

Press release: For immediate publication

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Minister for Culture launches new publications raising awareness of artists' workspace within urban renewal programmes

On Wednesday 21 February Minister for Culture David Lammy MP launched two new publications for developers, local authorities and housing associations, at an event hosted by Acme Studios and Arts Council England, London.

Held at The Whitechapel Art Gallery, the launch provided the first viewing of the publications, produced as part of the 'Capital Studios: London Artists' Studios Development Programme' and led by Acme Studios and Arts Council England, London.

The Capital Studios programme is an advocacy programme raising awareness of artists' workspace within urban renewal programmes, with a view to creating opportunities for long-term sustainability and growth in the affordable studio sector.

Speaking at the launch, Minister for Culture David Lammy said:

"Creating affordable studios for artists has remained at the top of my priorities list as Minister for Culture. Artists are central to social cohesion and help us identify how we can live together and create a future together. If we leave our artists to navigate their way in this property market with its rising rates, we will lose out as a consequence."

Using case studies and real examples to show how sustainable studio developments can be achieved to the benefit of developers, local authorities and housing associations, these publications explore how affordable studio providers and their tenant-artists encourage innovation and creativity across the social and regeneration agendas.

Speaking at the event, John Fitzgerald, Managing Director, Alto Division, Telford Homes said:

"Including artists' studios within a new development creates a natural conduit to local communities. Artists' studios hold a natural attraction and we hope that by having them in our next development, we will attract other creative and commercial businesses to the area."

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Acme Studios is a group
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**Acme Artists Housing
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Through encouraging innovation and creativity across the social and regeneration agendas, studio organisations deliver cultural, community and economic benefits. Sarah Weir, Executive Director, Arts Council England, London said:

“Artists have to have somewhere to make work. This first publication - case studies of two affordable studio providers - brings to life two organisations (ACAVA & APT) who have been working in the community for a very long time. These artists’ studios have a sense of place, a sense of being rooted in the community. The Arts Council England’s role is as an enabler, bringing people together and we are in it for the long term.”

The launch of these two publications brought together developers, local authorities, planning and regeneration consultants, development bodies, studio organisations and artists to create new opportunities for the future.

Notes to Editors

In 2006, Acme Studios commissioned researcher Susie O’Reilly to undertake an in-depth study to identify the community, cultural and socio-economic benefit of two affordable studio buildings in London. The resulting publications are:

1. artists’ studios: creating public benefit, based on Susie’s research, provides a detailed portrait of ACAVA’s Blechynden Street studios in North Kensington and Chelsea and APT’s studios at Harold Works in Deptford
2. artists’ studios: a resource for securing, supporting and creating affordable studios is a guide for developers and provides list of studio organisation contacts and sources of help and advice.

Established by artists in 1972, Acme have helped over 5,000 artists with affordable studio and living space

430 studios managed by studio organisations in London are at risk over the next 10 years from rising land values and new development schemes

Press Information

For further press information, images, case studies, please contact: Pippa Gavaghan on 020 8981 6811 or email pippa@acme.org.uk