

Winter 2022 Barbican Renewal Public Listening Exercise Executive Summary

Our vision: to invest in and improve the Barbican Centre building, celebrating its radical vision and design heritage, while responding to the creative opportunities and challenges of the future.

What we've done: learn about people's relationship with as well as aspirations and priorities for the Barbican Centre:

- Delivered a public survey, hosted and powered by Commonplace. Since its launch, the survey has welcomed 3300+ visitors to the page and received well over 700 responses so far.
- Held two collaborative workshops in the Fountain Room at the Barbican Centre attended by 40 people including local residents, community organisations and artists.
- Build on wider consultation undertaken with Barbican teams, artists, young creatives and others.

What we've heard: there is a strong appreciation for the architecture of the Barbican but that there are areas of the building that could be improved.

- We heard people's reverence for the architecture of the Barbican Centre clearly (41% of survey respondents).
- We gained a better understanding of what people like: the iconic brutalist architecture; wide ranging programme of events, activities and exhibitions; facilities for people of all ages; and its significance as a Central London icon.
- But we also learned what people want changed: improved signage and wayfinding (40% of survey respondents), better accessibility (18%) and improved toilets (13%). A larger role and more opportunities for young people was a prominent theme in the workshops.
- We heard in the survey what spaces people would like to see: improved cultural (19%), learning (10%) and exhibition space on the history of the Barbican (9%). The workshops and survey also touched on a better food and drink offer, improved connection with the local community, realising the creative potential of the Exhibition Halls and making the Barbican building more sustainable and accessible.
- The need for improvement of Beech Street was highlighted - nearly half of survey respondents gave its walking experience one out of five in satisfaction and called for reduction in traffic. A proportion also suggested more art (16%) and better lighting (15%) would improve this experience. Proposals to improve Beech Street were also well received in the public consultation sessions.

What's next: to analyse all feedback, progress the early plans and submit a business case to the City of London Corporation. We will also report back on our final findings once the survey has concluded and we have finished our feedback analysis. Subject to approval of the business case, we will then return for further public consultation in 2023 as design work is developed.



The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre