

## Acme Studios: A detailed history

### 1972

- 9 November: Acme Housing Association Ltd, led by Jonathan Harvey and David Panton, registers with sole aim of providing founder group of artists with cheap studio and living accommodation.

### 1973

- Acme approaches Greater London Council for empty property in East London. After pressure, GLC transfers two derelict shops in Bow for 21 months. Artists required to carry out extensive repairs in exchange for very low rents (£3 per week) and agreement to hand properties back when required for demolition.
- Encouraged by this success, GLC transfers more property, taking Acme beyond the needs of its original members. Acme becomes a voluntary service for other artists in similar need.

### 1974

- Acme achieves charitable status. Jonathan Harvey and David Panton become part-time officers with 'seeding' funding from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.
- GLC transfers longer-life properties and gives grants for their repair. Artists do most of the work themselves, and develop building skills.
- Arts Council gives conversion grants for studios in houses.
- December: Acme manages 76 houses, providing living and studio space for 90 artists. Over 130 people housed.

### 1975

- March: 13 properties successfully returned to GLC.
- Acme's efficiency as a short-life housing organisation, rather than as an artists' group per se, produces further transfers of housing stock. Acme becomes the largest single manager of short-life housing in London. Newly-transferred properties now have lives of at least five years, with grants from the GLC of up to £1,500.
- Acme publishes *Help Yourself to Studio Space* to stem flow to London and aid artists in other cities. Advisory visits follow.
- Responding to high demand, Acme seeks new sources of properties from other London boroughs. Working with Hammersmith and Fulham, Acme takes on an old

school at Hetley Road and a school kitchen at Faroe Road as studio space only, creating 19 studios for local artists.

## 1976

- Acme obtains planning consent to convert a banana warehouse into a non-commercial gallery in Covent Garden.
- May: The Acme Gallery opens, catering principally for artists whose reputations have not yet been established, or whose work in installation and performance is unsaleable. Acme encourages artists to adapt the space. Capital assistance received from Arts Council, GLC and Gulbenkian Foundation. Arts Council and Greater London Arts give revenue funding.
- Acme office, previously in Bow, moves to Covent Garden. Jonathan Harvey becomes Gallery Director, and David Panton Housing Director, both with part-time assistants.
- Acme leases former meat pie factory from the GLC in Acre Lane, Brixton, for conversion to 28 artists' studios. Arts Council provides conversion funds.
- In other areas, including South East London, GLC transfers more houses in good condition and give grants sufficient to use contractors for specialist work.
- Department of Transport becomes new source of stock with transfer of houses in Archway, N6, due to be demolished for A1 road widening. Acme funds initial repairs, recovering the outlay through rents.

## 1977

- Acme develops International Visual Artist Studio Exchange Programme, a five-country network of organisations funded by the Arts Council, British Council and the National Endowment for the Arts (USA).
- Acme publishes *Artists Guide to London* by Heather Waddell, to provide visiting artists with information and advice.
- Sarah Greengrass joins staff as Housing Manager.
- Acme becomes a revenue client of the Arts Council.
- December: 142 short-life houses managed, and three studio blocks in Hammersmith and Brixton.

## 1978

- Some GLC short-life houses no longer required for development schemes and thus become permanent. Acme negotiates tenants' rights for the licensees, qualifying them for GLC's tenant purchase scheme. Acme loses property management, but has helped artists to buy their houses with substantial discounts.
- Roger Kite joins staff as Housing Manager.
- December: 204 properties managed, helping over 350 artists.

## 1979

- Growth slows as GLC acquires very little stock for development. Demand from artists remains high.

## 1980

- Some Acme-managed GLC properties transferred to local authorities, leading to new working relationships for Acme.
- In Leytonstone, E11, Department of Transport transfers short-life houses that ultimately will be demolished to make way for M11/Hackney link road. Acme finances repairs.

