

SOUTH BANK CENTRE

An engine of creativity

THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2022/23



Cover: *When I look at you I don't see colour*, 2022
© Kadi Diallo, participant in our Photo-Fantastic
photography programme

Inside cover: Kelsey Lu performing at *Woman
Life Freedom: A Concert for the Women of Iran*
© Pete Woodhead



**In 2022/23 the Southbank Centre showed that
it is more resilient and ambitious than ever.**

**‘London’s other crown
jewel... The Southbank
Centre has become the
cultural heart of the city’**

The New York Times

This year, we saw audiences returning with increasing confidence to engage with our rich and diverse artistic programme. As we recognise that the past year has also been challenging for many of us, we are proud to have remained a welcoming, open space for all, and we were thrilled to see our site busy again and return to the top five most visited attractions in the UK.

Santtu-Matias Rouvali conducting the Philharmonia,
one of our six Resident Orchestras, at the Royal
Festival Hall © Mark Allan

**'It's been wonderful to see our terraces,
walkways and foyers so lively and busy again
and to witness our visitors enjoy the benefits
of congregation, whether it's simply having a
coffee in our cafes or experiencing the thrill
of world-class live performance.'**

Elaine Bedell
Chief Executive





Misan Harriman
Chair

This has been my first full year as Chair of the Southbank Centre, and seeing the organisation hitting its stride has been truly invigorating.

Audiences have returned in large numbers to our world-class classical and contemporary music concerts, literature events and performances in our concert halls, including the iconic Royal Festival Hall, and enjoyed highly rated visual art exhibitions in the internationally acclaimed Hayward Gallery.

As we look to redefine access to artistic forms, we have started rolling out a bold new plan for classical music – *A New Future for Classical Music* – based on innovation, diversity, inclusivity and excellence. We want to ensure classical music remains relevant and can respond to and reflect our rapidly changing society, as well as celebrate world-class classical music performances on our stages. *New Future* shows that

the Southbank Centre wants to push art forms, drive innovation and create new opportunities to access arts and culture.

Alongside our commitment to innovation in programming, we have a chance and responsibility to show innovation in improving the opportunities for the artists of the future. We were therefore thrilled to announce our groundbreaking partnership with Apple to create *Reframe*, a programme empowering the next generation of Black creatives in the UK. We're also delighted to be working with Bloomberg Philanthropies' Digital Accelerator Programme, allowing us to enhance our digital infrastructure and stay at the cutting edge of artistic and technical development.



Elaine Bedell
Chief Executive

Regaining our place as one of the top five most visited attractions in the UK this year was testament to the very hard work everyone at the Southbank Centre has done to restore public confidence in our site as a must-visit place for memorable experiences and entertainment.

After a busy summer culminating with Grace Jones' *Meltdown* festival and our *Summer: In the Black Fantastic* site-wide programme, we were delighted to be awarded the first-ever Platinum Award for accessibility from Attitude is Everything.

The Hayward Gallery cemented its reputation as the most innovative contemporary art gallery in London with a string of critically acclaimed exhibitions including *Strange Clay: Ceramics in Contemporary Art*: the first large-scale group exhibition in the UK to explore how contemporary artists are reinventing the possibilities of ceramics.

Our Hayward Gallery Touring programme, which is created and managed by the curatorial team specifically for museums and galleries around the UK to present free exhibitions, has been engaging audiences with *Hollow Earth: Art, Caves & The Subterranean Imaginary* in Nottingham, while *British Art Show 9* opened in its final two cities in 2022/23, Manchester in May 2022 and Plymouth in October 2022, welcoming 318,533 visitors.

I'd like to thank all the hard-working staff at the Southbank Centre, our freelancers, partners and all the artists and communities who've contributed this year to keeping us 'the cultural heart of the city' (The New York Times).

Shingai Shoniwa and the Love Unlimited Synth Orchestra performing at Grace Jones' *Meltdown* festival © Victor Frankowski

55%
of events were free

3.1m
visitors

761,318
tickets sold

5,406
events

420,000+
regional audiences
for Hayward Gallery Touring



Mark Ball
Artistic Director

I am confident that the Southbank Centre will be defined by the art and engagement our teams work so hard to enable.

2022/23 has been my first full year as Artistic Director of the Southbank Centre.

This year, we have implemented a new, refreshed artistic vision to unite our work across multiple art forms and our 11-acre site. At the heart of this vision are two interconnected ambitions. The first one is for the Southbank Centre to become an engine of creativity, a space where we make culture by driving innovation and supporting

artists to forge the artistic ideas and projects of tomorrow. Our second ambition, directly related to our unique history and heritage, is to be the nation's most culturally democratic and expressive space for artists and audiences, a deeply inclusive space for everyone to engage in art and culture.

We are delighted that our artistic programme successfully reflected these ambitions in 2022/23.

We welcomed the celebrated and world-leading **Aurora Orchestra** (pictured) and **Chineke! Orchestra** into our family of Resident Orchestras.



