



PRESS RELEASE

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NEW SOUTH LONDON GALLERY FIRE STATION BUILDING TO OPEN 22 SEPTEMBER 2018

The South London Gallery (SLG) is delighted to announce that its new annexe in the former Peckham Road Fire Station across the road from the main gallery site will open to the public on 22 September 2018.

Following the generous gift of the Grade II listed building on Peckham Road by an anonymous benefactor, the new development designed by 6a architects will enable the SLG to expand its internationally acclaimed contemporary exhibitions, education and events programme. Details of the opening programme will be announced later in the year.

Dating from 1867 and the earliest surviving example of a purpose-built fire station in London, the Fire Station development includes new exhibition and education spaces, an artist's studio and communal kitchen. This inspiring, light-filled building will enable the SLG to take a more ambitious and experimental approach to programming than ever before, furthering its reputation for bringing new work by internationally acclaimed and lesser known artists to an area of London with a fascinating local history. The SLG's extensive archive of its 126 year history, in addition to material relating to the social, architectural and cultural history of the local area, will be available to the public for the first time both digitally and through changing displays in a dedicated archive gallery.

A new education space will allow the SLG to expand its innovative arts programme in the local area and grow the depth of engagement and participation amongst new and existing audiences. In this way, the project complements other key initiatives taking place across Peckham and Camberwell, enhancing the area as an important creative hub in London.

The redesign, led by 6a architects, creates a series of light-filled spaces over four floors, maintaining the original layout of rooms as far as possible. 6a architects have a long association with the SLG having worked on the extension of the main site in 2010 and again on the Gabriel Orozco-designed garden in 2016. The practice are known for their work with arts organisations and artists, with projects including the award-winning

gallery Raven Row, Sadie Coles in Davies Street, Juergen Teller's studio and, currently in progress, the major expansion of Milton Keynes Gallery.

The project has been generously supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the Mayor's London Regeneration Fund as well as funding from a number of trusts, foundations, individuals and commercial galleries. The SLG is now in the closing stages of its public fundraising campaign to secure the final £400,000 to cover restoration costs and establish a fund for the future running of the building.

Margot Heller, Director of the South London Gallery, said: *"As we enter the final stages of our fundraising campaign, we are delighted to be able to confirm that the Fire Station will be opening to the public in September 2018. A weekend of celebratory events will highlight some of the many exciting possibilities afforded by a host of distinctive new spaces, beautifully designed by 6a architects and transforming the experience of visiting the South London Gallery."*

For regular updates on the Fire Station project visit www.southlondongallery.org/firestation and sign-up to the SLG e-newsletters. #SLGFireStation

PRESS CONTACTS

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. HLF awarded £1.65million to the South London Gallery to restore the

former Peckham Road Fire Station and provide a permanent and accessible home for its archive, as well as space for exhibitions and activities. www.hlf.org.uk. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #HLFsupported and #NationalLottery

About 6a architects

6a architects was founded by Tom Emerson and Stephanie Macdonald in 2001. The practice is best known for its contemporary art galleries, educational buildings, artists' studios and residential projects, often in sensitive historic environments. 6a architects gained recognition with the completion of two critically acclaimed public art galleries, Raven Row (2009), which won an RIBA Award in 2011, and the expanded South London Gallery (2010). Recently completed projects include Black Stone Building (2017), a new apartment building in North London, arts and fashion centre Blue Mountain School (2018) and a warehouse conversion for storage and display of a private art collection. The 68-room hall of residence at Churchill College, Cambridge (2016) garnered an RIBA East Award (2017), and a new studio complex for photographer Juergen Teller (2016) was winner of several RIBA awards and was shortlisted for the Stirling Prize 2017. Due for completion in 2018 are the practice's expansions of MK Gallery, Milton Keynes, and the South London Gallery Fire Station. 6a architects has received multiple nominations for the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies Van der Rohe Award (2011, 2013 & 2015) and in 2012 was awarded the Erich Schelling Medal for Architecture. Tom Emerson was recently awarded the Conrad Ferdinand Meyer Prize 2018 for his work with ETH in Zürich, only the second architect to receive the prize since its inaugural year of 1938. 6a.co.uk

About the Mayor's London Regeneration Fund (LRF)

The London Regeneration Fund aims to re-energise the capital's places of work and high streets by embracing the city's incredible talent for creativity and technological innovation. It was launched by City Hall in January 2015 following a successful bid to Government as part of the city's Growth Deal.

About the London Enterprise Action Partnership (LEAP)

LEAP is the London Economic Action Partnership. LEAP brings entrepreneurs and business together with London's government to identify actions to support and lead economic growth and job creation in the capital. It is the region's Local Enterprise Partnership.

About the former Peckham Road Fire Station

The former Peckham Road Fire Station, dating from 1867, was awarded Grade II-status in 1991 with English Heritage recognising its importance as the earliest surviving purpose-built fire station in London, if not nationally. It operated for almost fifty years until 1925 when a new fire station was built on the site next door and Kennedy's Sausages subsequently purchased the building for use as a factory and office. The building fell into a state of disrepair having been vacant for many years.

The building is a striking example of Victorian domestic Gothic architecture. The ground floor originally housed the fire engines, while the four upper floors were used as accommodation by the firemen and their families.

In 2014 the building was placed on the English Heritage *At Risk Register*. The Fire Station is only 100 metres from the SLG, which is also Victorian, so the two buildings have been near neighbours for more than 120 years.

To find out how you could support and become involved in the Peckham Road Fire Station please contact firestation@southlondongallery.org

About the South London Gallery

The South London Gallery (SLG) is an internationally renowned public institution with an established reputation for its programme of contemporary art exhibitions, film and performance events, with integrated education projects for children, young people and adults. Over the past decade the exhibitions programme has featured solo shows by established international figures such as Ellen Gallagher, Thomas Hirschhorn, Gabriel Kuri, Rashid Johnson, Rivane Neuenschwander, Roman Ondak, Amie Siegel and Lawrence Weiner, as well as those by younger and mid-career artists such as Michael Dean, Thea Djordjadze and Oscar Murillo. Group shows bring together works by established and lesser-known British and international artists, whilst an ongoing residency programme provides opportunities for artists to develop new work and exhibit at the SLG.

Providing opportunities for learning and participation is at the heart of the South London Gallery's purpose, and thousands of children, young people and adults take part in an extensive programme of activities. This includes a peer-led young people's forum and website, www.recreativeuk.com; free family workshops every Sunday in the Clore Studio; Art Block, a dedicated creative space for children on Sceaux Gardens housing estate; artist-led projects and commissions on other local estates; ongoing provision for school visits; and a BBC Children in Need-funded programme for looked after children.

The South London Gallery is a registered charity which raises more than half of its income from trusts and foundations, sponsors and fundraising events.

The gallery is open Tuesday–Sunday 11–6pm, except Wednesdays and the last Friday of the month until 9pm. Closed Mondays. Admission is free.

South London Gallery, 65-67 Peckham Road, London, SE5 8UH Former Fire Station, 82 Peckham Road, London, SE15 5LQ www.southlondongallery.org

Twitter: [@SLG_artupdates](https://twitter.com/SLG_artupdates)

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