

# Barking



# Artist



# Enterprise



# Zone

[www.upbarking.co.uk/  
barking-artist-enterprise-zone](http://www.upbarking.co.uk/barking-artist-enterprise-zone)





## Introduction

Barking Town Centre's time has come. With superb accessibility (15 minutes from the City), one of the first London Housing Zones and a growing reputation for art and culture, the time is right to launch London's first Artist Enterprise Zone (AEZ).

The Ice House Quarter on the River Roding has successfully attracted a range of artists, makers and designers and we want to extend this provision across Barking Town Centre with ambitious plans for further workspace and living accommodation for people in creative industries.

Our plans build on Barking's strengths and the support of a group of key partners – Create London, Creative Barking and Dagenham, Bow Arts, Studio3 Arts, The Boathouse CIC and the Broadway theatre - run by Barking and Dagenham College who are working with the Barbican and Guildhall. Working together, these partners, who have a track record in getting good things done, will ensure stewardship of the Artist Enterprise Zone providing support for creative industries to grow and progress.

The plans will help to retain artists in London with the Barking Artist Enterprise Zone delivering affordable, sustainable and flexible workspaces and homes for the benefit of the Capital's economy and ensure Barking's full potential is unlocked.

We are proud of both our heritage and in recent years the large number of awards won for high quality design and architecture. There are leisure and entertainment facilities with a new state of the art leisure centre with dance studios, the Broadway Theatre and a new proposed three screen cinema coming soon.

**This booklet sets out Barking's offer and the plans for the Artist Enterprise Zone.**

**"Arts and culture are critical to the Borough's future and Barking is well placed to address London's shortage of creative industry workspace. The Borough is London's Growth Opportunity – join us."**

Councillor Darren Rodwell,  
Leader of London Borough  
of Barking and Dagenham





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### Transport Links

Barking to:	Average Peak	Route	Frequency
Fenchurch Street	17 mins	C2C direct	10 mins
Liverpool Street	27 mins	Hammersmith & City line direct	11 mins
	22 mins	Hammersmith & City District line to Mile End; change to Central line	3 mins
Shoreditch	25 mins	District line to Whitechapel. London Overground to Shoreditch High Street	3 mins
Victoria	41 mins	District line	3 mins
Waterloo	30 mins	C2C or District line to West Ham; change to Jubilee line	3 mins
City Airport	24 mins	C2C and DLR	10 mins





## What Barking offers



### 1 Ice House Quarter

Once home to a range of maritime industries, the Ice House Quarter has a long history along the River Roding with its rich fishing heritage. The award winning refurbished Granary building reflects Barking's vibrant mix of old and new whilst the adjacent Malthouse offers further flexible creative studio space. The Boathouse venue which links the two buildings provides exhibition space and a cafe for people to relax on the terrace taking in the views overlooking the river. The venue also offers rehearsal space, art exhibitions, small scale performances, training and corporate and event management.

The Ice House Quarter provides studio space which helps to promote and support the development of sustainable creative industries. The space will help to forge greater links between existing arts, performance, design and innovative craft based organisations, to widen the Town Centre's offer of creative activity.

The Boathouse is the latest social enterprise venture which encourages greater activity in the arts. Working closely with Creative Barking and Dagenham to encourage arts participation and engagement in the borough whilst also enabling the facilities to be hired on a commercial basis. People will benefit from the spectacular views and can take advantage of its beautiful riverside setting for away days, training, rehearsals and performances.

[www.icehousequarter.co.uk](http://www.icehousequarter.co.uk)



## 2 IceHouse Court Studios

Opposite the Malthouse is IceHouse Court Studios providing a further 500 sqm of creative industry space. Thanks to the Council and Mayor of London funding, the space was fitted out and let to Bow Arts who are letting the space to a range of artists and makers.

[www.bowarts.org/studios/icehouse-court-barking](http://www.bowarts.org/studios/icehouse-court-barking)



## Creative Barking and Dagenham

Creative Barking and Dagenham (CBD) is funded by the Arts Council England and the Council. A Creative People and Places Programme, it finds innovative ways for local people to experience outstanding arts and creative activities whilst also promoting the borough as a place where exciting art, of all forms, is made and shown.

CBD commissions high quality, ambitious, locally owned art projects in the borough. Landmark commissions have included Chad McCail's Becontree mural (below), Studio3 Art's Merchant of Venice and Punchdrunk's transformation of Eastbury Manor House.

