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barbican

Our Street

Thu 1 – Fri 23 Aug 2024

The Curve, Barbican Centre

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2024/event/our-street-curve-takeover>



Imagine the street of your dreams. A joyful and welcoming space where children and families play, make and dance, and communities come together through gaming, performance and conversation. This August, [Our Street](#) imagines such a place - a fun, participatory and free-to-enter takeover of the Barbican's Curve Gallery, where children, families, young people, and the young-at-heart can get creative and connect through play. **Our Street**, which takes inspiration from the Barbican Art Gallery's summer exhibition [Francis Alÿs: Ricochets](#), is open daily from 10am - 6pm and is free to everyone.

Visitors are invited to travel the length and breadth of the route, taking in the familiar bus stops, London skylines, local shops and hopscotch courts, on a journey of encounter and surprise. From **1 to 23 August 2024**, *Our Street* will wake early and close late, with the option to just drop in to explore, doodle and be playful, and the opportunity to take part in a programme of curated events including workshops, crafting, street parties, game nights and a family rave – all created in collaboration with a range of exciting community partners.

Pop-up programmes include: a dance session with award-winning hip-hop dance theatre company and Barbican Artistic Associates **Boy Blue**; sensory circus play with **Really Nice Theatre**; storytelling with Sierra Leonean performer **Usifu Jalloh**;

Animanimals Short Flicks from **Studio Film Bilder**; make-a-paper-playground with **Artizine**; Rhyme Time with **Barbican Library**; and Play Cycles from **Museum of London**.

Inclusive children's theatre company **daryl & Co** will lead a relaxed session of sensory play and exploration for Families of Neurodivergent and Disabled Children, dance company **Coral** will lead a workshop created for and by adults and artists with a learning disability; and sensory artist **Natalya Martin** will create a relaxed crafting workshop.

Over 18s also have their own chance to play: **Thursdays** will host **Evening Lates** on *Our Street*, including gaming and drag with **SlayStation and Sappho Events** (8 Aug); gaming and talk with **Explorers Club present Open Dialogue Dey Play** (15 Aug); and gaming and performance with **Game Night with ESEA Community Centre**, an opportunity to participate and connect over board games such as Dominoes, Ayo or Mahjong (22 Aug).

On **Saturdays** the communal spirit of carnival comes to *Our Street* with day-long **Street Parties**. On Sat 3 Aug, visitors can leave the tech behind and embrace the human in Pac-Man, Street Fighter and Space Invaders at the **Immersive Arcade** with comic art duo **Hunt & Darton**. On Sat 10 Aug expect banner-making, space hopper races, giant beach balls, street games and round-the-world hopscotch courtesy of **London Play**; and on Sat 17 Aug there are carnival hat-making and Bullerengue workshops with **Accumulate** and **Bullerengue Circle**.

And on Sun 18 Aug, **Big Fish Little Fish** (the 24-hour party people) will present the original and anarchic **Family Rave** for clubbers and their kids. Adults must be accompanied by a child.

Karena Johnson, Barbican Head of Creative Collaboration and Learning, says:
"I'm so proud to share this ambitious project at the Barbican this summer - an extraordinary collaboration between inventive artists and our passionate community partners, including local schoolchildren. Taking inspiration from the Barbican Art Gallery's summer exhibition, Francis Alÿs: Ricochets, themed around the universality and ingenuity of play, our aim is to offer visitors of all ages a safe and encouraging place to reignite imaginations and find joy in the simple, powerful act of playing together."

Our Street is designed by **West Port Architects** in consultation with local school children and London artists. The collaborative team are: immersive experts and game-makers **Goat & Monkey**; interactive-floor designers **A Line Art**; murals from illustrator **Matt Munday**; London's first female-led inking studio **Velvet Underground Tattoo**; designer, theatre-maker and activist **Paul Burgess**; photographer, documentary filmmaker and social entrepreneur **Williamz Omope**; and cycle-powered inventions by sustainability innovators **Electric Pedals**.

Dates and times for all sessions are available on [Our Street](#) webpage. Booking opens on Thu 18 July at 10am.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Full programme details available here from 17 July: <https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2024/event/our-street-curve-takeover>

Download images for Our Street from [our Dropbox folder](#).

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PROGRAMME LISTINGS

OUR STREET

OPEN DAILY

1 – 23 AUG

10am – 6pm |

FREE

FRI 2 AUG

Rhyme Time

11:45am – 12:30pm

Free, suitable for ages 0-5

Barbican Library team bring their popular Rhyme Time session to Our Street especially for young children. Sing songs and nursery rhymes, listen to stories together, then stay and play.

Make & Move with Boy Blue

2pm & 3pm

Free, suitable for over 5s

Join award-winning hip-hop dance theatre company Boy Blue to learn fun, vibrant and energetic moves in a simple follow-me style workshop for all. Feel free to join in or just watch. We'll end with a very special performance from Boy Blue Young Artists with an open floor freestyle session too.

