

2021 REVIEW
ANNUAL REVIEW
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2021
ST.
MARGARET'S
HOUSE





A PERFORMANCE MASK
by a workshop participant

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Welcome to our St Margaret’s House
Annual Review for 2020/21. Here is a list of
what you can expect to find in these pages.

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Thank you!

This year has seen us expand who we work with and we are now a family of more than 220 employees, volunteers and collaborators – people from all over the world who share the same desire to be useful to the community and make a difference, however big or small. With everyone putting forward their best skills, always committed, proactive and with creative solutions, the excitement and drive to generate positive change is higher than ever.

OUR TEAM

- Anwara Ali
ADMINISTRATOR
- Maya Baccani
CAFÉ FRONT OF HOUSE
- Simone Bandini
HEAD CHEF
- Idgie Beau
COMMUNITY ARTS MANAGER
- Stuart Cox
ARTS & WELLBEING DIRECTOR
- Jose Gama
FINANCE MANAGER
- Gabriela Gonzalez
CAFÉ FRONT OF HOUSE
- Tony Hardie
CEO & COMPANY SECRETARY

- Shaka Lish
WELLBEING MANAGER
- Nigel McMillan
AYOKA MANAGER
- Molly Morphew
CAFÉ FRONT OF HOUSE
- Honey Mounce
CAFÉ FRONT OF HOUSE
- George Paris
PROGRAMME MANAGER
- Simone Di Stefano
CAFÉ SUPERVISOR
- Brigitta Baranyi
CHEF
- Bhavini Joshi
CHEF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Mrs Shamimara Choudhury
TRUSTEE
- Fr Alan Green
ACTING CHAIR
- Ms Mana Mahil
TREASURER
- Miss Barbara Perrott
SECRETARR
- Mr Brian Ralph
TRUSTEE

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“Absolutely hats off to you and all the team for the work that you’ve been delivering over the past few months - you’re all smashing it!”

— Flourishing Lives



“I THINK THE ST. MARGARET’S HOUSE SPACE IS FABULOUS”

— PARTICIPANT

Welcome

A word of thanks from Tony Hardie,
CEO, St. Margaret’s House



The last time I wrote this introduction we were in the full wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. Writing now in August 2021 things are looking much more positive. Although there are still

uncertainties for St Margaret’s House there has been some amazing growth and development with new Arts Council Funding, building new relationships with social prescribers, new tenants, new users and new projects

St Margaret’s House prides itself on being a hub for our community and in these pages you’ll find out how we recreated our hub digitally and in person all through lockdowns, tier levels and moments when we could open.

The staff and volunteers at St. Margaret’s House have been inspiring working so hard to learn new digital skills to reach our communities and contributing to local food projects to ensure our community does not go hungry.

We have also been able to continue to support freelance artists and practitioners through this year from support from the Arts Council Emergency Fund and the Covid-19 London Response Fund.

There are so many people to thank that I don’t know where to start. You know who you are!

It’s been a rollercoaster ride for us all and it looks like we have still a way to go, so let’s do what we can to make it all worthwhile.