## 1981

- March: Acme manages 180 GLC-owned houses.
- October: The Acme Gallery closes and is returned to GLC for demolition. Major shows by artists over four and a half years include John Bellany, Stuart Brisley, Helen Chadwick, Stephen Cripps, Rose Garrard, Ron Haselden, Albert Irvin, Jock McFadyen, Simon Read, Kerry Trengove, Darrell Viner and Anthony Wishaw.
- Acme office moves to Bethnal Green, E2.
- 28,000 sq ft of ex-industrial space at [Robinson Road](#), Bethnal Green negotiated from Crown Estate Commissioners, provides 46 studios. Arts Council funds major conversion.
- Eight short-life houses transferred by Royal London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.
- Department of Transport transfers more houses in Leyton, becoming major new source of housing stock.

*'It wasn't always easy to understand what the Acme Gallery was trying to say but it was usually worth trying to find out. The Acme was very much a gallery of the 'seventies, a gallery devoted to extremes, a rallying point for the avant garde. And now that the last Acme exhibition has begun we can confidently say that the 'seventies are officially over.'*

**Waldemar Januszczak, The Guardian, 8 October 1981**

## 1982

- Against background of rising demand, Acme increasingly seeks more studio premises.
- December: Acme manages 250 housing units.

## 1983

- More short-life houses transferred from Department of Transport and from a new source, London Borough of Hackney.
- Acme opens studio-only artists' register.

- Acme studio premises in Hammersmith purchased by GLC and leases secured by artists. Buildings become a permanent resource for artists in the borough.
- Showroom Gallery created in Bonner Road (part of [Robinson Road](#) studio complex). Hired to artists who organise their own exhibitions.
- Acme acquires a 10 year lease from Crown Estate Commissioners on premises in Old Ford Road, Bethnal Green, E2. 12 studios created.
- Acme negotiates a major new studio block at [Orsman Road](#), Hackney, N1 from Research Engineers Ltd, creating 28 new studios.

## 1984

- Acme acquires a 10 year lease on the Church Hall, Redhill Street, Camden, from Crown Estate Commissioners, providing seven large studios.
- November: prior to conversion of Church Hall, programme of installations and performances presented by Stuart Brisley, Ron Haselden and Tim Head, with financial assistance from Greater London Arts.

## 1985

- Acme takes important new studio site with 16 year lease on 26,000 sq ft of ex-industrial premises at Carpenters Road, Stratford, E15. Major conversion funded by Arts Council and, significantly, by Industrial Development Grant from the London Borough of Newham. Forty large studios created for 50 artists.
- Old Ford Road Studios surrendered early with Crown compensation. Artists rehoused in Carpenters Road and Redhill Street.

## 1986

- April: abolition of GLC. Acme negotiates for 35 artists' households to gain tenant status at eleventh hour; properties lost to Acme, but long-term security achieved for artists. Other houses handed back in Kensington and Chelsea and in other London boroughs. For the first time 'hand-backs' exceed transfers: total number of houses managed reduces to 224.
- Acme leases first out-of-town building in [Porthleven](#), Cornwall. A former net-loft, converted with financial help from Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas, provides 10 studios for short-stay occupation.
- With devolution from Arts Council, Acme becomes revenue client of Greater London Arts.

## 1987

- House numbers maintained with transfers from London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Impending implementation of M11 motorway scheme cuts supply of property from Department of Transport. With move from council housing provision, and less large-

scale development, fewer houses are offered for short-life use. A reduction in Acme's stock now inevitable.

- Acme housing waiting list closed.
- Second phase of development at Carpenters Road, comprising 26,000 sq ft, creates 32 studios, again with financial assistance from Newham Economic Development.
- New relationship forged with Swiss cultural foundation, [Stiftung Landis & Gyr](#). Acme acts as managing agents on houses purchased for Swiss artists visiting on fellowships, who also use studio at Carpenters Road. 2 Jubilee Terrace, Stepney, E1, purchased on their behalf.
- Acme publishes *Organising your Own Exhibition – A Guide for Artists* by Debbie Duffin, funded by Arts Council, as part of Acme's expanding advisory role to artists and artists' groups.

## 1988

- Increasing numbers of houses lost to Acme through sales to occupants (voluntary Right-to-Buy scheme) or hand-backs for development.
- Demand for self-organising space at Showroom Gallery declines; Acme grants David Thorp licence to operate it as a public gallery.
- April: Mikey Cuddihy joins staff as Artist Liaison Officer.
- 3 Jubilee Terrace purchased on behalf of [Landis & Gyr](#).

