

## **Dear Friend of the Hogarth**

I hope everyone had a very enjoyable and relaxing summer. The highlights of the past three months include delivery of our flagship Summer Programme, two successful grant applications, the refurbishment of our courtyard and, most importantly for the Charity's long-term viability, receipt of the first draft of a new long-term lease from the London Borough of Hounslow ("LBH").

### **PROJECT 2023 (Youth Programme 2023)**

Our Summer Programme ran for four weeks (24<sup>th</sup> July to 17<sup>th</sup> August). Planning for its structure and contents started as early as February. Usually covering 16 days this year we increased it to 19 days, calling for broader support from 16 support youth workers – we thank them all for their super energy, commitment and professionalism. As always, we ended the programme with a residential trip, for a second time to the Isle of Wight. With funding support from our June wine tasting we increased the number of residential attendees from 18 to 27 – a record for the Charity - which required eight youth workers and three minibuses.

Centre activities over the summer included Multi-Sports (football, basketball, tennis and table tennis), boxing training, cookery lessons, a DJ'ing workshop, a dance workshop with ArtsEd School, jewellery making, stone masonry and two tournaments: the Carol Heap Cup (football) and the Tony Heap Cup (basketball). Off-site trips in London included a very popular excursion to Coral Reef.

Thanks to a Holiday Activities & Food Programme ("HAF") grant from LBH we ensured that every attendee was well fed and enjoyed a hot, nutritious meal every day. We also included a Community Fun Day specifically for parents and carers.

In all, our Summer Programme served over 200 young people who attended 950 times, a similar level of participation to 2022. By the end of September, Denny and his team have delivered 146 days of uninterrupted youth service this year plus several Saturday morning football sessions with another 48 days remaining in PROJECT 2023 which will include our fifth holiday programme at the end of October.

From 26<sup>th</sup> September to the end of March 2024 our youth team will work in partnership with Years 7, 8 and 9 at Chiswick School to run a targeted

intervention programme called “*Get off the fence*”. This is specifically designed to prevent exploitation, serious youth violence, criminality, gang activity and anti-social behaviour.

## **FINANCE AND FUNDING**

### ***Centre Revenue & Costs***

Our Centre Manager Dani Karas remains firmly on track to generate license fees of more than £160,000 in 2023, a year-on-year increase of more than 10% and a record for the Centre. Thus far this year Dani has licensed space in the Centre to 42 short term users and 16 long term users, recently adding Brazilian jiu-jitsu and Chinese language tuition. As you may recall the license fee surplus after covering Centre operating costs (2023 estimated £105,000) is used to part fund our youth work (2023 estimated £135,000).

We continue to do whatever we can to reduce the Centre’s energy costs and recently signed a new 12-month gas supply contract starting in January 2024. We expect this will reduce next year’s annual heating costs by around £16,000. Although this will bring some welcome relief, general cost inflation remains elevated and a challenge.

A £1,000 grant from LBH part-funded the refurbishment of our courtyard which was completed in early September. New tables, seating, lighting and flooring were installed by Meredydd Howells, our super-capable maintenance provider, to make this a much more welcoming space for all users and enhance the Centre’s appeal as a community asset.

Work continues to upgrade the Charity’s website which will be launched in November.

### ***Grants & Sponsorships***

Our HAF grant enabled us to provide hot and nutritious food to our Summer Programme attendees. As a result of this in August we received an unannounced Council inspection because we prepare food onsite. Their report graded our provision of service to be the highest standard of EXCELLENT which is a resounding endorsement of the diligence and professionalism of our youth team.

Our grant application to LBH's Thriving Communities Fund Revenue Round One was successful and we received the first half of the grant in September. This will part-fund the intervention programme which we will run with Chiswick School in 2023/24.

We wait to hear if we will receive a grant from Tesco's Community Grants Scheme.

## **CHARITY MATTERS**

In September we were delighted to receive the first draft of a new long-term lease for the Centre from the Council. With generous assistance and expert advice from Jonathan Walsh, our honorary solicitor, we will do our best to complete negotiations before year end.

During the summer our Accounts Manager, Jamilla Amra, filed our 2022 Report & Accounts with UK Companies House and the UK Charities Commission following their examination by our accountant, Colin Airey of George Hay.

Every year we strive to do more to help young people and our local community – that is our mission. This requires regular and material funding support from the Council, small businesses and many generous local residents. We thank our growing network of supporters for their partnership.

Our youth work must constantly adapt to the changing needs and interests of young people, but constant throughout and underpinning our safe delivery is a team of committed youth workers, led by Denny Anthony and Naomi Alleyne, who really care.

**Thank you for your continued support**  
**The Trustees, Youth Team, Centre Staff**

and our many hundreds of young participants



We would very much like to retain your contact details so that we can update you on our progress and events. If you do not wish to be updated, please respond to this e-mail with the word **UNSUBSCRIBE** and we will remove you from our records, in line with data protection (GDPR) requirements.