

Bow Arts buys its first building, creating 70 new artist studios and guaranteeing the provision of affordable creative workspace in east London



27-year-old arts charity Bow Arts has purchased its first ever building, creating 70 new affordable studios for artists, designers and makers and a permanent home for its educational arts services and community focused public programming in east London.

The purchase ensures Bow Arts' legacy and ongoing support for east London's artists, as well as its provision of sustainable and accessible creative opportunities for the area's young people and communities, as all the charity's current buildings – including their current Bow Road HQ – are rented.

Looking over the River Lea as it approaches Stratford, Three Waters sits where the three waters of Bow Creek, the River Lea and Limehouse Cut meet at Bow Locke, a stone's throw away from Bow Arts' first home in Bow. The first of its kind in London, part of the site occupies ground floor space of Peabody and Mount Anvil's new residential block, marrying the need for affordable housing and creative workspace in east London.

Owning Three Waters ensures Bow Arts can continue its 27 years of creating opportunities to work, learn and enjoy the arts across London, as well as supporting creatives to further their career and professionalise their practice. Through this purchase they can guarantee affordable, lifelong access to the arts in east London, London's historic artist quarter, and continue to nurture the area's unique and diverse creativity and talent. Three Waters will open early 2023.



"Affordability and sustainability are at the heart of Bow Arts and buying this building gives us a permanent home in east London, it also creates permanent affordable space for artists which means that they will be more creative, more experimental and have more impact, creating inspirational environments where artists and communities can interact, learn and grow together for generations to come."

- Marcel Baettig, founder of Bow Arts

"East London is becoming increasingly expensive, so I strongly believe that these types of initiatives are urgently needed. If getting a permanent and secure home in the East End becomes out of reach for most artists, they will just move to other cities, and that will cause enormous and long-lasting damage to the arts ecosystem in London."

- Juan Barreda, artist and studio holder with Bow Arts

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About Bow Arts

Since 1994, Bow Arts has nurtured London's diverse creativity and talent. We've provided artists and creative practitioners with affordable workspace, connecting them with local communities and supporting their professional development. We give communities throughout London greater access to and interaction with the arts, through our schools programme, Nunnery Gallery, workshops, exhibitions and events.

We're an arts and education charity and a social enterprise; our services support the growth of sustainable local creative economies. Over 500 artists, designers and makers are affiliated with Bow Arts through our workspace, affordable housing for creatives, and award-winning schools and young people's learning programme.