



The Bridge at Waterloo Newsletter Issue 1

I am writing to our friends and partners because I'm very pleased to be able to report that the project is moving forward. This newsletter outlines the progress that we have made in the last six months, and offers

ways for you to help. Giles Goddard, February 2016

The future is uncertain for a lot of young people in Britain, with high unemployment and 16-24-year-olds being three times more likely to be unemployed than the rest of the population.

The Bridge at Waterloo (TBAW) will provide a place of inspiration, transformation and hope which addresses disadvantage and opens opportunity through the arts for young people in Waterloo and London more widely.

FUNDS COMING IN

We have been awarded £100,000 by the City Bridge Trust towards accessibility for disabled people in the new development. We have also begun a conversation with the Heritage Lottery Fund re a substantial grant towards the £4m (for redevelopment and staffing costs) we need overall. On this we are working closely with the Church Conservation Trust, who have long experience of developing imaginative additional uses for churches. We have submitted a bid to the Big Lottery 'Reaching Communities' fund, and more are in the pipeline...

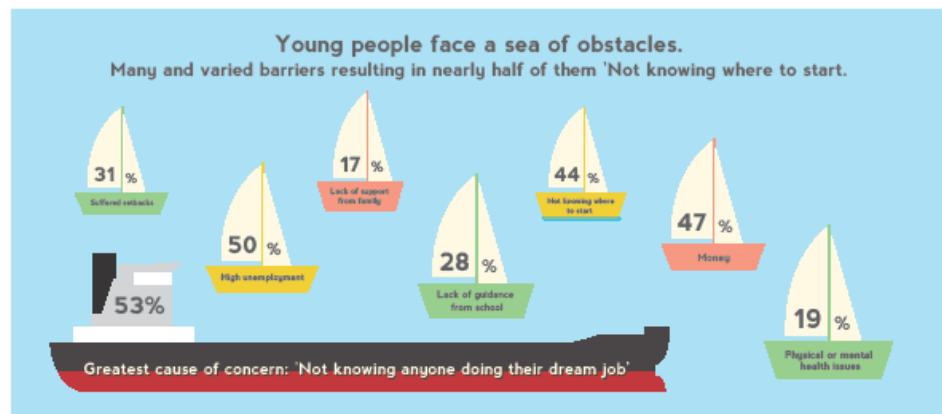
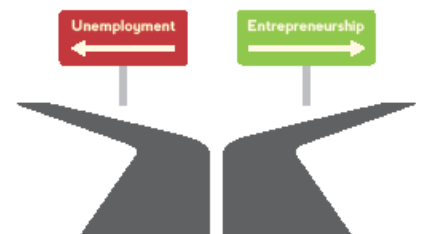
THE BRIDGE AT WATERLOO STARTS TO CONNECT!

A generation of plan Bs

85% of young people* are unable to see themselves achieve their potential and succeed in their desired career.



Nearly 10% sees entrepreneurship as an alternative to unemployment, believing this is what they will do in 10 years time instead of their aspirational careers.



It is clear that a combination of guidance, training and practical support is needed.
The Bridge at Waterloo will offer this.



*Survey carried out amongst secondary schools in Lambeth and Southwark, October 2015

Redeveloped Church, Architect's impression



I am delighted that the Bernard Sunley Foundation and the Rayne Foundation have both already supported us with promises of grants. We are also very pleased that our long-term supporters, MyLondonHome, have proposed whole range of ways in which they would like to work with us, and we are looking forward to developing those relationships.

FIRST PLANNING HURDLE OVERCOME

Our plans for the design have got through the first stage of the approval process. After many meetings and long discussions, the Diocesan Advisory Committee have approved the proposals, and they have been passed to the Chancellor of the Diocese for his consideration. If approved, he will grant a Faculty which means we can proceed. There has been one objection, from the Twentieth Century Society, and we are beginning to prepare our response to that objection.

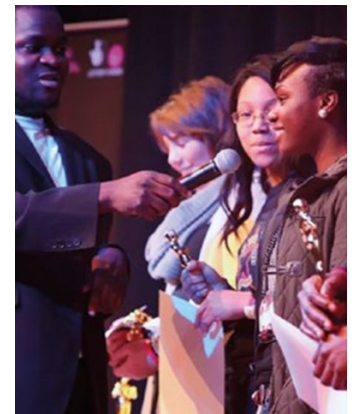
HERITAGE CONSERVATION

We have received professional advice on the restoration of the murals by Hans Feibusch behind and above the altar. It's not going to be cheap, but we hope at the very least that we can repair the immediate damage and make sure that the paintings are properly preserved for future generations.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE BRIDGE AT WATERLOO

We held a very successful consultation process with young people and local residents over last summer and autumn. Our consultation confirmed very clearly that the direction of the Bridge at Waterloo – supporting people into employment in arts, heritage and culture – is the right one. The infographic on page 1 gives some of our findings. The feedback from those who visited at the Open Weekend was unanimously positive – here are some extracts:

- *“This exciting proposal is likely to expand the site of St John’s as well as drawing in a wider cross – section of local people and visitors”*
- *“It’s great to see a project that has such wide scope + is open to so many groups of people with different needs”*



INNOVATIVE TRAINING SCHEME

As a result, we have also applied for funding for our first actual project! **Digital Futures** will offer training in digital skills and coding (the bit behind the internet) and employability skills to 16 young people from Lambeth needing a job. We are very excited about this project – it will use arts and creativity as powerful ways to unlock the potential of our users and foster confidence in their own abilities.

We are planning to work with Citizens UK and SE1 United, and will run a month long course in July which will we hope, be followed by work placements in the South Bank arts institutions.



The programme will be tailored around young people’s needs, ability and aspirations, and will also provide them with the continued support throughout their journey – support that they may not experience elsewhere in their lives.

NEW COMPANY AND CHARITY FORMED

And finally, we have begun to put the nuts and bolts in place to ensure that the Bridge at Waterloo is properly run. We have registered it as a company, and are in the process of registering as a charity.

We are actively recruiting new Trustees and would welcome expressions of interest, especially from anyone with relevant trustee experience, to work alongside the existing Board members - David Clarson, Belinda Taylor, Jane Stroud, Paul Smedley and me.

TOGETHER WE CAN ACCOMPLISH MORE

The social and economic costs of losing a generation to joblessness are too high to contemplate. Therefore, businesses, governments and charities must work together to help young people with gainful activities, skills and opportunities for them. We are looking for

- **Business partners – particularly in the arts, cultural or heritage sectors who would be able to offer a 2- 4 week paid work placement for young people who have completed our course.**
- **Mentors to support those who have completed the course and are starting work.**
- **Funding for the capital costs of the building project – all gifts are welcome, however large or small. To donate, please contact me.**
- **Funding for the running costs of the Bridge at Waterloo training scheme – again, all gifts are welcome. To donate, please contact me.**

So there are many green shoots as we approach the spring. I'm very grateful for all the help, support and advice that we have received from a huge range of people.

If you'd like further information, to be part of the Bridge at Waterloo project, or if you would like to support us with a donation, do please get in touch with me at giles@stjohnswaterloo.org.

