



# THIS IS CROYDON

Version 1.0 - March 2023

# INTRODUCTION

**THIS IS CROYDON WILL BE A BIG, BOLD AND CROSS-CULTURAL CELEBRATION OF THE BOROUGH'S UNIQUE IDENTITY, HERITAGE AND CHARACTER.**

It will celebrate Croydon as London's most innovative and dynamic borough. The programme is headlined with new events and commissions from leading international artists and emerging home-grown talent. It includes year-long schemes to enable sector development and over 25 projects of varying scales supported via a This is Croydon fund. The programme continues to develop; still to come is the announcement of a small grant scheme and community join-in programmes which will enable hundreds of grassroots activities led by organisations in every corner of the borough to take part.

**THIS IS CROYDON...  
AND YOU'RE WELCOME.**

[www.culturecroydon.com](http://www.culturecroydon.com) @culturecroydon #ThisisCroydon #CultureCroydon

# PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS 2023

April 2023 - May 2023

June 2023 - August 2023

## CARIBBEAN INFLUENCERS

📅 April 2023  
📍 Croydon Museum

## MUSIC HERITAGE TRAIL

📅 June 2023  
📍 Online & Queen's Garden

## WHY ON EARTH

📅 July 2023  
📍 The BRIT School

## YOUTH ARTS FESTIVAL

📅 13 July 2023  
📍 Wandle Park

## CROYDON PRIDE

📅 15 July 2023  
📍 Wandle Park

## CROYDON MELA

📅 16 July 2023  
📍 Wandle Park

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIP HOP

📅 August 2023

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

## ORATORIO OF HOPE

📅 1 April 2023  
📍 Fairfield Halls

## COMMONS: A DANCE FESTIVAL

📅 May 2023  
📍 Stanley Arts

## IN RECOGNITION

📅 1-24 June 2023  
📍 Fairfield Halls

## DESIRE PATHS

📅 July 2023  
📍 Around the borough

## LONDON ROAD CARNIVAL

📅 30 July 2023  
📍 London Road

## FAMILY PRIDE

📅 July 2023  
📍 Stanley Arts

## CROYDON STANDS TALL

📅 August 2023  
📍 Croydon Town Centre



THIS IS CROYDON LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE  
THIS IS CROYDON LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE  
THIS IS CROYDON LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE  
THIS IS CROYDON LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE

# PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS 2023/24

September 2023 - October 2023

## OPEN HOUSE FESTIVAL

📅 September 2023  
📍 Various

## THIS IS OUR CROYDON

📅 October 2023  
📍 David Lean Cinema

## THE MULTIVERSE

📅 October 2023

SEPT

OCT

## LIBERTY FESTIVAL

📅 September 2023  
📍 Fairfield Halls

## THE NORWOOD JUNKACTION FESTIVAL

📅 September 2023  
📍 South Norwood

## THE UKRAINE NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

📅 October 2023  
📍 Fairfield Halls

## REQUARDT & ROSENBERG

📅 October 2023

November 2023 - January 2024

## NIGHTSHIFT

📅 November 2023  
📍 Stanley Arts

## STEPPING STONES

📅 December 2023  
📍 Fairfield Halls

NOV

DEC

JAN

## HOUSE OF COMMON

📅 November 2023  
📍 Stanley Arts

## THE WELCOMING PARTY

📅 January 2024  
📍 Stanley Arts

February 2024 - March 2024

## STANLEY ARTS' COLLIDE

📅 February 2024  
📍 Stanley Arts

FEB

MARCH

## FINALE EVENT

📅 March 2024

## SAVVY THEATRE'S

📅 March 2024  
📍 Fairfield Halls

THIS IS CROYDON LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE  
THIS IS CROYDON LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE  
THIS IS CROYDON LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE



# ORATORIO OF HOPE

📅 1 April 2023  
📍 Fairfield Halls

This is Croydon opens on 1 April 2023 with Oratorio of Hope; a brand-new commission led by the London Mozart Players and inspired by a new commission from Poet Laureate Shaniqua Begum. Involving hundreds of the borough's young singers and instrumentalists in the creation and performance, Grammy nominated and Croydon educated Tarik O'Regan leads on composition.

# CARIBBEAN INFLUENCERS

📅 April 2023  
📍 Croydon Museum

Delivered by Croydon Museum in partnership with the National Portrait Gallery. Caribbean Influencers is a new exhibition focusing on the lives of Croydon residents who have shaped Croydon through their Caribbean roots but are often uncredited or underrepresented.

📱 [www.culturecroydon.com](https://www.culturecroydon.com)



# APRIL

THIS IS CROYDON LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE

# COMMONS: A DANCE FESTIVAL

📅 May 2023

📍 Stanley Arts

Stanley Arts continues its commitment to showcasing dance for everyone with a joyful two-week programme of workshops, performances and parties; all celebrating the glorious diversity of dance from vogue ballroom to Bharatanatyam.

# MAY



Croydon's musical heritage spans the eras. The cutting-edge sounds of Punk, Dubstep, Grime and Drill all sparked into existence here. Music runs deep in our DNA. We are particularly known for cross genre work and have a rich history of music making in our Black and Asian communities.

## THE MUSIC HERITAGE TRAIL FESTIVAL

📅 June 2023

📍 Online & Queen's Garden

Stanley Arts continues its commitment to showcasing dance for everyone with a joyful two-week programme of workshops, performances and parties; all celebrating the glorious diversity of dance from vogue ballroom to Bharatanatyam.