Tony Hardie
CEO



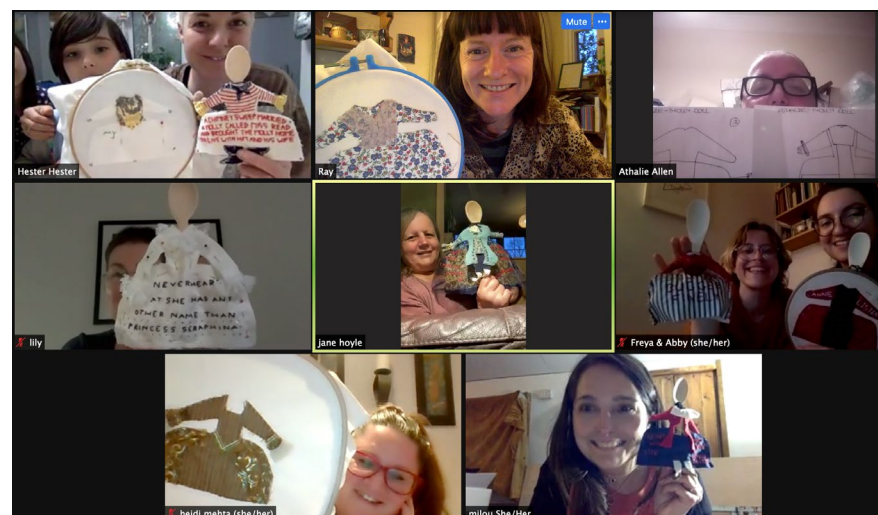
Creative workshop

"I AM NOT SCARED TO DO ANYTHING ANYMORE AND WHEN I AM HERE, I FEEL MORE HAPPY THAN IN SCHOOL."

— PARTICIPANT

Arts & Wellbeing

From April 2020 St Margaret's House faced like many other Arts and Wellbeing organisations huge challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns. We started the year unsure how we could keep any kind of connection with our audiences and communities and finished the year in an incredibly exciting place despite the challenges.



ST. MARGARET'S HOUSE

"I AM NOW FEARLESS"

— Participant

"THE USERS HAVE LOVED IT. EVERYONE HAS BUILT CONFIDENCE."

— Fatima, BPCA staff



Vogue workshop



Photo title

"WHEN WE TELL HIM IT'S 2PM, HE GOES AND GETS HIS LAPTOP AND TURNS IT ON- THIS IS NEW FOR HIM, HE DOESN'T REALLY LIKE COMPUTERS."

— Participant carer



Online Arts & Wellbeing Programme

We were lucky to gain our first ever funding from Arts Council England this year from the Covid Emergency Fund which enabled us to REACH out and connect in new ways through an new digital platform especially created for St Margaret's House- REACH

With this fund we created 133 opportunities for communities to engage online including heritage workshops, dance, movement, craft, Kids activities, podcasts and singing workshops. For this we worked with our Associate Artist Companies, Bric a Brac Theatre and Lemon House Theatre as well as valued freelancers who support St Margaret's House.

Highlights included:

Lemon House Theatre Podcast which was a series of 6 Podcasts engaging theatre artists and practitioners discussing how theatre can be more diverse and accessible.

Bric a Brac Theatre's Kid's Lab was an online resource of regular activities to keep children creative during lockdown.

Valerie Charlton "A Life In Film was a specially created online interview and book showcasing film maker artist Valerie's experiences on films like Life of Brian, Time Bandits, Dark Crystal, Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom and Labyrinth.

Junk Orchestra was an online summer workshop for children reaching 18 participants using everyday objects to make music.

Draft One – Dancer Rosamond Martin led an intergenerational group of participants online to create a dance piece especially for our YouTube channel.

Milou Stella – Our Create Place artists built up an online group of embroidery makers and creators through regular Zoom.

We created paid work for 35 arts freelancers who were not able to benefit from the furlough scheme and had limited other work opportunities due to pandemic lockdown

We reached 1053 people online. A lot of these are new audiences to SMH and people who may have not engaged online before. We've introduced more people to our work in 4 months by trying a new approach than we could have done using our physical spaces.

We collaborated with 9 community groups or organisations including Tower Hamlets Young Carers and East London Cares.

ZOOM CLUBS ARE REALLY HELPING WITH MY MENTAL HEALTH AND KEEPING ME STRONG, COMING HERE ON ZOOM TO SEE SO MANY FRIENDLY FACES EVERY TIME MAKES ME FEEL I'M NOT SO ALONE.

— EAST LONDON CARES PARTICIPANT

Workshops

Inclusive events



We also received from the London Community Response Fund (a fund especially set up by London Foundations to support communities through the pandemic) which enabled us to develop:

A series of 16 online workshops with East

"THAT WAS THE MOST INSPIRATIONAL ART CLASS I'VE BEEN TOO IN VERY VERY LONG TIME."

