

Rosetta Arts to celebrate 30th anniversary with year-long programme of events

Rosetta Arts, Newham's arts charity, will be celebrating their 30th anniversary with a year-long programme of events. "Rosetta Arts Turns 30", which will take place throughout 2023, will celebrate and record the cultural and creative impact the charity has had on the diverse communities of Newham over the past three decades.

Founded in 1993 by radical educator and artist, Yvonne Humble, Rosetta Arts has delivered creative learning to thousands of people in this East London community, aiming to help them to express their cultural identity. To celebrate this milestone birthday, the year-long programme will showcase eclectic, diverse and creative events, activities, research and workshops anchored in their history within the borough of Newham. The celebration has been made possible thanks to a £77,334 grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, who also support Newham Heritage Month alongside other projects in the borough.

The programme will reflect on the past 30 years and will honour the ways Rosetta Arts has brought creative outlets to the communities of Newham and wider East London; supporting personal wellbeing, creating economic prosperity and making the community a better place to live through celebrations of heritage. The highlight of the programme will be a large 30th anniversary celebration across the existing Rosetta Arts Centre and [new Rosetta Arts Creative Wellbeing Space](#), due to open in Summer 2023.

"Rosetta Arts Turns 30" will explore its heritage through three key strands; **RESEARCH**, **ACTIVATE** and **PRESENT**.

- The **RESEARCH** strand will be led by Trisha McCauley, Director of [The Humble Gallery](#), Newham, an archivist and curator trained in oral history. Working with dedicated volunteers, they will research Rosetta's impact across the borough, drawing from local resources. This will be accompanied by interviews and photography portraits of 30 key collaborators from the past 30 years. The *Rosetta Arts Photography Collective* will capture photographic portraits and work with local volunteers from our network to capture, transcribe and translate the oral histories. This research material will form the foundation of a public Rosetta Arts archive, a digital portal held online as a permanent, community-built, accessible resource to be used and developed for years to come.
- The **ACTIVATE** strand will focus on workshops to engage the East London community with the heritage of Rosetta Arts. Workshops will occur across the year that focus on, encouraging social connections, environmental preservation, staying active, the development of creative skills and the beauty of Newham. The workshops will provide creative exploration of the heritage of Rosetta Arts using the archival material and research developed as a starting point for learning.
- Rosetta Arts will then **PRESENT** a public exhibition across the new and existing Rosetta Arts venues and online, sharing the story of Rosetta through the oral histories and

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portraits. This will include a newly commissioned piece formed collaboratively with a local artist, using the archival material, live creation elements, oral histories and works from the workshops to create an art piece that responds to the legacy of Rosetta Arts. This will be permanently displayed at the new Rosetta Arts Creative Wellbeing Space opening in Green St, E13 in summer 2023, and will serve as a visual reminder of the 30 year history that has led to Rosetta's growth journey. The Rosetta Arts archive will be launched online and with partners across the borough at a live event as well as arts activation opportunities.

Sanaz Amidi, CEO - Rosetta Arts said:

“To reach our 30-year milestone is a real testament to the much-loved and valued work of Rosetta Arts and its achievements. This anniversary is a fantastic opportunity for our team, members, artists and supporters to take stock and really celebrate the impact we have made over the past three decades. We're honoured that The National Lottery Heritage Fund believes this is a project worth supporting. Our anniversary plans aim to encapsulate everything Rosetta Arts has strived for and valued over the past 30 years, we can't wait to begin the celebrations.”

Stuart McLeod, Director England - London & South at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: “We are delighted to support Rosetta Arts with their 30th anniversary celebration programme, thanks to money raised by National Lottery players. Over the last 30 years they have supported their community to explore their heritage through the arts and it has positively engaged with thousands from the borough. This year-long celebration will mean that even more people are able to get involved with the exciting heritage right on their doorstep.

“At the Heritage Fund, Newham is an area of focus for us as it's somewhere we see real potential for heritage. We're proud to already work within the community through projects like Newham Heritage Month and we are looking forward to continuing to unlock wider local ambitions, particularly around community engagement, wellbeing, regeneration, economy and local pride and identity.”

Rosetta Arts supports thousands of residents to create art that enables them to express identity, explore local neighbourhoods, upskill creative practices and forge new connections. Through engaging residents in programming that commemorates the past and directs future they aim to remind community members of the importance of their lived experience and contribution to the cultural fabric of the borough.

#RosettaArtsTurns30
@RosettaArts

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About the National Lottery Heritage Fund

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we **Inspire, lead** and **resource** the UK's heritage to create **positive and lasting change** for people and communities, now and in the future.

www.heritagefund.org.uk.

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Each week, National Lottery players raise £30 million for good causes across the UK. Since The National Lottery began in 1994, National Lottery players have raised over £43 billion for projects and more than 635,000 grants have been awarded across the UK.

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