## 1989

- Partnership with a second Swiss cultural foundation, Stiftung Binz 39, formed in order to send British artists to work in Zurich on one-year scholarship.
- Third phase of development at Carpenters Road creates 32 studios, again with financial assistance from Newham Economic Development, making total of 121 studios at this site.
- Nine studios created in three houses leased from Newlon Housing Trust.
- 1 Jubilee Terrace purchased on behalf of [Landis & Gyr](#).
- Studio provision now principal activity; Acme is Britain's single largest source of studio space.

## 1990

- April: abolition of Inner London Education Authority; houses transferred to Family Housing Association. Acme's long-term negotiations help artists in Beck Road, Hackney, and elsewhere, achieve permanent status.
- Twenty-five year lease acquired on building in [Childers Street](#), Deptford, SE8, provides 31 studios in 20,000 sq ft. Development funds totalling £156,000 obtained from London Borough of Lewisham, Greater London Arts, Henry Moore Foundation and Paul Hamlyn Foundation.
- Acme Artists Housing Association formed to become holder of commercial leases.

- July: Heather Deedman joins staff as Artist Liaison Officer.

## 1991

- Second phase of development at [Childers Street](#) of 9,000 sq ft provides 22 studios. Conversion funded by Acme, London Borough of Lewisham and Greater London Arts.
- Fifteen year lease acquired on premises at Larnaca Works, Bermondsey, SE1. Twenty-six studios created in 11,000 sq ft, also annexing Red Cow Studios – an independent group faced with eviction. Conversion assisted by grant from London Arts Board.
- Acme commissions research into work-space needs of crafts people, funded by Greater London Arts and undertaken by Christine Ross.

## 1992

- April: with abolition of Greater London Arts, Acme becomes a revenue client of new London Arts Board.
- July: Acme moves offices to fourth floor of new premises at 44 [Copperfield Road](#), E3. Forty-two and 44 Copperfield Road, totalling 31,000 sq ft acquired on 15 year lease. Twenty-seven studios converted in 44.
- Acme provides new location for Matt's Gallery on ground floor of 42/44, having acted as consultants in their search for larger premises.
- Showroom Gallery now operated by new company with Kim Sweet as curator.
- Ten year lease acquired on third floor of Bombay Wharf, Rotherhithe, SE16 (formerly managed by SPACE) to secure the position of artists facing eviction. Provides eight studios totalling 4,500 sq ft.
- Acme takes six year lease with London Borough of Sutton on former stable block in [Oaks Park](#). Eight studios created in 3,000 sq ft. Conversion funded by Sutton and Greater London Arts' Borough Initiative Scheme.
- Acme forms working party to develop permanent work/live studios: consists of Committee of Management and other specialists including two consultants through ABSA's Business in the Arts Scheme.
- Management agreement with [Visual Arts/Crafts Board of Australia Council](#) to provide accommodation and studio facilities for programme of visiting artists.
- Management agreement with Republic of Austria's Ministry for the Arts. Acme organises purchase of accommodation and provides additional studio and darkroom for visiting artists.
- Monograph, *Stephen Cripps – Pyrotechnic Sculptor* published to document and celebrate the work of Stephen Cripps, who died in 1982, and who had major shows at The Acme Gallery. Publication financially assisted by the Stephen Cripps Trust and Arts Council.

## 1993

- 4 Jubilee Terrace purchased on behalf of [Landis and Gyr](#).
- Second phase of development at [Copperfield Road](#); 21 studios converted in 42 with financial assistance from London Arts Board.
- First phase of 15 hand-backs of Department of Transport property in Leyton to make way for M11 motorway. Together with hand-backs in some boroughs, Acme faces consistent decline in housing stock.
- November: Acme applies to Foundation for Sport and the Arts for financial assistance to purchase a large building to convert to work/live studios.

