

Yesterday, Together, Tomorrow: Personal and Public Archives from Brixton

16 September – 17 October 2021

Reflecting upon these recent times of isolation, where gathering with loved ones or strangers became forbidden, and drawing from the history of the Loughborough Hotel both as a pub and a dancehall, 'Yesterday, Together, Tomorrow' opens a conversation on the act of coming together in public spaces in Brixton.

The exhibition works across two lines of investigation, evolving and blending throughout the course of its duration. A showcase of archival material on loan from the Lambeth Archives and Blak Outside, works as the first attempt to highlight a few moments of coming together in public spaces in Brixton. After digging into the rich records of social gatherings in the area in recent decades, the gallery space will host photographic and oral material that reflect the coming together of people in various contexts: protests, parties, celebration, jams, storytellings, queues.

A call to personal archives constitutes the other part of the show, a collaboration with anyone willing to share their personal records of gatherings in Brixton. These images have been printed on yellow paper and pinned over the existing exhibition. We invite you to add your own images whether shot on analogue cameras or on a phone. The gallery will scan or print them and then hang them on the exhibition walls. Please ask a member of staff for assistance.

The exhibition, highlighting unseen moments of both personal and public archives, aims to create and further develop community ties, using the images and audio records as a springboard for further discussion and connection. The public programme will be an essential part of the show, a place to create further discussion around the social history of Brixton and to keep rewriting the exhibition itself.

The exhibition will be a space for hanging out, consulting books on display, or browsing the archives online, chatting, drawing, screening and debating.

Blak Outside is a grassroots led, intergenerational project, supportive of social housing residents and QTIBIPOC (queer, trans, intersex, Black, indigenous people of colour). The project will build on existing work, particularly the thirty years of community work of founder Carole Wright, which began on Angell Town in 1990 documenting the work of Dora Boatemah and her Angell Town Community Project (ATCP) until 1997. In 2021 Blak Outside was selected for the 'Support Structures for Support Structures', a fellowship programme initiated by Serpentine, that supports up to ten artists and collectives working at the intersection of art, spatial politics and community practice.

Images on loan from Lambeth Archives and Blak Outside.

Public Programme

Loughborough Road Histories: Stories of a south London street (Talk and Book launch)
Thursday 16 September

DJ & open mic night
Friday 24 September

LEAF Tenants and Residents Association AGM
Tuesday 28 September

Photography Workshop
Saturday 2 October

Scrapbooking workshop for families
Saturday 9 October

Blak Outside squats San Mei Gallery
Friday 15 October - Sunday 17 October

Blak Outside squats San Mei Gallery + Q&A
Saturday 16 October

Blak Outside squats San Mei Gallery + closing event with food and music
Sunday 17 October

Further information and details on how to book can be found on our website.

Image information

External windows

(left to right)

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND, COWLEY ESTATE, BRIXTON NORTH

Children playing on a slide in the playground on the Cowley Estate, Brixton North.

Photograph by Bill Beck

Date: c.1960

Photograph courtesy of Lambeth Archives

STORYTELLING, SOLON ESTATE, SOLON NEW ROAD, BRIXTON

A story-telling session for children on the Solon Estate, Solon New Road, Brixton.

Date: c.1975

Photograph courtesy of Lambeth Archives

Inside gallery

(left from main entrance)

N.B. Photographs will be gradually added to the exhibition from members of the public as part of our call for personal archives. These images have been printed on yellow paper and overlaid on the existing exhibition. This handout provides information on original images in the exhibition only, printed in large format in black & white.

Steel Band, Brixton Recreation Centre, Brixton

A steel band playing in front of the Brixton Recreation Centre. From Public Relations Photographs.

Date: c.1987.

Photograph courtesy of Lambeth Archives

Rate-capping protesters, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton

Protest groups providing support outside during a rate-capping meeting within the Town Hall that put local government at odds with central government. Lambeth's refusal to set a rate sparked a political clash between the left and right wings of politics. PR Department photograph dated 7th March 1985.

Date: 1985

Photograph courtesy of Lambeth Archives

Play area, Aytoun Road, Stockwell Park Estate, Stockwell

Youths playing football in a sunken concrete enclosure off Aytoun Road, Stockwell Park Estate. These walls are now much used by graffiti artists and known as the Stockwell 'Hall of Fame'. Date: 1978

Photograph courtesy of Lambeth Archives

Storytelling, Solon Estate, Solon New Road, Brixton

Date: c.1975

Photograph courtesy of Lambeth Archives

Storytelling, Dexter Road, Brixton

A group of children listening to a story on a dilapidated site off Dexter Road, Brixton, with shops in Railton Road adjacent.

Date: c.1975

Photograph courtesy of Lambeth Archives

San Mei Gallery

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Gay Pride Festival, Brockwell Park, Herne Hill

Gay men in Brockwell Park at the Gay Pride festival, plus a mother. Now called the more inclusive 'Pride', the first march was in 1972 with the Festival being held at Brockwell Park in 1993 and 1994 and later on Clapham Common.

Date: 1993.

Photograph courtesy of Lambeth Archives

Rate-capping protest rally, Town Hall, Acre Lane, Brixton

Protesters' support rally outside Lambeth Town Hall during the rate-capping meeting within that put local government at odds with central government, sparking a political clash between the left and right wings of politics. 'Thatcher's a Snatcher' on the Ferndale Family Centre's banner is a reference to the then Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. PR Department photograph dated 7th March 1985.

Date: 1985

Photograph courtesy of Lambeth Archives

Leaner Pool Opening, Brixton Recreation Centre

The opening of the Learners' Pool with parents and toddlers at the Brixton Recreation Centre in Brixton Station Road.

Date: c.1985

Photograph courtesy of Lambeth Archives