SAT 3 AUG

Immersive Arcade Street Party with Hunt & Darton

Sessions will run at 11am, 12pm, 1pm & 2pm

Free, suitable for over 10s

Celebrated comic art duo, Hunt & Darton take over and recreate retro games for the next generation with their fearless team of performers. Their DIY arcade experience lets you become the game, including human Pac-Man, Street Fighter and Space Invaders.

TUE 6 AUG

Museum of London Play Cycles: The Broadcaster

Sessions run at 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, & 3pm

Free, suitable for all ages

Create your own musical instruments using upcycled objects and craft materials, or sit back, relax, and listen to oral histories, stories, and music from the Museum of London's

collection.

Play Cycles are a new pop-up play programme that reimagine London's streets as radical places for joy, creativity, and gathering. It arrives on a special bike, bringing a new experience each week to Our Street. All ages.

Play Cycles are designed by NOOMA Studio and supported by the City of London Corporation and with public funding by Arts Council England.

THU 8 AUG

Material Play: Paper Playground

11am & 12pm

Free, suitable for over 5s

Cut, paste, stick and play in this dynamic and collaborative hands-on workshop with Artizine UK to create a radical reimagining of the Barbican's public spaces – from a brutalist building to an imagined paper playground.

Ioana Simion is a visual artist and arts educator based in East London. Her socially-engaged practice centres craft as a radical tool for community-building and social change.

Play Story with Usifu Jalloh

2pm & 3pm

Free, suitable for all ages

An enchanting storytelling session led by performer Usifu Jalloh as he takes you on an epic journey across Africa. Sing some fun songs, meet intriguing characters and play some wild games. But be warned that you must win the game and sing the songs to ever have a hope of returning back home. A story is your reward. Don't forget to pack your sunscreen lotion. It's going to be hot! Suitable for all ages.

Our Street Late: Game Night with SlayStation and Sappho Events

6:30pm – 10:30pm

£10, 18+ only

FRI 9 AUG

Rhyme Time

11:45am – 12:30pm

Free, Suitable for ages 0-5.

Barbican Library team bring their popular Rhyme Time session to Our Street especially for young children. Sing songs and nursery rhymes, listen to stories together, then stay and play.

Make and Move: Circus Play with Really Nice Theatre

2pm & 3:30pm

Free, Suitable for over 5s.

Discover sensory circus play including hula-hooping, juggling skills, strange sound making and new ways to balance and play. Meet Sunrise and Sunset, a brother and sister who are trying to work out how to live alongside each other, journey with them as they discover that balance doesn't always mean being the same thing. Drop-in at any time during the session.

SAT 10 AUG

London Play Street Party

Sessions run at 11am, 12pm (Banner making) 1pm & 2pm (Parade)

Free, suitable age 5+, but everyone welcome

The charity London Play host their special brand of street party, giving kids the opportunity

not just to exercise their right to play, but to shout about it too! Alongside space-hopper races, giant beachballs, street games and round-the-world hopscotch, join banner-making workshops to create signs and slogans. to hold aloft in the Parade for Play marking the noisy, joyful finale.

WED 14 AUG

Museum of London Play Cycles – The Explorer

Sessions run at 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm & 3pm

Free, suitable for all ages

Build your own imaginary spaces and rummage through our sensory baskets. Create your own protest banners or posters and silhouettes from the Great Fire of London using arts and crafts materials.

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THU 15 AUG

Material Play with Natalya Martin

11am & 12pm

Free, suitable for all ages

Turn Our Street into your very own sensory playground. Join artist and facilitator Natalya Martin to explore game-making, chalk drawing, den-building and material play. This is a relaxed session where you are free to explore, experiment and play.

Play Story with Usifu Jalloh

2pm & 3pm

Free, suitable for all ages

An enchanting storytelling session led by performer Usifu Jalloh as he takes you on an epic journey across Africa. Sing some fun songs, meet intriguing characters and play some wild games. But be warned that you must win the game and sing the songs to ever have a hope of returning back home. A story is your reward. Don't forget to pack your suncream lotion. It's going to be hot!

Our Street Late: Explorers Club present Open Dialogue Dey Play

Free, 18+ only

An evening of community and collective celebration as you're invited by Explorers Club to play two favourite games, Dominoes, popular in the Caribbean and the West African strategy game Ayo.

FRI 16 AUG

Relaxed Play with daryl and co

Play for Families of Neurodivergent and Disabled Children

10am & 12pm

Free, suitable for 2+

Inclusive children's theatre company Daryl and Co take fun seriously. This is a relaxed hour of sensory play and exploration for families of Disabled and Neurodivergent Children who will be given exclusive access to Our Street for the morning.

daryl and co is a Disabled-led theatre company where collaboration and co-creation meet

mischievous and merriment. They make accessible theatre to delight young audiences and their families and tour all over the country. Company founder Daryl is a recognised cultural leader and a high-profile advocate for Disabled artists, communities and young people.