## 1994

- Purchase of land at 5 Jubilee Terrace to build studio complex for Zugerkulturstiftung [Landis & Gyr](#).
- Further hand-backs of 45 Department of Transport houses in Leyton; successful negotiations with Waltham Forest to accept re-housing nominations.
- Archway Road scheme cancelled, majority of occupants able to purchase from Department of Transport. Partnership activity with Circle 33 and West Hampstead Housing Trusts to secure long-term future for remaining houses.
- Acme negotiates grant from Deptford City Challenge to part-fund additional fire and safety work at [Childers Street](#) studios.
- One year licence taken on temporary ex-council works at Orlestone Road, N1 from Circle 33 Housing Trust. Nineteen studios created in 8,500 sq ft.
- Partnership activity with Solon Co-operative Housing Services to acquire leases on three work/live apartments and 14 studios in Aldgate and two apartments and eight studios in Clerkenwell. Residential components converted with finance from Housing Corporation. These projects mark the beginning of an important new development: the provision of combined working and living space through the use of industrial buildings.
- December: Acme achieves £75,000 grant from Foundation for Sport and the Arts for work/live project.

## 1995

- Acme completes purchase of former LCC [Fire Station](#) in E14 with £75,000 grant from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts and loan finance.
- Completion of a major new-build workspace development at 5 Jubilee Terrace, E1 on behalf of [Zugerkulturstiftung Landis & Gyr](#).
- New international residency programme agreement with German foundation [Hessische Kulturstiftung](#).
- Number of houses used by artists for both accommodation and studio space reduces to 48; studio units in management now 409.
- October: Julia Lancaster and Jane Leighton join staff.

## 1996

- Application to Arts Council of England for National Lottery funding. Capital grant sought of £1,200,857 out of total project costs of £1,678,318. Project to convert the [Fire Station, Gillender Street, E14](#) to 12 work/live units and six studios and to purchase the leased [Copperfield Road, E3](#) building and complete the conversion to create 48 studios, and secure premises for Matt's Gallery on the ground floor and office space for Acme on the fourth floor.
- Three work/live units at 52 Commercial Road, E1 and two new one-bedroom housing units leased at Domingo Street, EC1, through partnership with Solon CHS.
- [Iaspis](#), a programme of The Visual Arts Fund Konstnürsnamden in Sweden, joins international residency programme.
- March: Richard Kingsnorth joins staff.

## 1997

- January: Arts Council of England award National Lottery capital grant of £1,200,857.
- Lottery project sees the completion of the refurbishment and conversion of the Fire Station to create 12 work/live units and six large studios.
- Twelve artists selected for the [work/live programme at the Fire Station](#), offering three-year residencies at low rents and including three bursaries (£5,000/year for three years plus free work/live space) including for an artist with a disability. Bursaries supported by The Paul Hamlyn Foundation (£75,000) and The Arts Council of England (£15,000). The selected artists were: Edward Allington, Helena Ben-Zenou, Gillian Blease, Paul Burwell, Martin Creed, Perminder Kaur, Kypros Kyprianou, Marty St. James, Lindsay Seers, Virgil Tracy, Barbara Tyrrell and Joanna Woodward.
- Number of housing units reduces to 37.
- Bombay Wharf returned on expiry of lease; Acme now managing 475 studio units.

## 1998

- Celebration of Acme's 25th anniversary and National Lottery project. May: a week of open-air performances of 'Snakes and Ladders' by Station House Opera at the Fire Station, commissioned to mark the anniversary and opening of the building.
- Completion of all capital elements of lottery project with conversion and improvements at [Copperfield Road, E3](#), including achievement of full accessibility.
- Forty-five housing units in management, including 13 new units via Solon CHS.

## 1999

- New 30-year lease negotiated on studio premises at [Robinson Road, E2](#).
- Hand-back of majority of Highways Agency housing stock, but artists benefiting from opportunity to purchase with discounts. Total housing units now 34.
- New international residency contract with cultural department of [Canton of Aargau in Switzerland](#).

## 2000

- Purchase of third building, 11-31 [Orsman Road, N1](#), part-occupied on a leasehold basis since 1983. Further 20 studios (increasing the number on site to 50) and eight work/live units developed. Work/live units for sale to cross-subsidise purchase and thus maintain affordable rents on studios.
- Addition of 36 new studios on two further floors leased at [Childers Street, SE8](#).
- Units at Domingo Street, EC1, handed back.
- Half-hour film Firestation by William Raban as part of lottery commissioning programme premiered in May.
- Dan Perfect leaves staff.
- Housing stock reduces to 25 units, studios increase to 508.

