pophale (History Speak) and London Unseen, supported the young people in recording their impressions and reflecting on the stories that resonated with them. The workshop ended with a making session, with the young people creating their own designs for statues or monuments to be placed within the hospital grounds.



19/27 [WORKSHOP]



Southwark Today: A Practical Guide to Working with Community Stories
by London Unseen with Grace Crannis (Syrup) and Southwark Council's heritage and archives staff

For London Unseen, design studio Syrup teamed up with the Southwark Heritage Centre's curatorial and archive staff to lead two workshops for people interested in community storytelling. With input from people who have recently completed their own projects as part of the Southwark Today exhibition, advice and practical tips were shared on how to work with and label archival material; how to approach community storytelling and oral history projects; the ethics of such work; and much, much more. The workshops offered real inspiration and support for participants wanting to start their own community projects.

22 [WALK]



People of Wardley Street, Wandsworth: Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Heritage
by Geoff Simmons (Summerstown 182)

The walk identified individual stories, the sites of industries along the River Wandle that sustained this community and the graveyard where many of them were buried. Wardley Street was largely demolished in the late fifties but some of the Traveller community returned to the undeveloped site in the seventies leading to the establishment of a permanent site less than a mile away. Wardley Street is a 'spiritual home' for people of Traveller heritage, woven into the family history of so many people, not just in Wandsworth or London, but all over the world.

26 [WALK]

Black History Walk Elephant & Castle
by Tony Warner (Black History Walks)

This walk linked the Imperial War Museum with the Cumin Museum of Ancient Egypt. It illustrated more than 200 years of Black history with tales of the Will Smith of 1800's London, the strategic planning of the Windrush generation, African soldiers and their centuries of service to Britain and India and Africa's enormous role in WW2.

08 [TALK]

Documentary, Co-Authorship and Visual Storytelling in the Public Realm
by London Unseen with Future Hackney

A talk from Future Hackney exploring documentary, co-authorship & visual storytelling within East London's communities. Future Hackney's primary focus is on social issues and change within the London Borough of Hackney. This talk by Don Travis and Wayne Crichlow explored their approach to documenting the Caribbean and African communities in Dalston over the last three years.

5/11 [WALK]



Deptford's History of the Slave Trade
by Museum of Slavery and Freedom (MōSaF)

MōSaF's guided walk provided a historical snapshot of how, and exactly where on Deptford's streets and bankside, our citizens, businesses and institutions were involved in the trade. Starting at the Thames riverside it explored the area's historic connections to the triangular slave trade and the fight for freedom from it, marking out places where the fight for abolition took place.

17 [TALK]

Black History London: In Conversation
by London Unseen with Avril Nanton and Jody Burton

This talk brought Avril Nanton and Jody Burton together to mark the recent publication of their map: Black History London. Avril and Jody discussed their partnership which began with the research for their book Black London: History, Art and Culture in over 120 places and touched on the need for more recognition of women in history and the public realm.

29 [TALK]

Mind Your Language: Describing Disability Culture
by London Unseen, curated by Alex Cowan (NDACA)

This event explored the importance and impact of the language used in archives and collections to represent disability culture. Speakers included key figures in the Disability Arts Movement: Tony Heaton OBE, Allan Sutherland and Tanya Raabe-Webber alongside views from the archive from Lisa Kennedy, Sarah Saunders and Alex Cowan.

29 [WORKSHOP]



Looking for Black Mary: Reasoning Circle
by Gaylene Gould and Zaynab Bunsie (The Space to Come)

Artist-curator Gaylene Gould and team are on a creative mission to revive Black Mary's Hole, a fabled 17th Century healing well where, legend has it, a black woman Mary Woolaston lived and worked on the Kings Cross/Clerkenwell border. This, the first event in the project explored the questions: who was Black Mary? Did she exist? If so what kind of healing practices might she have used? And what about London's forgotten healing water centre? Starting at Calthorpe Community Gardens, the circle considered what a contemporary healing centre could look like if it were influenced by the traditions of London's global communities.