SAT 17 AUG

Street Party with Accumulate and Bullerengue Circle

Sessions run at 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm & 4pm

Free, suitable for age 5+, but everyone welcome

Celebrate the communal spirit of carnival at our final Street Party with drop-in activities throughout the day culminating in a parade.

12pm & 2:30pm

Hat-making with charity Accumulate who use creativity to improve the wellbeing of young people who are affected by homelessness. They work with hostels and housing organisations to deliver learning experiences and showcasing opportunities in art, photography, creative writing, audio-visual production, fashion and other creative disciplines.

Specially commissioned workshops with multidisciplinary artist Paola Basco inspired by games from around the world. She has worked with artists, community groups and designers to create playful activities for the body and the mind that celebrate different cultures and explore connections between generations. Working between Berlin, London and La Paz she explores oral storytelling traditions, colonial history and the understanding of nature.

3pm & 4pm

Learn Afro-Colombian rhythm and dance moves with Bullerengue Circle. Enjoy the performance and join in the parade to end our summer party.

Bullerengue Circle CIC was founded by Esteban Cardona and Valeria Pacific with the aim to share and spread the Afro Colombian tradition of bullerengue - a set of rhythms consisting of drums, shakers, claps, dance and call-and-response chants. More than music, it is a ritual and a lifestyle and a symbol of resistance promoting inclusion, community and diversity.

SUN 18 AUG

Big Fish Little Fish Family Rave

Raves at 2pm & 3pm

£10, families with 0–8-year-olds, but suitable for all ages. Must be accompanied by a child.

WED 21 AUG

Museum of London Play Cycle: The Companion

Sessions run at 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm & 3pm

Free, suitable for all ages

Enjoy a quiet and calm space to play themed around wellbeing. Join us for a relaxing afternoon of arts and crafts and board games.

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THU 22 AUG

Material Play with Natalya Martin

11am & 12pm

Free, suitable for over 5s.

A relaxed crafting workshop where you can think about material play and the senses. Explore game-making, chalk drawing, den-building and material play with artist and facilitator Natalya Martin. Use string, ribbon, pegs, fabrics and sensory materials to turn Our Street into your very own sensory playground!

Play Story with Usifu Jalloh

2pm & 3pm

Free, suitable for all ages

An enchanting storytelling session led by performer Usifu Jalloh as he takes you on an epic journey across Africa. Sing some fun songs, meet intriguing characters and play some wild games. But be warned that you must win the game and sing the songs to ever have a hope of returning back home. A story is your reward. Don't forget to pack your sunscreen lotion. It's going to be hot!

Game Night with ESEA (East and South East Asian) Community Centre)

6pm-11pm

Free, 18+

Join us for a night celebrating community through mahjong gaming, talks and music and performance from an exciting line-up of East and South Asian talent.

FRI 23 AUG

Rhyme Time

11:45am – 12:30pm

Free, suitable for ages 0-5.

Barbican Library team bring their popular Rhyme Time session to Our Street especially for young children. Sing songs and nursery rhymes, listen to stories together, then stay and play.

Make & Move with Corali

2pm & 3pm

Free, suitable for all ages

Dance company Corali make work by, with and for learning disabled people. Everyone is welcome to join this workshop inspired by street games and play. Corali's work aims to empower people. Join us to discover your inner creativity.

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Barbican press room

All Barbican Centre press releases, news announcements and the Communications team's contact details are listed on our website at www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/press-room

About the Barbican

The Barbican is a catalyst for creativity, sparking possibilities for artists, audiences, and communities.

We showcase the most exciting art from around the world, pushing traditional artistic boundaries to entertain and inspire millions of people, create connections, provoke debate, and reflect the world we live in.

We are an international arts and events centre rooted firmly in our own neighbourhood, collaborating with local communities and putting the City of London on the map as a

destination for everybody. Central to our purpose is supporting emerging talent and shaping opportunities that will accelerate the next generation of creatives.

As a not-for-profit, we rely on the generosity of individuals and organisations, including our principal funder the City of London Corporation. Every ticket purchased, donation made, and pound earned supports our arts and learning programme and enables the widest possible range of people to experience the joy of the arts.

Opened in 1982, the Barbican is a unique and audacious building, recognised globally as an architectural icon. As well as our theatres, galleries, concert halls and cinemas, we have a large conservatory with over 1,500 species of plants and trees, a library, conference facilities, public and community spaces, restaurants, bars, and a picturesque lakeside oasis.

We're proud to be the home of the [London Symphony Orchestra](#), and a London base of the [Royal Shakespeare Company](#). We regularly co-commission, produce and showcase the work of our other associates and partners including the [Academy of Ancient Music](#), [the BBC Symphony Orchestra](#), [Boy Blue](#), [Britten Sinfonia](#), [Cheek by Jowl](#), [Darbar Festival](#), [Doc'n Roll Film Festival](#), [Drum Works](#), [EFG London Jazz Festival](#), [London Palestine Film Festival](#), [Serious](#), and [Trafalgar Theatre Productions](#).

For more information, visit our [website](#) or connect with us on [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Spotify](#) | [LinkedIn](#)