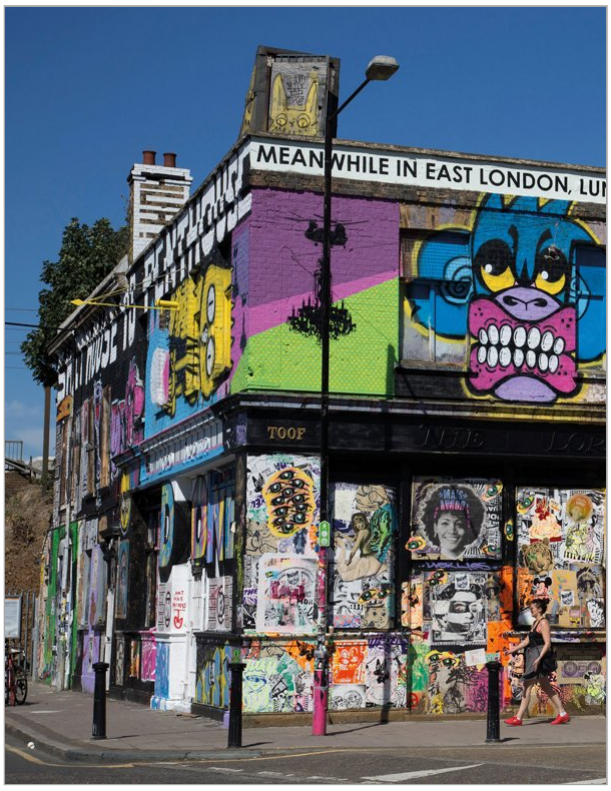


Commentary/Op-Ed - April 2019

London Calling: New York Should Take a Cue from London Mayor's Cultural Infrastructure Plan

Last month, the mayor of London released the Cultural Infrastructure Plan, an initiative to address the growing affordability crisis facing the city's artists and creators. With similar challenges threatening New York City's artists and venues, city leaders and local officials should consider taking a page from London's sketchbook.

by Jonathan Bowles and Eli Dvorkin

From escalating rents and operating costs to licensing and funding restrictions, the dance studios, music venues, theaters, workshops, and even skateparks that make London a global cultural capital are under unprecedented pressure. In New York, the echoes are unmistakable: at least 24 independent music venues closed between 2011 and 2015, and rents rose by at least 32 percent from 2000 to 2012 in the city's neighborhoods most closely associated with art and creativity. Unlike New York, London has launched a plan to tackle this affordability crisis head-on: the Cultural Infrastructure Plan. Mayor Sadiq Khan's ambitious proposals seek to protect and grow spaces for artists to live, work, exhibit, and perform, while creating new training pathways for Londoners to access jobs in the creative economy.

In this op-ed for *ARTnews*, CUF Executive Director Jonathan Bowles and Editorial & Policy Direcor Eli Dvorkin argue that NYC should follow London's lead by developing new policies and progams that confront the affordability crisis facing the arts and nurture grassroots cultural spaces across all five boroughs.

Read the op-ed on *ARTnews*.

This op-ed is a continuation of the Center for an Urban Future's extensive research on the arts and culture in New York City, including the study *Creative New York*, which was generously supported by **New York Community Trust**, **Robert Sterling Clark Foundation**, **Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund**, **Rockefeller Brothers Fund** and **Edelman**, and the data brief "Artists in Schools: A Creative Solution to New York's Affordable Space Crunch"

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Center for an Urban Future is an independent, nonprofit think tank that generates innovative policies to create jobs, reduce inequality and help lower income New Yorkers climb into the middle class. For 20 years, CUF has published accessible, data-driven reports on ways to grow and diversify the economy and expand opportunity that are anchored in rigorous research, not preconceived notions about outcome. Our work has been a powerful catalyst for policy change in New York City and serves as an invaluable resource for government officials, community groups, nonprofit practitioners and business leaders as they advocate for and implement policies to address some of New York's biggest challenges and opportunities.

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