## 2001

- Research project, History of Artists in East London 1960-2000, begins and involvement in exhibition at the Museum of London (Creative Quarters: the art world in London 1700 to 2000) opens in March.
- June: hand-back of largest studio site at Carpenters Road, E15. Established in 1985 and developed in phases, the site provided low-cost space for more than 620 artists over its 15-year life.
- Conversion of two buildings in [Rowse Close, E15](#), transferred on a short-term basis by London Borough of Newham to assist artists vacating Carpenters Road.
- Completion of Phase 1 of major five-year improvement programme at [Robinson Road, E2](#).
- January: John Lang joins staff.
- Housing stock reduces to 18 units; studios to 365.

## 2002

- Establishment of second work/live residency programme at The [Sugar House, E15](#), on a ten-year management contract from Solon CHS, creating two five-year programmes for eight artists selected from national open submission.
- Achievement of planning by Barratt Homes, in partnership with Acme, for a major mixed-use development in Peckham, SE15. Scheme includes the construction of 16,000 square feet of studio space, a key element in securing planning, to be purchased by Acme as affordable workspace.
- Sale of all work/live units developed at 11-31 [Orsman Road, N1](#) marking successful conclusion to strategy to cross-subsidise the purchase of the site to secure the studio building and maintain affordable rents.
- New award established by fellow artists, friends and family as a memorial to Adrian Carruthers, an artist who worked at Childers Street and who died in 2001, aged 40. [The Adrian Carruthers Award](#), open to a graduating MA student from the Slade School was first awarded to Sibylle Baltzer and provides a free studio at [Childers Street](#) for a year and a bursary of £5,000.

- New international residency programme contract secured with [BAK \(Bundesamt Für Kultur - Swiss Federal Office for Culture\)](#).

## 2003

- Take leading role organising and presenting two major studio conferences in July: Creating Places at Tate Modern and Making Space in Sheffield.
- Completed Phase 2 of major refurbishment programme at [Robinson Road, E2](#).
- Ben Lawley joins staff; Jane Leighton leaves.

## 2004

- February: application to Arts Council England's Grants for the arts - capital (GfAC) fund is successful. £2 million allocated towards 10-year capital development programme. Detailed development plan to be submitted to secure the award.
- Completed first-ever comprehensive and detailed survey of studios in England: [Survey of Artists' Studio Groups and Organisations in England](#) and accompanying [Register](#).
- April: Jemima Brown and Calum F Kerr join staff.

## 2005

- January: informed by Arts Council England that our detailed capital development plan had been accepted and the £2 million allocation secured.
- May: [Survey of Artists' Studio Groups and Organisations in England](#) published to coincide with National Studios Forum, convened by Arts Council England. The survey, part-funded by Arts Council England, included network consultation towards the formation of a representative national body. Following the Forum, facilitated the work of a Steering Group supported with Arts Council funding, to work towards the formation of a national body to represent the interests of the affordable studio sector.
- Continued to lead the advocacy programme Capital Studios on behalf of affordable studio providers throughout London to promote their work to local authorities, development agencies, developers and social landlords.
- November: handed-back two floors at 52 Commercial Road, E1 to Solon CHS at the expiry of 10 year lease.

## 2006

- Completed 50 new-build studios at [The Galleria](#) in Peckham, a ground-breaking planning-gain scheme developed in partnership with Barratt Homes. The mixed-use development combines apartments (both affordable and for sale) and affordable studios. The project is the first in current capital development programme supported by Arts Council England's Grants for the arts – capital fund.
- June: [The Galleria](#) formally opened by David Lammy MP, Minister for Culture.

- Continued to facilitate the activities of a nationally representative steering group, supported by Arts Council England funding, to form a national body to represent the interests of the affordable studio sector. The National Federation of Artists' Studios Providers incorporated 27 June 2006, with Acme providing management support to the fledgling organisation throughout the year.
- Pippa Gavaghan appointed as first Communications Officer.
- Established [Southwark's first Artist in Residence](#) scheme awarded to Isa Suarez based at [The Galleria](#) in partnership with Southwark Council and the South London Gallery.

