

# FESTIVAL OF THE LEA

SATURDAY 13TH JULY

10AM - 6PM FREE ENTRY

BLOQS, 2 Anthony Way,  
London, N18 3QT  
and the surrounding  
Lee Navigation Canal



## SATURDAY 13TH JULY

### WHAT'S ON

- Interactive artist installations**
- Children's theatre performances**
- Dance performances**
- Creative workshops**
- Performing arts stage with live music and spoken word**
- Food and drink**
- Learning and educational activities**

For more information and to book free tickets, scan the QR code to visit our Eventbrite page or search 'Festival of the Lea' on Eventbrite.



Image: Chantelle Purcell, the Lee Navigation Canal



Produced by Hinterlands  
Enfield, BLOQS and the  
Canal & River Trust

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

# A community-led cultural festival

## FESTIVAL OF THE LEA

### Come and join us!

On Saturday 13th July, we welcome Enfield residents, the creative community and wider London audiences to join us for Festival of the Lea, an artist and community-led cultural festival taking place at BLOQS and along the adjacent canals.

Festival of the Lea is an artist and community-led cultural festival jointly produced by Canal & River Trust project Hinterlands Enfield and BLOQS. We aim to celebrate Enfield's integral waterway, the River Lea, by transforming a stretch of the canal from BLOQS to Chalk Bridge with artistic interventions. BLOQS is one of the key creative drivers in the area, who want to share their cultural and creative offering with local communities as they reach their 12 year anniversary.

## What are the visible and hidden layers that sustain and shape the Lee Navigation?

### And if we could reimagine its future, what would this look like?

These are some of the questions that artists, community groups and local partners have been exploring since April 2023 in response to the Lee Navigation (known as the River Lea) that runs through Upper Edmonton.

## Events

- 4 interactive artistic interventions along the River Lea by artists Cathy Wade, Renin Bilginer, Chantelle Purcell, Cath Carver and Christina Kalinowski.
- A interactive children's theatre performance by Chickenshed.
- An interactive dance performance on Chalk Bridge by Ceyda Tanc Dance in collaboration with Renin Bilginer's artwork.
- Creative workshops for families - colour the towpath with chalk spray and imagine your own future city.
- Performing arts stage with spoken word by Write2Speak.
- Music and culture programme led by BLOQS.
- Learning and educational activities surrounding the sustainability and protection of the River Lea.
- Food and drinks from the BLOQS cafe.



# Hinterlands

Hinterlands Enfield 2023-2024 is an artist in residency project created by the Canal & River Trust, through support from the Arts Council and players of People's Postcode Lottery, to explore what value, meaning and potential the River Lea holds for the communities that surround it in Upper Edmonton.

The Lee Navigation, also known as the River Lea is steeped in 200 years of significant industrial heritage and innovation. Its present is as a critical environmental and climate asset

that is enveloped by a cityscape in flux that will continue to grow and change over the next 25 years through the Meridian Water Development. With this growth and further urban density looming it also plays a key role in CPRE Banbury Reservoir Park Vision which strives to connect the blue and green spaces in this area for community and environment. This is being driven locally by Enfield Climate Action forum (EnCaf) as part of the Mayor of London's '10 New Parks for London' pledge and initiative. Between these strategic initiatives and the existing businesses its future economical and environmental potential is promising. This deeply interesting area is physically disjointed by the North Circular, famous for its beloved Ikea where the Drumsheds super-club now sits, and home to

BLOQS, the UK's largest open resource factory.

Within this promising context, this project sought to make room for open ended cultural and community-led place shaping, artists critical inquiry and children's voices and imaginings.

Through the process of exploring the environmental, social and cultural value, opportunities and challenges of the River Lea with the communities that live there, we aim to deepen connections and understanding to empower environmental and cultural active citizenship that we can continue to support through partnership working and strategic decision-making, community-led activity, adoptions or volunteering.





# The Artists

Each artist brings a unique perspective and style, offering insights into diverse cultures, techniques, and artistic visions making the festival a memorable celebration of human expression and creativity.



**Chantelle Purcell**  
Resident Artist

Chantelle Purcell is a London-based Jamaican and British curator and artist. Her work explores the intertwined histories of Britain and the Caribbean, inspired by personal experiences, folklore and the ways in which culture can seek to preserve identity through storytelling. Whether working as a curator or artist, she seeks to gain a deeper understanding of the world through connecting and empowering communities.



**Christina Kalinowski**  
Resident Artist

Christina Kalinowski is the founder of Doodle Designs, a participatory creative organisation based in Edmonton and working extensively with local communities. Doodle connects communities through art, craft and design, delivering community art workshops and public realm participatory projects.