## IN RECOGNITION

📅 1-24 June 2023

📍 Fairfield Halls

Black British theatre company Talawa explore how the lives of a modern generation relate to the story of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, a dual heritage composer who lived in Croydon and was hugely successful in the late-Victorian and Edwardian eras.

📱 [www.culturecroydon.com](https://www.culturecroydon.com)



# JUNE





# DESIRE PATHS

📅 July 2023  
📍 Around the borough

In Desire Paths TURF will work on participatory projects to design community-driven solutions to town planning and the visual identity of Croydon.

# WHY ON EARTH

📅 July 2023  
📍 The BRIT School

Combines a new and original musical production, performances, workshops, and the creative energy of The BRIT School's young artists, to inspire thousands of children from across Croydon into action around the climate crisis, and to nurture their love of (and engagement in) the performing arts.

# JULY



# 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIP HOP

📅 August 2023

August sees the celebration of the 50th anniversary of hip hop, with events throughout the year, August sees a special anniversary family participation programme including dance legend Popin' Pete.

## CROYDON STANDS TALL

📅 August 2023

📍 Around Croydon Town Centre

The culmination of a 10-week mass participation arts programme will result in over 30 eight-foot-tall giraffe sculptures hitting the streets of Croydon across the summer. Internationally renowned Wild in Art lead Croydon Stands Tall.

📱 [www.culturecroydon.com](https://www.culturecroydon.com)

# AUGUST

**THIS IS CROYDON**  
LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE

**THIS IS CROYDON**  
LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE



# SEPTEMBER



During September we will be exploring the borough's architecture and history as part of Open House Festival and Heritage Open Days.

## LIBERTY FESTIVAL

📅 September 2023

📍 Various

Liberty festival comes to Croydon bringing a D/deaf and disabled artist-led programme of ground-breaking art and performance, interactive installations, workshops and debates, new commissions and participatory workshops for all.

## NORWOOD JUNKACTION FESTIVAL

📅 September 2023

📍 South Norwood

An eco-community art project will turn litter into public sculptures for the Norwood JunkAction Festival and eco-themes are also explored in Fashion Meets Music's community fashion show championing the circular economy and upcycling.

# OCTOBER



Black history and culture are celebrated this month, and throughout the autumn, with Croydon BME Forum's ground-breaking 365 programme. The David Lean Cinema will be screening a series of Black British films.

## THIS IS OUR CROYDON

📅 October 2023

📍 David Lean Cinema

Talawa's This is Our Croydon tells the 150 year+ story of 30 Black Croydonians.

## THE UKRAINE NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

📅 October 2023

📍 Fairfield Halls

The Ukraine National Symphony Orchestra take part in Fairfield's International Symphony Concert series, along with an outreach programme for young people in the borough.

THIS IS CROYDON LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE



# NIGHTSHIFT

📅 November 2023

📍 Stanley Arts

ZooCo's Nightshift has its Croydon premiere. A highly visual theatre piece performed by eight D/deaf and hearing actors and a community ensemble, using BSL, spoken English, creative captioning and integrated audio-description.

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

📅 November 2023

📍 Stanley Arts

House of Commons is a striking new show and participatory project about democracy, teenage voting rights and power. Boundless Theatre's radical staging design places the action within a box with two-way mirrors. Innovative wraparound activity encourages democratic engagement from young adults.

# NOVEMBER



THIS IS CROYDON LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE

# STEPPING STONES

📅 December 2023

📍 Fairfield Halls

Using Pinocchio as source material, Savvy Theatre bring together 11 local community groups in a shared celebration of journey and transformation through a new show which makes use of movement, mask, clowning, music and spoken word. The cast of Stepping Stones will be made of those who have had experience of homelessness, substance abuse, mental health issues, and disability.



# THE WELCOMING PARTY

📅 January 2024

📍 Stanley Arts

Theatre Rites brings immersive theatre to young children and their families in The Welcoming Party. Using dance, music and puppetry the piece will explore themes of migration and refuge.

# JANUARY





# FEBRUARY



## STANLEY ARTS QUEER ARTS

📅 February 2024

📍 Stanley Arts

Stanley Arts' Queer Arts development programme culminates with a vogue ball and with Collide - two performing arts and two visual arts commission.

# MARCH

A photograph of a group of people dancing at a social event. In the foreground, a man in a dark patterned shirt is dancing with a woman in a white floral top. Other people are visible in the background, some clapping and smiling. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an indoor venue.

## FINALE EVENTS

📅 March 2024

A series of culminating and finale events including Savvy Theatre's new writing strand; Young Croydon Composers showcasing musical talent; and a new commission which will close the year of culture in a true celebration of all things Croydon.

This is Croydon is being delivered through a unique collaboration between the cultural organisations and people of the borough in partnership with Croydon Council. It is made possible with funds from the Greater London Authority, Arts Council England and National Lottery Heritage Fund.

This is Croydon will leave a tangible legacy in the borough of improved access to and increased engagement in excellent arts and heritage programmes; of developed cultural leadership; of a more representative and inclusive cultural offer; more opportunities for young people to develop their creative abilities; and increased civic pride.

[www.culturecroydon.com](http://www.culturecroydon.com)

