

Light London: Background

Light London is a city-wide initiative to influence the capital's public realm and its artistic opportunities through the broad theme of light. Developed by **Open House/ Art in the Open** with **London Development Agency/Design for London**, Light London is a programme of **forums** and **resources** to inform the capital's future policy and support more imaginative and sustainable approaches to light in the public realm. Unusually, it brings together a mix of artists, architects, lighting designers, local authorities, key London agencies, developers and others involved in London's public realm, to initiate a city-wide approach.

Light has both a creative and a functional purpose – affecting how we experience and navigate the city, particularly in the longer London winter nights. With London's renewed focus on the public realm, the capital has the opportunity for permanent lighting schemes to animate our public spaces and our historic environment, alongside temporary light installations as part of wider environmental changes. Light London is considering these opportunities across the capital, inner and outer, and how to ensure the highest quality, sustainable approaches. Light London is informed by various forums including the Working Group (see below for details), a Visioning Forum (held at the ICA on 24 November 2008 with LDA/Design for London, their project partners and creative practitioners) and a forum working with young people. The Light London principles, available on the website, are intended for use by public and private sector clients, architects, artists, curators, professional lighting designers and others, to influence policy for light in London.

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Background

There are many high profile long-term lighting schemes in major cities (such as Turin, Lyon, Glasgow) involving creative approaches by artists, architects and professional lighting designers. Light London is the opportunity to review London's current lighting schemes and to show that by taking a more strategic, multi-disciplinary, and collaborative approach, we can use light to make better places and to showcase the capital and its creativity.

Light London Working Group Members

Chair: Fred Manson, Open House Trustee
Peter Bishop, Director, Design Development & Environment (DDE), London Development Agency (LDA)
Mark Brearley, Head of Design, Design for London, LDA
Tom Campbell, Culture Strategy Officer, Greater London Authority
Stephen Kennard, Director, Land & Development, DDE, LDA
Elliot Lipton, Chair, Art in the Open Advisory Board & Managing Director, First Base Ltd
Martin Lupton, Lighting Director, BDP & President, Professional Lighting Designers' Association
Martin Richman, Artist
Lucy Sollitt, Communications and Events Executive, DDE, LDA
Victoria Thornton, Director, Open House
Louise Trodden, Head, Art in the Open, Open House
Isabel Vasseur, Director, ArtOffice