**Cathy Wade**  
Resident Artist

Cathy Wade is an artist and writer who investigates how practice can be created and distributed in collaborative partnerships and through the creation of commons. She has been working extensively with pupils at local Raynham Primary school exploring city planning, civic space, imagination, ecology and visual communication with pupils at the school in a series of workshops co-designed with assistant head teacher Iveta Bejaoui.



**Renin Bilginer**  
Resident Artist

Renin Bilginer is a multidisciplinary artist from London, working closely with textiles, painting and installation. Renin's practice is rooted in her experiences as a woman with mixed British and Turkish heritage and her visual language is inspired by Eastern miniature painting, Japanese woodblock printing and Turkish textiles.



**Cath Carver**  
Resident Artist

Cath Carver is an artist and designer and the founder of Colour Your City, a multidisciplinary practice working with the power of colour to enrich life and transform space. Colour Your City envisions a world where colour is used consciously and imaginatively to enrich the built environment and elevate wellbeing.



**Write2Speak**  
Resident Artist

Write2Speak is founded by professional poets, actors and performance educators, Tyler Luke Cunningham and Yossi Goodlink. They offer a range of workshops and projects supporting young people and adults to express themselves through spoken word, supporting thousands of people to find their voices through spoken word working with primary and secondary schools, colleges, universities, youth groups and charities across the UK.



# MAIN FESTIVAL LOCATIONS

## Key


### Festival Hub:







BLOQS, 2 Anthony Way,  
London N18 3QT

- Performing Arts Stage
- BLOQS cafe
- Toilets

### Festival Site 2:

Chalk Bridge,  
River Lee Navigation

 Festival of the Lea artists walk  
8 minute walk from BLOQS to  
Chalk Bridge

-  **Cathy Wade: Many Hands Make a Monument**  
(Barge Fiodra) - video installation
-  **Colour Your Canal Workshop**  
With Cath Carver and Christina Kalinowski
-  **Renin Bilginer installation**  
Performance by Ceyda Tanc Dance
-  **Cathy Wade: Children Own the City Pavilion**  
Art installation with activities
-  **Chantelle Purcell: Salvation**  
Art Installation
-  **Chantelle Purcell: Encounters**  
Series of images and text
- Chantelle Purcell: Words on Water**  
Textile installation





# Artist Projects



## Cathy Wade - Children Own the City

Cathy Wade worked with Assistant Headteacher Iveta Bejaoui at Raynham Primary School to co-create a programme of creative learning that is responsive to the River Lea's wide-ranging, placed-based and global themes spanning the environment, nature, climate, and wellbeing. A series of twenty-three workshops were held at Raynham Primary and along the waterways with year 3, 4, and 5 children, who have been considering what they (and we) can do as citizens to improve our locality.

For the final phase of the residency Cathy has developed Children Own the City, a project that invites the children to consider how the city will develop by the River Lea between 2038-2048. The children will

inherit their lived environment from adults in the future but what happens if they inherit it now? What will this forthcoming city look like and how do they want to live by the waterway?

A pavilion next to Chalk Bridge designed by Cathy responds to and presents the models made by children and showcases their vision for the future. This work is accompanied by Many Hands Make a Monument a video work that explores the children's responses to working through and realising their ideas. Cathy will be sharing the activities from the programme at Raynham Primary so children visiting can join in and contribute their own ideas to the project during the festival.



## Renin Bilginer

Based on her extensive research about the area and the River Lea, Renin's project aims to revive the river as a place for recreation through storytelling, focusing on the relationship between rivers and their communities, existing in folklore, ancient mythology and localised pagan belief systems. The work considers how this can support the future preservation of the Lea and revive a sense of respect and unity between the river and its community.

The global history connecting rivers and femininity became fundamental to the ideas behind the project, which again exists in folklore, mythology and pagan belief systems from around the world. To support her project Renin has focussed on collating the thoughts

and stories of women in the local area. Renin developed a relationship with local residents from Upper Edmonton's Joyce Avenue and Snell's Park Estate, holding dance performances and creative workshops at Boundary Hall Community Centre and Fore Street's Living Room Library. During the workshops she collected thoughts and stories from local women about their connection to and memories of water and their ideas around feminine power. This collective story has been used as inspiration for a series of textile artworks and a collaborative performance piece between Renin and Ceyda Tanc Dance, which will be showcased on Chalk Bridge during the festival.



## Cath Carver and Christina Kalinowski

Cath Carver and Christina Kalinowski, artists from Colour Your City and Doodle Designs, teamed up with secondary school students across years 7-9 at Aylward Academy to transform their local canal through colour. The project aimed to empower young people to use colour to express improvements for their community and open up the waterways.