CBD has over 150 'cultural connectors', a network of local people making decisions about the programming, a superb asset for the borough. To date over 200 artists and art organisations have worked with CBD.

[www.creativebd.org.uk](http://www.creativebd.org.uk)



### 3 Studio3 Arts and the Galleons Centre

Established in 1987 Studio3 Arts is a well respected arts practice based at the Galleon Centre and the lead organisation for CBD. Working in partnership with local people and other stakeholders who add strength and value, Studio3 Arts can prioritise developing artists at a range of career points helping those that are particularly emerging or new to the sector. Their physical home, at the Galleon Centre near to the Ice House Quarter, is an established arts venue that is locally-driven, curated and produced – Studio3 Arts combines its artistic programme with a selection of received works by artists and companies who are interested in the region and its community.

[www.studio3arts.org.uk](http://www.studio3arts.org.uk)



### 4 The Broadway Theatre - School for the Performing Arts & Technical Theatre (above)

The 360-seat Broadway Theatre with ambitious plans for unlocking creative growth. The Broadway is run by Barking and Dagenham College who are working with the Barbican and the Guildhall. It is home to the School for the Performing Arts and Technical Theatre - its excellent rehearsal rooms, recording studio and music technology room are equipped to professional standards and have the latest sound and lighting equipment. The venue can also be hired for events and seminars.

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

### 5 Abbey Leisure Centre

The new £14m facility offers a jam-packed aerobic programme, a gym including 140 workstations, a six lane swimming pool and a teaching pool. There is also a children's soft play facility, designed by Turner Prize-nominated artist Marvin Gaye Chetwynd, and a luxury spa providing a range of beauty treatments, a rock sauna, three steam rooms and much more.





## 6 The Bath House Barking - The art of wellbeing

The Barking Bath House was established in 2012 as a quirky pop-up spa and bar designed by Something & Son working with CREATE London and the Council. Renamed and set up as a social enterprise it operates in a temporary location in Barking Learning Centre offering health and well being activities. The Bath House offers a sauna and various treatments from holistic, Swedish, deep tissue, Thai yoga and Indian head massages to reflexology and Kinesiology. Our Artist Enterprise Zone plans will ensure it has a permanent long term home so it can continue to grow from strength to strength.

[www.thebathhousebarking.org](http://www.thebathhousebarking.org)



## 7 Barking Enterprise Centres

Barking Enterprise Centres Community Interest Company (BEC CIC) provides a range of offices spaces from two premises near Barking station. It also provides free business advice and support for entrepreneurs and businesses based in the borough.

[www.beccic.co.uk](http://www.beccic.co.uk)



## 8 Cinema

Planning permission has been granted for the former Abbey Sports Centre for a development containing a three screen cinema, commercial units, apartments and a Care City - an innovative facility looking at health and social care.





## Public art and public realm

Barking Town Centre has a good reputation for high quality public realm and innovative public art. These include:

### 9 “The Catch”

The Catch” is a gateway public artwork at Barking Town Centre designed by Loraine Leeson and Anne Thorne Architects and built by Alloy Fabweld Ltd. It is a 10m structure of steel, rolled aluminum and fiberglass sited at the Longbridge Road roundabout. The theme reflects two key elements of Barking’s history – its historical fishing industry and the area’s Saxon heritage. The “nets” of the structure derives from Celtic knotwork, inspired by that found on the stonework in the ruins of Barking Abbey.



### 10 The Lighted Lady (left)

The Lighted Lady is situated at the entrance from the A406 onto London Road at the Gurdwara Way and Abbey Road roundabout. The sculpture stands 20 metres high and constructed from steel with striking, colourful lights running along the sculpture at night. Designed by Dutch artist Joost Van Santen’s company “Light Art” the changing colours makes it more of a pleasing journey.



## 11 Barking Town Square folly

The Folly in Barking Town Square, designed by muf architecture/art, is a 7 metre high artificial ruin built using the skills of local college students. It is engaging, playful and surprising but also rooted in its place. It works with its surroundings to help create a unique area in the Town Centre.



## Barking Town Square

Designed by muf architecture/art, Town Square won Best European Public Square in 2008. It provides a superb venue for performances and has hosted numerous festivals and events.



