



Exciting new plans for Cockpit Deptford



Photographer: Dominic Marley



Maker: Jasmine Carey/Deco 22 Photographer: Jamie Trounce

Cockpit has been at Creekside for over 20 years and its community of makers are supportive of proposals designed to welcome local people to explore the creativity on their doorstep and participate in craft activities.

A sensitive renovation will see the Deptford building open its doors to the local community with a courtyard garden accessed from Creekside and a small, public cafe. A new education space on the ground floor will host workshops, exhibitions and craft events. Additionally new studios in the rear yard and an internal reconfiguration will improve facilities for the makers' community and create space for 20 new businesses.



A rich creative history

Cockpit has a unique place in Deptford's history and wishes to secure the future of craft and making in the local area through a £2.35m investment from Stride, the Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund, and London Borough of Lewisham.

With maker space in the capital in decline, Cockpit aims to strengthen its place in London and the organisation has recently been recognised as an example of best practice by the Mayor of London's Culture at Risk campaign.

Close to the conservation area, Cockpit Deptford is located within an area rich with creative and educational organisations including the Deptford & New Cross Creative Enterprise Zone, the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance and the Creekside Discovery Centre.

New public spaces would enable Cockpit to strengthen relationships within the community and with Lewisham organisations, and welcome local people into the heart of its working community of makers.





Love Over Gold

Dating back nearly 50 years, Love Over Gold is an important part of Crossfield's cultural history.

Originally painted by a Crossfields-resident art student in 1975, Love Over Gold started as graffiti on the brick wall at the front of what was then the Council-owned building, Drake House.

In 1977, Mark Knopfler and other members of Dire Straits (then Cafe Racers) performed an early gig on the estate and in 1982, released the album, Love Over Gold, inspired by the graffiti.



The Love Over Gold mural outside Cockpit Deptford

In 1989, south London-born artist, Gary Drostle, was commissioned to create the mural, titled Love Over Gold, part paid for by Dire Straits.

Renovation plans envisage a more accessible, open front to Cockpit Deptford which would see the wall - and the Love Over Gold mural - significantly altered to allow for a new public entrance into the courtyard garden and cafe.

Together with the local community, Cockpit will explore how the inspiring story of the mural can be captured to allow the generations to come to discover Love Over Gold and celebrate the history that weaves it to Crossfields.

At a glance

Global success, rooted in Deptford



Cockpit Arts is the UK's largest, most diverse cluster of makers.



NatWest SE100 index of top-performing social enterprises.



Home to 60 businesses – with a global reputation for excellence.



1,738 hours of dedicated business support for Cockpit makers.



43% increase in applications for studios and awards in 2021.

Diverse and pioneering

- Continuing to increase diversity is important to Cockpit. Already 20% of makers identify as having African, Caribbean, Asian and dual or mixed heritage, compared to 4% in the UK craft sector as a whole. 81% is female, compared to 32% in the self-employed UK craft market.
- Cockpit Arts has long been part of a movement for climate action.



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Welcoming

- New courtyard garden, open foyer space and cafe - all open to the public.
- Large, sliding gates open throughout the day to provide access to the local community.
- Continued community outreach with local schools, groups and neighbouring residents.
- An opportunity to secure the future of craft and making, create jobs and apprenticeships and retain the area's light industrial character through a £2.35 investment from Stride partnership, the Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund, and London Borough of Lewisham.

Find out more or join an event:
cockpitarts.com/redevelopment
Email: deptfordcommunity@cockpitarts.com





In early 2022, we will submit a planning application to expand and improve Cockpit Deptford with a new education space, open courtyard garden and small public cafe.



An aerial view of the redevelopment plans for Cockpit Deptford