

Aldgate East My Neighbourhood is a partnership project between Four Corners, Alternative Arts and Swadhinata Trust. It is funded through the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Community Cohesion Pilot Programme.

This creative heritage project explores Aldgate, Whitechapel and Spitalfields, past and present. It is free, and open to anyone who lives or works in the local area.

Project delivery

The project will be delivered in two phases.

Phase One (summer/autumn/winter 2018) will begin with two inspirational events, each led by a local photographer, a historian and a writer. At each event volunteers and participants will be invited to engage with the project through three main strands: 1) historical research, reminiscence, & oral histories; 2) creative writing; and 3) photography; and to help design the focus of the project.

Volunteers and participants will engage in:

- 3 visits to Tower Hamlets Local History Archives to research the history of the area;
- 10 oral histories with older and younger residents;
- 3 creative writing workshops;
- 5 photography walks;
- Other visits to local groups to discuss memories and views of the area.

They will then create an exhibition of their photographs, interviews and writing for the Photomonth festival at Brady Arts in autumn 2018, participating in an audience discussion at the launch. The exhibition will tour to another other venue in Aldgate East and to Four Corners' Gallery both with further participant-led discussions.

Phase Two (spring/summer 2019) will use Phase One research, creative writing, interviews and photographs to develop a 15-minute film. From January-March, 6 participants and 4 volunteers will develop the film idea and learn practical camera, filmmaking and editing skills. They will then participate in a 5-day film shoot, led by Four Corners' filmmakers, filming many Phase One participants. The film will be edited by the end of May with participants taking part in viewing and edit decisions. The film will be promoted widely and shown at 3 local venues during June-September (e.g. Brady Arts, Curzon Aldgate, Rich Mix cinemas), accompanied audience discussions. It will also be submitted to the East End Film Festival 2020.

