

# Light London: Future Generation

## Light London Principles

For young people the public realm is their social space and needs to be appealing and safe. Light is an attractive medium that encourages feelings of safety – changing mood and signaling a well-cared for space. *To be inclusive and instill ownership we need to **encourage the use of public space through light.***

## Background

In November 2008, Light London engaged with the Open House My City Too! Young Ambassadors (a pan-London group of young people aged 12-19 part of a campaign to influence decisions about the city), to find out their responses and opinions on light and art in the public realm. Both issues were key points in their Young Ambassadors' Manifesto, which states:

'We want lively streets with better and more creative lighting' (*busy, well-lit areas will help us and everyone else feel safe on our streets*)

'We want playful signs, bright colour schemes and changing public art' (*give our local areas a stronger identity and make them places that we are proud of*)

Working with the artist Jane Watt, the young ambassadors took part in a workshop at Tate Modern, after taking a guided walk around the public realm near the gallery (where they viewed and discussed a number of public realm commissions). They came up with the following recommendations on lighting the public realm, which have been considered and incorporated into the Light London Principles.

## Creative Approaches For London

The Young Ambassadors identified that light is important to:

- Change our state of mind and mood
- Give security and reassurance at night
- Create an imaginative ambiance
- Provide direction
- Distract attention and give fascination and interest
- Create signs/landmarks visible at night
- Make a place look cared for/respected



Jane Watt, My City Too!  
workshop, Nov 2008