[WHAT AUDIENCES SAID]

Over the season, audiences were given opportunities to give us feedback on the walks and events they attended.

Key findings and a selection of comments from across all walks and events are included below.

- 🌸 95% of our audiences learned something new
- 🌸 93% said that attending events inspired them to look further into histories of London or deeper into the focus of the event
- 🌸 96% enjoyed the event or walk they attended either a lot or a great deal

Everything was great, keep up this good work!

I came away with many more ideas and greater awareness of issues around accessibility.

I found it absorbing! Excellent.

It really was perfect.

I learned many interesting facts.

I saw important monuments which I had heard of but never seen in my many years of living in London.

Insight into parts of history I didn't know about and greater awareness of other cultures and their history.

Such rich amazing stories.

The depth of the insightful explanations brought the subject areas alive.

I learnt so much.

[The walks] taught me so much about my family history.

[I enjoyed] the breadth of ethnic history but also the span of time it covered and how each topic overlapped in time and space.

Fantastic record of stories!

I learned loads about our local area.

I enjoyed the walk in its entirety.

Learned so much - eyes opened to London in new ways - challenged my perception.

I enjoyed meeting new people as far away as America and it was a very nice day.

Everybody was made to feel very welcome.

The walk was very informative, interesting, well organised and it was a pleasure and a privilege to have attended it. Thank you!

[27]

On the next few pages, we share insights from the practitioners themselves, alongside signposting further resources and guidance for people working in community heritage.



[28]

TIPS & ADVICE

[FROM OUR PRACTITIONERS]

Before embarking on a guided walk, provide an activity for people at the meeting point, so people by themselves have a chance to talk to others and feel included, using the activity as an ice breaker

Be prepared to talk-up that you are part of a bigger cross-London programme and tell people there are a lot of other things going on. Don't be afraid to take on larger numbers than you think you might be able to manage on Walks as there are always going to be cancellations and no-shows and having lots of people attend creates a real sense-of-occasion. Make the most of the expertise on hand and don't be afraid to ask questions or make suggestions

The resource should include info on public liability insurance and risk assessment as I found these useful. Good for practitioners to do the trail just before the planned walk (maybe a week) as surroundings might have changed from last time or in my case was good to investigate where we could sit and eat the food I provided, which meant I didn't have to continue looking for venue space as I had been doing. Thankfully the weather was fine and the benches worked! Good to do an Eventbrite page so you can tell people what to expect, they have your contact for questions and you can customise follow-up emails to participants etc. Take lots of photographs you can use in a blog or Facebook. Good to take a full group photograph at the start so you don't forget at the end like I did!

Decolonising spaces in the public realm is still in its infancy. Other organising should continue to work with each other and the Mayor's department in order for this initiative to keep going

When working with teenagers, be aware of the need for parental/guardian consent for use of images, permission for children to leave a premises alone, in the event of any emergency etc. However, there is a need to balance this with recognising older teenagers' wish to be independent and to just turn up. Ideally, we think, the venue for an event should be one that has a reputation for working with the age group targeted. Be prepared to collect parents'/carers'/guardians' contact details at the door

Use your imagination, creativity and just do it!!

Reach out to other organisations who can help and support

Talk to other practitioners doing similar work - develop partnerships and collaborations, give yourself plenty of time to plan and to promote your event/activity

Have a plan and test your product. I have been doing this for 8 years now, testing and refining our tours (under the radar) since 2014. For 5 years, we worked in Museums and the Public Realm (free to visit), but asked attendees to pay a small contribution to keep us going and offset costs. We often had 9 attendees and photos only. Now we have tours upwards of 50+ people, coaches arriving from across the UK, we co-ordinate and work as partners with the Royal Hospital, the Museums, and Historic Royal Palaces, Churches. Rooms are provided, access is provided, and all our group needs are catered for through a will to make this happen. We have a film and edit team, social media experts and publish papers in University Journals to embed the stories for future generations to find.