As part of our exceptional classical music programme, we presented some of the very **greatest musicians performing today**, including Nicola Benedetti (pictured), Imogen Cooper, Tan Dun, Evelyn Glennie, Abel Selaocoe, Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Alice Sara Ott, Bryn Terfel, Mitsuko Uchida, Yuja Wang and Roderick Williams.



Artistic

highlights



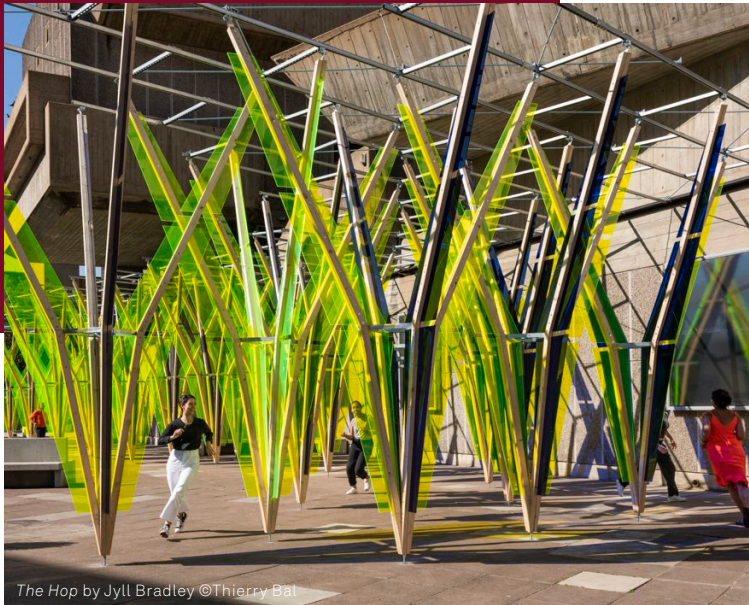
Grace Jones' *Meltdown* was nominated for *Music Week's Festival of the Year* and was our second most successful *Meltdown* festival in terms of audience numbers and revenue.



Installation view of Rashaad Newsome works at the Hayward Gallery © Zeinab Batchelor

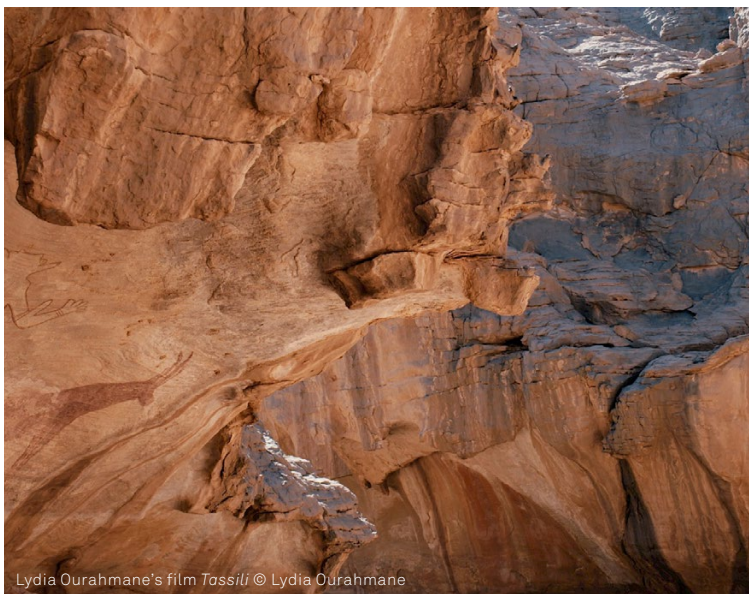
Our bold summer site-wide programme was developed in response to our five-star Hayward Gallery exhibition *In the Black Fantastic*, which was curated by Ekow Eshun.

In addition to *In the Black Fantastic*, the **Hayward Gallery** presented the exhibitions *Strange Clay: Ceramics in Contemporary Art* and *Mike Nelson: Extinction Beckons*, as well as two popular outdoor commissions: Jyll Bradley's *The Hop* and Monira Al Qadiri's *Devonian*.



The Hop by Jyll Bradley ©Thierry Bat

Hayward Gallery Touring produced *Hollow Earth: Art, Caves & The Subterranean Imaginary* which opened at Nottingham Contemporary in 2022 before touring the UK.



Lydia Ourahmane's film *Tossili* © Lydia Ourahmane



© Eamonn McCormack/BAFTA/Getty Images for BAFTA

We hosted the BAFTA Film, Television and Video Games Awards, as well as the BFI London Film Festival.



© Pete Woodhead

We hosted flagship literature and spoken word events with Michaela Coel, Bret Easton Ellis, Edward Enninful, Ian McEwan, Bernie Sanders and Greta Thunberg (pictured).

We believe that everyone should have equal access to the arts and be able to express and develop their creativity.

We aspire to be the nation's most culturally democratic and expressive space for artists and audiences: a deeply inclusive space for everyone to engage in art and culture regardless of their economic, social and cultural backgrounds. As part of our commitment to maintaining a large and free-to-access arts programme, we increased the number of our free events from 44% in 2021/22 to 55% in 2022/23.