## 2007

- February: Conclusion of Capital Studios advocacy programme on behalf of affordable studio providers throughout London with launch of two major publications by Minister for Culture, David Lammy MP and Sarah Weir, Executive Director, Arts Council England, London, at Whitechapel Gallery.
- Continued to support the establishment of The National Federation of Artists' Studios Providers (NFASP) by providing office space for its first Director and Administrator, together with administrative support.
- November: Partnership agreement secured with Swan Housing Association for 21 new-build studios as part of larger social housing development in [Leven Road, London E14](#). The UK's first-ever 100% affordable scheme launched with Swan at NFASP's inaugural conference Gaining Ground at Spike Island, Bristol.
- Establishment of a new studio award for tenants through a legacy from artist [Jessica Wilkes](#) (1948-2005) which pays their studio rent for a year and awards a grant, together worth £10,000. The inaugural recipient was Howard Dyke.

## 2008

- Continued to make good progress with the current phase of capital development programme (2009-2013) having secured agreements on three new permanent projects in Brent (12 studios), Hackney (49 studios) and Newham (27 studios).
- September: Appointment of Lea O'Loughlin as International Residency Programme's first full-time manager.
- October: Jack Fortescue joins staff as full-time Communications Officer.

## 2009

- March: Completed pioneering mixed-use scheme at [Leven Road, E14](#), in partnership with Swan Housing, to create the UK's first-ever 100 per cent affordable scheme providing both affordable housing and studio space.
- Negotiated an extension of lease at [165 Childers Street SE8](#) to 2028 embracing the whole building and including ground floor space for conversion to 30 additional studios.

- Commissioned a study to develop a regular (two-year) survey to provide a detailed understanding of the income profiles and public engagement activities of our artist tenants.
- [First Tower Hamlets Residency](#) based at new studios in [Leven Road, E14](#). The residency provides an artist involved with socially-engaged practice with a free studio for two years and a grant of £10,000 a year and was awarded to Jan Hendrickse.
- [Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec](#) and Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (Portugal) join Acme's International Residencies Programme.

## 2010

- January: Working in partnership with Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, University of the Arts London, secured a two-year [Knowledge Transfer Partnership](#). This first-ever fine art KTP will review the changing role of the artist's studio within contemporary art practice and provide Acme with new users briefs for the design and management of artists' studios. Dr Arantxa Echarte, appointed as Research and Development Associate, employed by the university, began work based at Acme full-time from July 2010.
- May: Completion of partnership (planning-gain) project with Catalyst Housing Group at [Harrow Road, NW10](#), brokered by the London Borough of Brent, providing 12 new-build studios. A formal launch by the leader of the council took place in October.
- May: Environmental Policy adopted following the appointment of environmental consultant Donnachadh McCarthy, of 3 Acorns Eco-audits, to review all areas of our activities and to provide a policy framework, including first benchmark measurements on four sample properties.
- October: Completion of conversion of 30 additional studios at 165 [Childers Street, SE8](#), within budget and on time.
- In the year took advantage of availability of newly-built studios at Childers Street to rationalise growing graduate awards by dedicating three adjoining studios for this purpose. From October 2010 these accommodated the [Adrian Carruthers Award](#), [Chadwell Award](#) and [Chelsea Graduate Award](#). These awards for graduating BA or MA fine art students provide a free studio, a bursary, professional mentoring and an exhibition at the [Acme Project Space](#). The adjoining studios also promote peer support.
- November: Beginning of the [Bow Cross Artist Residency](#), a one-year artist in residence project focusing on Swan Housing Group's Bow Cross regeneration scheme, supported by a £30,000 grant from the Swan Foundation, and awarded to Simon Terrill.
- Continued collaboration with Royal College of Art and students on the Inspire Fellowship Programme which aims to address the historical under-representation of Black and minority ethnic curators in the country's museums and galleries. In June

2010 students curated an exhibition 'Contort Yourself', at the Acme Project Space, of work by artists selected from our [Residency and Awards Programme](#).

- Continued the effective management of our current programme providing support at the year end for 527 artists of which 494 artists occupied 434 studios and 33 artists work/live and housing accommodation.

