



Press Release
4 March 2025

The South London Gallery receives a major new grant from The Bukhman Foundation to fund Art Block

The South London Gallery (SLG) is delighted to have received a major new grant from The Bukhman Foundation. The grant will secure the future of Art Block, the SLG's innovative free creative space for local children and families on its neighbouring housing estate, for a two-year period, providing the necessary funding for staff costs and artists fees, materials, activities and events.

Art Block is a purpose designed, inclusive space on Sceaux Gardens estate located directly behind the SLG. It is a place for local children and young people to make, play and be creative. It opened in 2017 and was built on the SLG's long-term work with residents of Sceaux Gardens and other neighbouring housing estates. Sceaux Gardens Estate is within the 20% most disadvantaged areas nationally. Many children live in areas with limited access to spaces to play and ongoing issues of anti-social behaviour, with 71% of children living in the immediate vicinity of the SLG eligible for free school meals, over double the Southwark average.

The programme at Art Block brings together practices from youth work, play work and socially engaged art practice. The after-school sessions run Wednesday to Friday throughout the year and feature a range of activities, from painting, textiles and drawing, through to photography, cooking and phone case customisation. Children have access to high-quality arts and crafts materials and equipment, as well as the expertise of the SLG's Communities & Learning team who hold trusted relationships with the children, encouraging them to direct their own play. The team are key to Art Block, many of whom are local young people and who bring fresh ideas and shared lived experiences with children who attend. The children also regularly collaborate with visiting artists. Each year, over 150 children, young people and their families in south London benefit from Art Block.

Art Block is part of the SLG's extensive communities & learning programme, which focuses on well-being, skills development, commissioning opportunities and long-standing, much valued local partnerships. Working closely with families, schools and teachers, young people and neighbouring communities, we offer artist-led workshops, drop-in activities, digital resources, screenings, talks, exhibition tours and publications across our three sites, online, and in other venues locally.

The SLG is a registered charity. It receives Arts Council funding but relies on support from a range of sources including donations from individuals, grants from trusts and foundations as well as its own revenue generating operations. This additional support is essential in enabling the SLG to deliver its vision to be an arts organisation that is locally and internationally recognised for championing the positive role of art and artists in society.

Margot Heller, Director, South London Gallery said: *“We are immensely grateful to The Bukhman Foundation for their generous support to enable us to continue our work at Art Block. We very much look forward to this new chapter in the history of Art Block and to seeing its continued positive social impact and the creativity it will nurture.”*

Anastasia Bukhman, Founder, Bukhman Foundation said: *“Art Block is a wonderful initiative that will bring children and young people closer to art and creativity. We are very proud to be supporting this programme and to be providing more opportunities for young people to create and grow in this accessible and inspiring space.”*

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For further press information, images and interviews please contact
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NOTES TO EDITORS

Address and Opening Hours

South London Gallery, Main Building: 65–67 Peckham Road, London, SE5 8UH
South London Gallery, Fire Station: 82 Peckham Road, London, SE15 5LQ

The gallery is open Wednesday – Sunday.
southlondongallery.org

Social Media

Instagram: @southlondongallery
Facebook: South London Gallery
TikTok: @southlondongallery_

About The Bukhman Foundation

The Bukhman Foundation was established by Anastasia and Igor Bukhman to support breakthroughs in medical research for Type 1 Diabetes, as well as celebrate the arts and culture, and access to education. The foundation's work within arts and culture is centred on broadening and improving access to creativity and arts education through the support of pioneering institutions, complex and ambitious artistic projects, and ground-breaking young and emerging artists. www.bukhmanfoundation.org

About the South London Gallery

The South London Gallery (SLG) was founded in the 19th century by philanthropist William Rossiter to ‘bring art to the people of south London’. Today the gallery comprises its original site at 65 Peckham Road; the Fire Station which opened to the public in 2018; Art Block, a space for local children and families on Sceaux Gardens Estate, and two permanent gardens.

The SLG has an international reputation for its contemporary art exhibitions by established, mid-career and younger artists and programme of film and performance events. Its highly regarded, free education programme includes a peer-led young people's forum; family workshops; artist-led projects and commissions on local housing estates; and a programme for looked after children.