The journey began with a "Colour Encounter" at the canal. Guided by the artists, students explored the concept of colour connections and "Great Places" using a framework developed by Project for Public Spaces. They walked the canal, discussing its landscape, mood, emotions and existing colours. Back at BLOQS, they used photographs, collage techniques, and coloured acetate sheets to reimagine the space. Playful experiments with glasses and paddles further explored colour perception.

The project continued at the school. Students annotated pictures with sketches and developed their ideas for the canal's future. Through model-making and collages, their visions emerged: a peaceful reading nook, gardens for pollinators, and a sensory wall. They even provided feedback to shape the final Colour Your Canal activation at the Festival of the Lea. This collaborative project exemplifies how art and colour can bridge generations and empower young people to visualise positive change in their environment. By actively engaging with their surroundings and exploring colour's influence, the students contributed not only to artistic expression but also to shaping the future of their local canal.





## Chantelle Purcell

Chantelle Purcell is a London-based British Jamaican artist and curator. Her work explores the intertwined histories of Britain and the Caribbean, inspired by personal experiences, folklore, and the ways in which cultural symbolism can seek to preserve identity through storytelling. Whether working as a curator or artist, she seeks to gain a deeper understanding of the world through connecting and empowering communities.

Purcell has made several interconnecting bodies of artwork for the Hinterlands project rooted strongly in and connected to the theme of water. The work is the result of a growing archive of gathered conversations

and stories, documenting personal experiences and perceptions of water, whether these be the nurturing, restorative, spiritual powers of water or darker, more threatening colonial implications. For the festival Chantelle will be presenting a series of text and figurative works that seek to celebrate the voice of some of the women Chantelle has engaged with throughout the artist residency, who are from different diasporic heritage from the Caribbean and Africa. The works seek to offer a new perspective for how we re-frame our waterways, in the hope of making these once industrial spaces feel more human and hold deeper symbolic and cultural value for future communities.



## Write2Speak

Write2Speak create and deliver spoken word poetry workshops, projects and open-mic events for people from all walks of life. For their project they wanted to connect new groups of people with the water and help them to use the canal as inspiration for new spoken word pieces. They delivered an intimate spoken word and open mic evening event, Words on Water where they invited poets to write and perform aboard the Barge Fiodra. They also delivered a spoken word workshop for young people from Exodus Youth Worx where they encouraged the participants to write and perform their own original spoken word pieces.



**SCAN  
SCAN  
SCAN**

Scan the QR code to learn more about the artists projects and read their interviews.

# GUEST ARTISTS:



## Chickenshed's Tales from the Shed

The True Untrue History of the River Lea and Other Stories is performed by Chickenshed's Tales from the Shed team, who lead interactive, captivating and educational performances for children across the UK. Tales from the Shed is powered by the children's imagination so children are always encouraged to make a lot of noise and to help make the story happen! With a spark of magic, these shows are brought to life through puppetry, music and movement as we follow the adventures and tales of our favourite characters.



## Ceyda Tanc Dance

Ceyda is a choreographer and movement director, and Artistic Director of Ceyda Tanc Dance. Ceyda founded her all-female company in 2012, creating a body of professional contemporary dance works drawing on Turkish folk culture. They have been commissioned by and performed at English National Ballet, Brighton Festival, Royal Academy of Music and international locations across Turkey.



# Festival Schedule

## SATURDAY 13TH JULY 10AM - 6PM, FREE!

All activities are free and don't require booking, drop in anytime to get involved.

### CANAL

- 11AM** **Colour Your Canal Workshop**  
by Cath Carver and Christina Kalinowski (until 3pm)

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- 12PM** **Ceyda Tanc Performance 1**  
(Chalk Bridge)

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- 12:30PM** **River Spirit Mask Making Workshop**  
with Renin Bilginer (Chalk Bridge, until 2pm)

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- 1.30PM** **Chickenshed's Tales from the Shed**  
interactive theatre (until 2.30pm)

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- 3.30PM** **Ceyda Tanc Performance 2**  
(Chalk Bridge)

### MAIN STAGE, BLOQS

- 13:00PM** **Colour Your City: Crimson Portrait**  
screening plus Q&A

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- 13:30PM** **Write2Speak, spoken word**

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- 14:00PM** **Tim Cope, spoken word**

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- 14:30PM** **Chickenshed's Tales from the Shed: The True Untrue History of the River Lea and Other Stories**

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- 15:15PM** **Follow Ceyda Tanc's dancers up to Chalk Bridge**

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- 16:00PM** **Live music and DJ sets including DJ Matt Doggs, The Royal Sounds, Mission London, Benny Diction & DJ Sugai, DJ Alex Savory (until midnight)**

### ARTIST INSTALLATIONS

- Chantelle Purcell: Salvation**  
Art installation, opposite BLOQS, viewable from the towpath