However, this would not have possible without the experience of working with those institutions at a grass roots level for 5 years. All too often, practitioners have an idea, but search for funding to bring their idea to life. They then demand that they are supported financially by public sector providers (I know - I was on the other side for many years, on the funding side). But everything is a risk game, funders like to fund low risk projects that they are confident will succeed and meet their objectives - not projects that may fail.

I initially developed all our projects building on what is free (Museums, Galleries), and worked in the parks and public realm, becoming a narrator of stories to make statues and buildings talk. We avoided ticketed sites, like St Pauls, Westminster Abbey etc. Today, I am humbled and proud that institutions work with us and treat us as experts and partners - allowing us to tell our stories, which can sometimes be uncomfortable for them. This requires skill, to not offend or be discourteous, but work with humility and try to explain both sides of the narrative.

I could write you a whole book on this, but it's all about managing the ego - work humbly, be open to discussions, even those that are uncomfortable, and weave stories into a fun day-out in London; ignite the desire to learn something via books rather than the mainstream media. I have also only relied on word of mouth marketing and social media messages (shares, WhatsApp). In this game, you also realise how much marketing and support you need to fill spaces - and marketing comes at a very high costs for little or no reward - hence why the support of the Mayor of London, the Chelsea History Festival, Historic Royal Palaces matters so much, and allows me to focus on the stories!

[FURTHER RESOURCES]

Wider, informative resources which have come out of the season include the [Heritage Directory](#), which lists community history experts and projects across London. A lot of the advice given by practitioners points to the importance of collaborating and co-creating as a source - and force - of shared skills and knowledge. The Heritage Directory is a good starting point to illustrate what is happening. And it is growing. Feel free to dip into it and even suggest other experts and projects that you may know of - or might be starting yourselves in the future.

The London Unseen website also shares listings of community-led [Self-Guided Walks](#). Again, if you'd like to dip into some of these, gain inspiration or include others which you feel are important to share, they can be added to this space.

A number of practitioners wrote blogs about the work they do in heritage or their contribution to the season. And we were pleased to be able to host a number of online talks as part of the programme.

From questions of co-authorship to teaching Black History in schools; from reflections on family histories that link to hidden histories of Empire to publishing research, you will find many insights. In these resources, you can revisit the important conversation around how the language used in archives and collections represents disability culture, and consider - like many other decolonial struggles - how much still needs to change and the parts we all play.

Watch all these recordings and read practitioners' reflections on the London Unseen [talks and blogs page](#).



For funding insights, watch Parts 1 and 2 of Community Led Collaborations: Opportunities and Challenges, a half-day workshop with Universities, community heritage practitioners and funders to learn from the discussions around funding policy decisions and their impact on community heritage and University partnerships.

We take this space to also remind you of the importance of carrying out risk assessments and taking out public liability insurance (find examples of risk assessments online, and use comparison websites to compare insurance rates).

Finally, take a cue from the work of [Purple Stars](#) to consider how far the work you do is accessible.

THANK YOU *THANK YOU* THANK YOU

We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed to making this programme so rich, powerful and valuable.

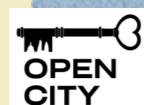
The commitment of the practitioners to the work they do is truly inspiring. In the face of resistance from institutions that set the rules and govern us, this work restores faith and provides motivation to keep working towards the goal of equity within our public spaces, between each other and across society.



Special thanks to Sadiya Ahmed (Everyday Muslim) for event curation; to Hassan Vawda, Community Engagement Officer for the Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm at the GLA for developing the idea of London Unseen together with practitioners, and for his consistent enthusiasm and belief in the programme; to Chetna Kapacee, Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm Programme Manager for overseeing this project with genuine care. Also thanks to Sagar Shah for marketing and PR support, and Agnese Manfrin and Sayed Ahmed for website development and general support.

A huge, huge thank you to all the practitioners who contribute so generously in raising voices in heritage and culture.

Partners of London Unseen:





MAYOR OF LONDON