## 2011

- Successful application to Arts Council England's National portfolio funding programme (2012-2015) which replaces their regular funding programme which ended on 31 March 2012.
- Scope of tenant survey broadened (as part of extended remit of Knowledge Transfer Partnership) to include all aspects of the service we provide, including the performance of our studio buildings and the benefits of our provision.
- [Camberwell Studio Award](#) added to the studio awards for graduates and awarded in the first year to Josie Cockram: the [Adrian Carruthers](#), [Chadwell](#) and [Chelsea](#) awards, in three adjoining studios at [Childers Street, SE8](#).
- Continued to promote our successful studio development models for the benefit of the sector and worked closely with the London Mayor's Office to support their advocacy work on behalf of affordable studio providers. Played a leading role in the development of the seminar The Art of Regeneration: Artists' Studios and their role in the city held at City Hall on 14 July 2011, organised in partnership with NLA (New London Architecture).
- Appointed Sam Tilling as Development Officer, the first post exclusively devoted to fundraising.
- Continued the effective management of our current programme providing support at the year end for 521 artists of which 496 artists occupied 434 studios and 25 work/live and housing accommodation.
- Acme IRP establishes [Associate Artist Residencies](#) specifically created in response to individual artists' requests for Acme to host one-off, short-term residencies.

## 2012

- May: Completion of [Matchmakers Wharf Studios](#), Homerton Road, E9, London Borough of Hackney. Development consisting of 49 self-contained studios over six floors with a total square footage of 17,150. The studios form part of a major scheme providing retail, commercial and 209 residential units (40% affordable). Studios designed and built in partnership with Telford Homes Plc and a 999-year lease secured via a s106 planning requirement. The project provides high-quality, affordable studios for artists and represents a permanent and self-sustaining resource for artists, the borough and the capital.
- Completion of two-year Knowledge Transfer Partnership with Central Saint Martins. The research project, focusing on the form and function of the artist's studio, was the first-ever fine art KTP. Research, including interviews with artist tenants, fed into the design of [new studio building at High House Production Park, Thurrock](#) and to

the development of a comprehensive tenant survey. The significant legacy of the project is a partnership with Central Saint Martins, and University of the Arts London, focusing on practical support for recent graduates. A publication and symposium at CSM is planned for Spring 2014.

- June: Celebration of 25 years hosting international artists' residencies with a publication launch at London's City Hall. The event highlighted the achievements of [Acme's International Residencies Programme](#), which, working with international partners, has supported 360 artists with major work/live residencies, with each spending between three and 12 months based in East London. The publication explores the history of Acme IRP including its purpose, need and evolution and illustrates how international residency programmes can offer life-changing experiences for artists, as well as promoting vital cultural exchange and significant inward investment.
- September: Formal opening of [Matchmakers Wharf](#) marking the end of successful capital development programme part-funded by a £2 million award from Arts Council England's Grants for the arts – capital programme. The new-build, permanent projects achieved were: [The Galleria, SE15](#); [Leven Road, E14](#); [Harrow Road, NW10](#) and [Matchmakers Wharf, E9](#). In total the four delivered 132 permanent studios across 42,700 square feet at a total project cost of £7.6 million, including £3.8 million which Acme secured as partnership funding from the project developers and £1.8 million from Acme's own sources.
- Acme's capital programme, together with three projects under construction, will secure a major [portfolio of permanent buildings](#). In its 40th year this allows Acme to project with certainty that it will not require public revenue funding after 2015. ACE capital funding, and other partnership funding, has enabled the organisation to be self-sustaining, where the delivery of its principal charitable activity will generate increasing income over time. The organisation's future and its capacity to provide greater support for art and artists have been secured.
- September: [The Canada Council for the Arts](#) joins Acme's [International Residencies Programme](#).
- October: new programme, the [Hackney Studio Residency](#), established at [Matchmakers Wharf](#) in partnership with Hackney Council and locally-based arts organisation PEER. The first residency artist, David Murphy, to explore and celebrate the history of the site, formerly occupied by the Lesney Matchbox Toys Factory.
- 9 November: [Acme's 40th anniversary year](#) begins.