

Building a future without poverty



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TOYNBEE
HALL



Toynbee Hall is a charity with a mission to tackle the causes and impact of poverty, inequality and social injustice in the East End.

Since 2016 Toynbee Hall has undertaken a significant redevelopment of our historic site in the East End, where we've been since our foundation in 1884. This ambitious project will create a place within the community where we can inspire future change, respond to ongoing and emerging needs, and act as a catalyst for people and organisations in our community to play a more significant role in tackling inequality – on a local, pan-London, and national scale.

This redevelopment is vital to ensure that we can continue to support the growing needs of those we exist to support. It will create an open, welcoming and accessible setting to allow us to deliver enhanced services and inspire people to become part of a history of social change.

Our redeveloped historic home, Toynbee Hall itself, is the base for our heritage learning and activity programme and a permanent exhibition, *A Powerhouse for Social Change*, which celebrates our history and those who have worked with us to tackle social injustice over the past 130 years.

Why we are redeveloping

Many of the social problems faced by communities in the East End in 1884 persist today. High cost credit and spiraling housing costs are driving people into a web of debt, while older people increasingly face social isolation and a lack of joined-up care services.

Our redevelopment will enable us to:

- Meet the growing demand for our services by delivering support in high-quality spaces and facilities that will help us reach thousands more people in need each year.
- Create accessible public spaces, including constructing a new building and redeveloping Mallon Gardens, so we can create additional opportunities for learning, education and volunteering.
- Have the financial security we need to offer support in new areas, be more creative in how we engage with the community, and react flexibly to changing needs.
- Revive our Grade II listed historical hall in order to inspire social action within our community and share our heritage with future generations.

How we are redeveloping



The redevelopment of Toynbee Hall has three key phases:

PHASE
1

Revitalising the historic Toynbee Hall as a place to inspire future generations to drive social change

PHASE
2

Creating new spaces for the community to access vital advice and wellbeing support

PHASE
3

A completed site with open, welcoming spaces for the whole community including an accessible public garden



Regenerated Toynbee Hall estate, seen from Commercial Street

The impact of our redevelopment

Centre for Advice

Tower Hamlets is the tenth most deprived local authority in England, and demand for our legal, debt, and financial advice support services has steadily increased in recent years. To ensure that we continue to meet our community's needs, our redevelopment includes a bespoke new space for our Free Legal Advice Centre and financial health and capability work. Through this space we will provide advice for clients on sensitive and confidential issues. Ongoing and holistic support will give individuals the long-term tools they need to combat injustice and move forward.

Our legal and financial support services focus on:

- Building greater integration between grassroots projects and national solutions by providing joined-up financial support at all levels.
- Extending our reach to more people from minority groups, ensuring that the most vulnerable in society have access to justice and financial support.
- Developing a service which takes into account the emotional and psychological needs of individuals we support, ensuring that our approach to client care is holistic.

"The Money Mentors programme at Toynbee Hall gave me the passion to share my knowledge of money management with family and friends and help them improve their own situations. Since successfully completing the Money Mentors course, I have gone on to do advice work with charities in my local community and achieved a qualification in Information, Advice or Guidance. Toynbee Hall has given me an amazing chance: independence, confidence, resources, and the ability to teach."

Jemimah, Tower Hamlets Money Mentors participant and Money Mentors Trainer in 2017-18



The Wellbeing Centre at Toynbee Hall, 2018

“When I first started dance classes at the Wellbeing Centre, I didn’t know what to expect. It was a lot of exercise but also full of energy and creativity – everyone could join in and feel part of it. I found it difficult before to look up when I walked about. The dance helped me with my coordination, but it also helped me to look up more and engage with people. I’m finding out more about myself, who I am, and the dancing has been something I’m naturally interested in. There’s a lot of energy and joy in the dancing, especially when we do the Irish stuff!”

Michael P, regular Wellbeing Centre visitor and dance class participant

Our existing Wellbeing Centre provides holistic support to older people to improve their health, skills, and social connections in the community. The service is shaped by the older people who use it and responsive to their changing needs and interests. Our new space for wellbeing takes a broader, integrated approach by strengthening relationships with other services across the community to meet the multiple needs of the older people we support.

Our wellbeing services focus on:

- Improving physical and mental wellbeing through learning and social activities, including intercultural and intergenerational events.
- Increasing resilience by helping people to develop the skills and confidence they need to make the most of their lives, from tackling everyday tasks to enhancing employability.
- Reducing isolation by helping people to develop their own support networks within the community.
- Increasing active citizenship by providing a range of volunteering opportunities, including increasing the number of older people involved in running and designing the Centre’s activity programme.

Wellbeing

One in five older people living in Tower Hamlets are socially isolated. With a growing older population, the need for high-quality support led by local people is increasing.



Clement Attlee at Toynbee Hall, 1905

Learning and Heritage

Many people we work with want to have a positive impact in their community but face a variety of barriers to getting involved in social action or volunteering. Our work is focused not only on mitigating crisis but on giving our community the knowledge, skills and inspiration to build resilience and create a more sustainable future.

The redevelopment provides us with the space to develop and extend opportunities for learning. It will allow us to embed our heritage throughout the organisation, using it as the cornerstone of our learning programmes. By using the stories of people who grappled with poverty, housing and homelessness in 1884 to reflect equally pressing issues today, our programmes will inspire new generations of social reformers to find solutions to tackle poverty and inequality in their communities.

Our new heritage and learning services focus on:

- Using our rich local history to bring together the community and empower them to make a positive difference in the area.
- Amplifying the voice of our community and inviting reflection and positive action in response to the challenges they face.
- Bringing together generations and polarized communities with a sense of shared local history.
- Restoring our pioneering residential volunteering programme, founded in 1884, by housing a Storyteller-, Artist-, and Social Innovator-in-Residence at Toynbee Hall.

"I wanted to get involved in a long-term volunteering experience. Having studied famous Toynbee Hall volunteers such as Clement Attlee or William Beveridge in History classes, I became inspired to volunteer for Toynbee Hall's Free Legal Advice Centre."

Tayihat, 19, from Newham

Funding our redevelopment

Toynbee Hall has contributed £11m to the redevelopment from the sale of several assets. £3.6m has been fundraised through our ongoing capital appeal, which has received generous contributions from:



London Borough of Tower Hamlets
The Tudor Trust
London Marathon Charitable Trust
Viridor Credits Environmental Company
The Clothworkers' Foundation
J Paul Getty Jr Charitable Trust
The Dunhill Medical Trust
The Wolfson Foundation
The Headley Trust
The David Hills Trust
The Wilson Family
Henry Hood Third Settlement
London Legal Support Trust
Heritage of London Trust

The redevelopment of our historic buildings



How you can help

We want to engage with individuals, funder organisations and businesses – to make the most of the opportunities our redevelopment offers. If you are passionate about changing the lives of others, share our aim of investing in a future without poverty, or can help us bring 130 years of social action work into the future then we would love to hear from you.

For more information about how you can help – from our ongoing capital appeal to supporting some of our heritage activity programme – please contact our Head of Development: fundraising@toynbeehall.org.uk or visit: www.toynbeehall.org.uk/about-us/regenerating-our-estate





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“The redevelopment has been a hugely significant project in the long history of Toynbee Hall. When complete it will create an incredible asset both for our organisation and the wider community. We hope to create a real model for how redevelopment can inspire positive social change, and would be delighted with your support so that we can continue to challenge poverty and inequality for generations to come. Thank you.”

Jim Minton, Chief Executive

Front cover image
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