55%

of events were free

27%

of first-time audiences at the opening weekend of our new classical season

13%

of Black, Asian and Ethnically Diverse audiences

12%

of Lambeth and Southwark audiences



Opposite: People dancing at a Mix & Move event © David Carter

Right: Celebrating Pride on the terrace © Pete Woodhead

Below: John Kelly & Friends Live during Unlimited festival © Pete Woodhead



A welcoming space for all



An engine of creativity

We innovate in everything we do. We want to be the most vibrant and dynamic cultural space for our artists, audiences and communities.

We support artists to forge new artistic ideas and drive innovation in artistic practices that will define our culture over the coming decades. To enable this we invest in growing the skills and creative careers of emerging talent – especially from backgrounds that have historically been locked out of the arts.

To mark the Hayward Gallery’s exhibition *In The Black Fantastic*, our Creative Engagement Team launched *Photo-Fantastic*, a creative photography course offering emerging Black and dual heritage photographers the opportunity to develop their skills, and prepare for careers in the creative industry. Shortly afterwards, we announced *Reframe*, our partnership with Apple to empower the next generation of Black creatives in the UK. Within a month, we received more than 470 eligible registrations for *Reframe: The Residency*, our industry-led training and development programme. As part of our commitment to supporting creative innovation, we also introduced our new multi-art form artist development programme *Southbank Centre Studio*, an initiative encouraging new ideas and experimental collaborations between artists from different disciplines.

476

eligible registrations received for *Reframe: The Residency* between 1 February and 10 March 2023

9

young people aged 18–24 took part in *Emerging Music Professionals*, a group of whom have gone on to form their own record label

15

emerging Black and dual heritage photographers presented their work in a digital exhibition as part of *Photo-Fantastic*

Opposite: Yeule performing at *Purcell Sessions* © Pete Woodhead

Below: Tim Cook, Misan Harriman, and *Photo-Fantastic* participants Sofia Mpanda and Grace Olanma Etigwe-Uwa © Brooks Kraft



We believe all children and young people should be able to explore their creativity and engage with exciting cultural experiences in and out of the classroom, no matter where they live.

Children and young people are always welcome at the Southbank Centre. Our vibrant family programme included more than 80 free events in 2022/23.

We programmed one of the most successful ever editions of our *Imagine Children's Festival*, with more than 17,000 tickets sold and 100 events programmed. As part of our ambitious partnership with Apple, we also launched *Reframe: Inspire Schools*, a new digital creative programme enabling young people in schools around the country to work with artists, graphic designers, illustrators and climate experts to respond to the climate emergency.

305

school groups engaged in person with a total of 4,600 children and 658 teachers

164

teachers from 160 schools engaged with us through digital events

1,947

children from 42 schools collaborated with young adult author Alexandra Sheppard and illustrator Allen Fatimaharan to write a new book that was professionally published (2021/22)



Above: Primary Schools Takeover: *Strange Clay* © Pete Woodhead

Left: Children with their books at the *Imagine a Story* celebratory event in Norwich © Deb Burrows

Opposite: Young people participating in our Future Exhibition Makers course © David Carter



Unlocking young people's creativity



Environmentally responsible

We recognise the urgency of the climate crisis and are determined to take action.

More than ever, we are actively working to be more sustainable and make agile use of resources so we can invest in the long-term future of the Southbank Centre.

In 2022, we appointed a Sustainability Advisor to lead environmental projects and help to embed sustainability throughout the organisation’s operations, planning and culture. We are already making progress. As part of our aim to become a single-use plastic free site by 2025, we introduced new compostable cups and cutlery that can be disposed of in our on-site composter, which composts up to 1000kg of food and waste and reduces our food waste volumes by 80%. We also reset our target to reduce carbon emissions of our buildings to net zero by 2040 (all scopes).

Throughout the year, we developed our 2023 climate-focused season, *Planet Summer*, and forged new partnerships that bring expertise to our ongoing sustainability work, including with ZSL London Zoo.

50%

target reduction of carbon emissions from our buildings by 2025 – we have already achieved a 42% reduction

27%

reduction in emissions from energy compared to 2019/20

35%

reduction in emissions derived from water and sewage compared to 2019/20

0%

waste to landfill

Opposite: Paul Pulford (Grounded Ecotherapy), Head Gardener, Queen Elizabeth Hall Roof Garden © Takis Zontiros

Below: Queen Elizabeth Hall Roof Garden © Arnaud Mbaki



Thank you

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And all those who wish to remain anonymous.

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We would also like to thank the Board of Governors of the Southbank Centre for their financial support, time and effort towards the realisation of our programme.

Misan Harriman
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Mike Hussey
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Jerome Misso
Ndidi Okezie OBE
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Lynne Shamwana

'The work that we've been doing this last year demonstrates more than ever our determination to be the most open and accessible as well as the most innovative arts centre in the world'

Misan Harriman
Chair



Opposite: Damsel Elysium performing at Purcell Sessions © Pete Woodhead

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southbankcentre.co.uk

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ENGLAND**