

SOUTHBANK CENTRE



Press Release

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Contacts:

Kate Redway, kate.redway@southbankcentre.co.uk / 020 7921 0687

Louis Woodhead hello@llsb.com, 07835058426

Mayor of London funding announced for redevelopment of world famous skate space and creation of vibrant new arts education hub

Today Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has awarded Long Live Southbank and Southbank Centre a community growth and development grant of £700k to develop the Queen Elizabeth Hall Undercroft as an extended skate space and inclusive new children and young people's creative education centre.

The Undercroft, on London's South Bank, will receive this grant as part of the Mayor of London's £70 million Good Growth Fund, which drives investments in community growth and development across the capital. Today's Mayoral announcement sees £24 million allocated to 27 projects across the capital, from over 200 submitted funding bids, that will deliver social and economic improvements including investment in community assets, workspaces, green infrastructure and cultural venues.

The upcoming reconfiguration of the existing Undercroft sees an extension of this internationally renowned skate space, including improvements to lighting and a restoration of original 1960s banks and concrete paving. The creation of a new educational centre will sit alongside this, enabling children and young people to engage in wide-ranging learning and creative activities curated by Southbank Centre. The collaborative development will benefit local residents and wider communities including visitors to London and the capital's cultural landscape as a whole.

Today's announced funding grant builds on the joint crowdfunding campaign for this space, launched by Long Live Southbank and Southbank Centre in June last year, which has seen support from the international skateboarding community, general public, businesses and philanthropists.

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, said: *"I am using this funding to challenge preconceptions about how regeneration takes place. I want to give all Londoners –*

regardless of background – the opportunity to be actively involved in their city and have more places to live, learn, work and play.

“The projects I announced funding for today will help us to tackle inequality, strengthen civil society, and ensure the benefits of regeneration are felt by all.”

Louis Woodhead of Long Live Southbank said:

“Southbank has a unique creative feeling and it’s great to see this supported by the Mayor of London. LLSB and Southbank Centre have been working hard to show what can be achieved through collaboration and we’re grateful to everyone who continues to donate and support the campaign. Receiving the Good Growth Fund brings us closer to our vision to provide more space and opportunities for this creativity to grow and flourish.”

Elaine Bedell, Southbank Centre’s Chief Executive, said: *“We’re delighted to have been selected as recipients for this generous grant, from such a strong pool of funding applications. The development of this space will give skaters and BMXers access to newly opened up, and restored, sections of the Undercroft whilst young people and schoolchildren from across the capital will benefit from a new fully accessible arena for diverse creative and learning activities.”*

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For further press information, interviews and images please contact:

Southbank Centre’s Head of Communications, Kate Redway 0207 921 0687
Long Live Southbank, Paul Richards, +447956597333 / Louis Woodhead +447835058426
Email: hello@llsb.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Long Live Southbank (LLSB)

Long Live Southbank (LLSB) is a non-profit grassroots organisation created by the Southbank Undercroft community in order to maintain and enhance the world’s longest continually used skate spot and promote the benefits of skateboarding and creative practices.

Set up in 2013, LLSB has been recognised for its award-winning work by key figures from across the fields of art, culture, politics and architecture.

Southbank has been skated for over 5 decades and is one of the world’s most iconic skate spots, drawing skateboarders, BMXers and street artists from across the globe, as well as being a springboard of creativity.

LLSB is made of a pan-generational group from the Southbank community who represent the broad age ranges, social backgrounds and life experiences of the Undercroft.

Since its inception LLSB has assisted skateboarding campaigns in the UK and worldwide and continue to promote the benefits and positivity of skateboarding. More information available at www.llsb.com. Crowdfunding site for the project: www.llsbdonate.com

About Southbank Centre

Southbank Centre is the UK’s largest arts centre, occupying a 17 acre site that sits in the midst of

London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as The Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. For further information please visit www.southbankcentre.co.uk. Southbank Centre is carrying out vital restoration work on the Hayward Gallery, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room.