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- Chantelle Purcell: Words on Water**  
Textile installation, Tottenham Marshes towards Leaside Rd

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- Chantelle Purcell: Encounters**  
Series of images and text, Tottenham Marshes towards Leaside Rd

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- Cathy Wade: Children Own the City Pavilion**  
Installation with children's activity, Imagine Your Future City

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- Cathy Wade: Many Hands Make a Monument**  
Video installation, Barge Fiodra

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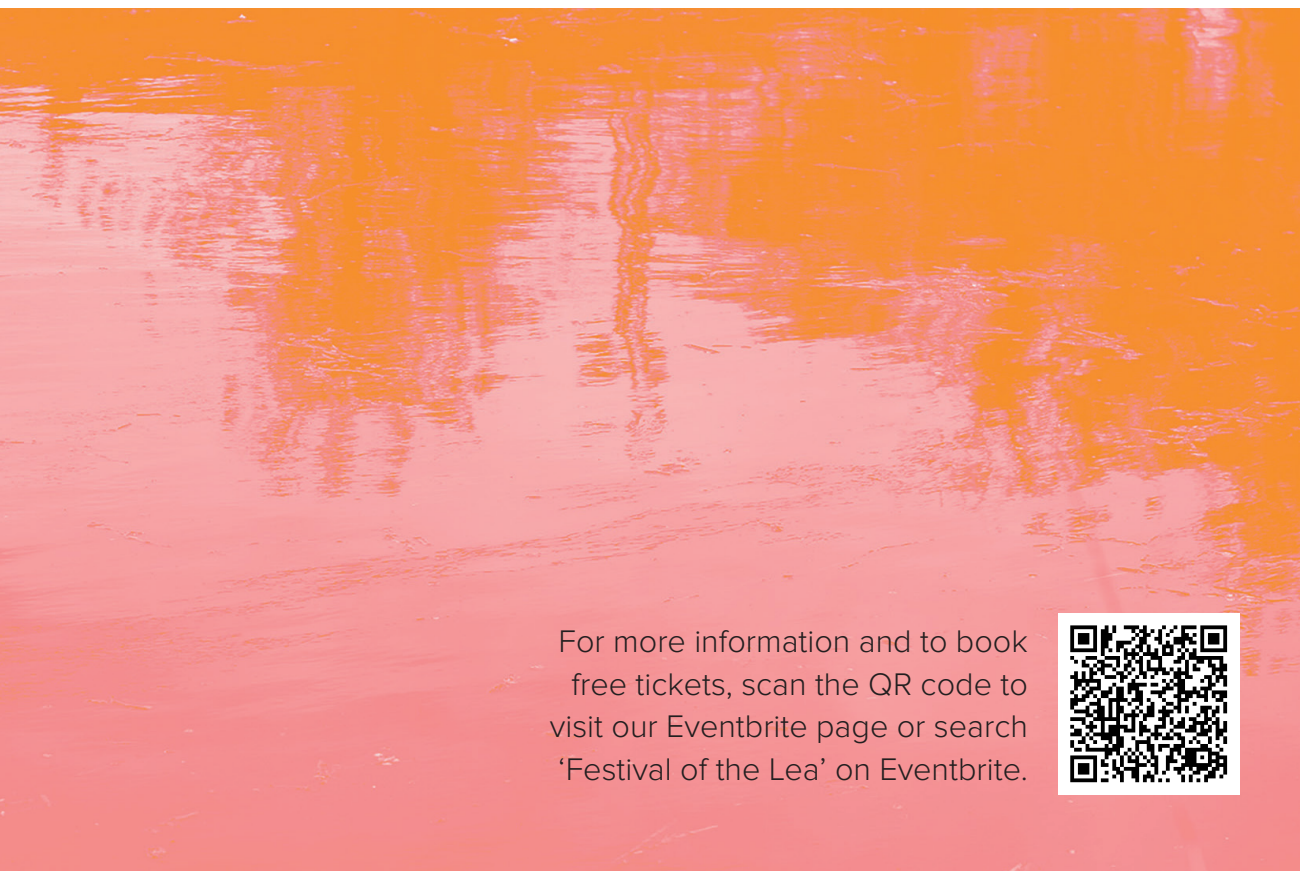
- Renin Bilginer**  
Textile installation, Chalk Bridge



Raynham Primary School on Chalk Bridge



The Lee Navigation Canal



For more information and to book free tickets, scan the QR code to visit our Eventbrite page or search 'Festival of the Lea' on Eventbrite.



Above photographs: Images: Sophie Thompson-Semple.

Image: Chantelle Purcell, the Lee Navigation Canal

### Help #KeepCanalsAlive

As a charity we urgently need your support to keep the canals you love alive with nature and their heritage protected for the future. Donate to the campaign here:



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