

PRESS RELEASE



1st August 2012

LONDON CIVIC FORUM TO CLOSE

Sadly, after 12 years of enriching democracy in the capital, London Civic Forum has decided to close at the end of September 2012.

The decision is a voluntary dissolution of the organisation that includes plans to transfer important parts of its work to another London charity. In the meantime, planned work will go ahead, including a number of events and the creation of a digital resource archive.

London Civic Forum's closure is announced at a time when civic safeguards are needed as never before, with support for engagement and public accountability being eroded at a break-neck pace. This is a time when LCF should be increasing their services, however, due in large part to seeming lack of political will from some quarters and the related reductions in public sector funding, support for LCF's work is not a fiscal priority, and so LCF has to close.

"This work will never be done," said Lorraine Roberts, London Civic Forum's Interim Director. "For London to thrive, the voices of all its communities need to be heard, and that can only be done through strong, committed civic engagement support.

"Unfortunately, what is required right now is a huge mustering of forces at a time when a civic society is not a political priority.

"A massive effort is needed to make sure that the most vulnerable aren't lost even further from their rightful place in helping to shape London into a city for all its citizens."

Some of London Civic Forum's proudest moments and achievements from its 12 years of work include:

1. Contributing to the London Olympic bid by holding community events to gather members' views and identify volunteering, local planning and access to training, jobs, sport and culture needs
2. Designing a toolkit for the Greater London Authority to use when consulting with voluntary and community organisations on the Mayor's spatial development strategy and enabling community groups to give evidence and change the London Plan for the good of Londoners
3. Hosting engagement sessions for the GLA family during the development of strategic plans that enabled communities to suggest better use of resources
4. Leading the government's London Empowerment Partnership and delivering the targeted communities support programme and Regional

Take Part Champion role; distributing a combined pot of over £1m to support Londoner's involvement

5. Delivering community leadership training programmes, active citizenship learning locally and regionally including Growing London and a course at Birkbeck College, and funding five community leadership coordinators across London
6. Supporting nearly 1,500 members and communicating with nearly 3,500 interested individuals and organisations every month

London Civic Forum extends its grateful thanks to the many organisations who provided support and partnership over the years. The dream of an enabled and active civic community in London is still held by many, including past and present staff, members and networks.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- London Civic Forum is a hub for civic engagement in London, providing a focus of civic activity at a strategic level by enabling and challenging London's governing agencies and institutions to use the valuable insight and experience of local communities; www.londoncivicforum.org.uk
- Further announcements will be made to confirm transfer of on-going work and availability of the digital archive resource
- For more information about London Civic Forum and its work, please get in touch with Lorraine Roberts, info@londoncivicforum.org.uk 020 8709 9770