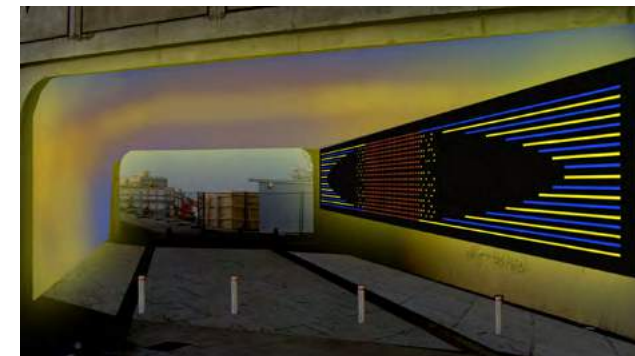
## Sculptures to Commemorate the Fishing Heritage

A number of public art sculptures have recently been commissioned through the Outer London Fund to highlight the historic contribution of the largest fishing industry in Barking. The River Roding was once a busy port of ships delivering and storing fish in the once surrounding fields which were deliberately flooded. Local people were paid to harvest great blocks of ice and haul these to the Ice House, where the ice was shipped and sold.



## 12 The Light Waves

The public art is an interactive and stunning lighting installation created by Raphael Daden at the underpass of Wakering Road, linking the award winning housing development of Tanner Street with the station and retail quarter.





## 13 The Idol

At the new state of the art Abbey Leisure Centre a permanent 21 square metre soft play area designed by Turner Prize nominee, Marvin Gaye Chetwynd is the latest commission by Create. Titled 'the Idol' it brings art into the social space of a leisure facility which embodies the eclectic and exuberant mood of Chetwynd's performances.

Walls and floors printed in black and white will immerse children in a fun and fantasy world of images. The Idol is at the centre of the space, a two storey-high climbing frame forming a towering cage-like robotic figure with interwinding chambers, ramps and levels. The Idol is part machine and part totem and takes the inspiration from the Dagenham Idol, a Neolithic figure discovered in the borough in 1922. The aspiration is to involve over 700,000 young children and families in the borough and surrounding areas in its first 10 years.



## Events

A range of events take place each year to help increase activities and things to do for local people. In 2015 Barking and Dagenham celebrated its 50th anniversary as a London Borough with an array of festivities and events including Barking Folk Festival held over two days with world music, dance, street theatre, poetry and a Billy Bragg concert. 2016 saw the summer of festivals and 2017 will see further additions to the programme.







## Barking Artist Enterprise Zone Proposals

Our proposals seek to build on Barking's existing offer for creative industries but provide some striking additions in the form of innovative affordable workspace and living accommodation, enhanced facilities and improved networks and support. Critically it brings together committed partners in ensuring Barking's full potential is unlocked.

### 14 Barking 360 Road Creative Arts Hub and The Bath House Barking permanent home (left)

As part of the Barking Housing Zone, the Council is working with Nu Living/ Swan New Homes on a key gateway site to deliver homes as well as a superb ground floor space which would provide a Creative Arts Hub including a permanent home for the Bath House Barking. A competition will be held in 2017 to select an arts organisation(s) who would provide an excellent programme and facilities really adding to the town's creative industries offer.

### 15 Linton Road – workspace and artist living accommodation

Benefitting from the GLA London Regeneration Fund, behind Barking Enterprise Centre a Council owned vacant site will be developed to provide affordable live/workspace for budding artists and creative designers. An innovative pilot scheme would create around 12 two bed apartments at affordable rents for artists. Create London would lead on ensuring the space met artists' requirements and were attracted through high quality design. Architects Apparata have been selected to design the project.





## 16 Vicarage field

The transformational proposals for the redevelopment of Vicarage field include a music venue, cinema and enterprise space.



## 18 Town Quay (below)

The council will work with partners to ensure the full potential of Town Quay is unlocked, providing an attractive destination with space for artists, bars and restaurants, new homes and attractive riverside environment. The council is also keen to support Barking Creek Trust's proposals for community moorings and floating gardens offering a programme of arts activity.

## 19 High Street Improvement Programme: East Street and Barking Market

Thanks to funding from the Mayor of London's High Street Fund, the layout, appearance and accessibility of East Street and Barking Market is being improved. The first stage of works has been delivered - a refreshed civic space in front of the former Magistrates Court consisting of new trees, benches and paving. This will be followed by a high quality catenary lighting scheme suspended between buildings, new market infrastructure and an improved stall layout for stalls, as well as more opportunities for creative events and activities on the high street such as the Barking Food Court.

## 17 More Creative Industry Units

As part of new developments the council is seeking to secure additional workspace for artists at affordable rents. The first two ground floor units at Weston Homes' Rivermill Lofts scheme next to the Ice House Quarter and space on Be:Here's Barking Wharf Scheme.