— EAST LONDON CARES PARTICIPANT

London Cares for isolated older people in the East End and younger volunteers reaching 30 participants. These workshops included Art, Indian Dance, Yoga, Music, Wellbeing Workshops and even Drag!

A series of 20 especially filmed recorded workshops aimed at isolated older people with East London Cares that went on our especially created new St. Margaret's House YouTube Channel. These included Musicals with West End stars Carole Stennett from *The Bodyguard* and Rebecca Caine from the original *Les Misérables* cast, poetry with Mr Gee and woodwork with Woodwork for Wellbeing. These workshops reached 601 views.

We are especially proud of the work we did during this time to support communities unable to engage online. Working with a facilitator we:

Worked with *Tower Hamlets Befrienders* to create sensory kits for their volunteers and delivered training sessions so that volunteers could do creative workshops and journeys on the phone with isolated older people unable to leave their homes across Tower Hamlets.

Worked with *Trapped In Zone One*, *Inspiring City* and *GoodGym Tower Hamlets* to produce a film evening, *The Bigger Picture* showcasing films by 11 local young people made during lockdown and reflecting their experience.



Performance

It's a drag!

We provided two Drag Queen performances at Silk Court Care Home in Tower Hamlets. Drag Queens *Pax of Fags* and *Heather Duster* sang songs and had fun with 15 residents and staff singing safely outside.

We worked with the *First Love Foundation* and *Children With Voices* to provide over 90 fun family arts activity packs that were delivered alongside food parcels to families suffering food poverty during the crisis

"YOU HAVE BEEN A REAL JOY TO WORK WITH AND I KNOW THAT THE FAMILIES WHO ENGAGED HAVE ALL REALLY ENJOYED YOUR WORKSHOPS."

— Enabling Lives Project Manager at First Love

across Tower Hamlets. We also worked with their volunteers and some of the families in workshops using Zoom so that children could get the most of the packs.

THE FUNDING HAS ALLOWED US TO GO BEYOND OUR OWN TEAM WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING ENGAGING VIDEOS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE SO WE HAVE CONTENT THAT IS MORE DIVERSE AND REFLECTIVE OF OUR FAMILY AUDIENCE."

— BRIC A BRAC THEATRE

ON BEHALF OF THE LOVE SUMMER 2020 TEAM, WE WANT TO SAY A MASSIVE THANKS TO ST MARGARET'S HOUSE!!



Hilarity Academy

It was upsetting that at the end of March 2020 our *Hilarity Academy* public performance was cancelled due to the pandemic and we did not know how we could continue to deliver the project.

However with extra support from our project funder *Children In Need* our jokers proved a resilient bunch.

Between 13 July – 3 August, we delivered a course of **four Zoom workshops**. These were focused on reconnecting with the young people and families as we had by this time been in lockdown for a significant time. There was also a focus on providing young people with some fun during lockdown. We also delivered a physical **four day Summer school** between 18 –

21 August between 10am – 1.30pm working with a small group in a social distanced way. From this we made **two comedy films**. One of which was a parody of *Britain's Got Talent*!

We started physical delivery again for our last term starting on 5 October using the structure of the first term but with smaller groups and social distancing delivering 11 sessions.

From January, to the end March 2021 we delivered **9 sessions online** due to being in second lockdown and produced **three comedy films** for our YouTube page

Despite the challenge the project has managed to deliver fun and laughter to **23 local young people aged 7 to 18** during the pandemic.

"I NOW FEEL MORE CONFIDENT IN OTHER PERSPECTIVES IN MY LIFE - SUCH AS EXAMS, WHICH USED TO BE A PROBLEM! IT IS ALSO A SAFE SPACE AWAY FROM PRESSURES"

—Hilarity Academy participant

"I FEEL MY CHILD IS STARTING TO COME OUT OF HIS SHELL AND TO BE HIMSELF, OUTSIDE AND WITH OTHERS."

— PARENT OF HILARITY ACADEMY PARTICIPANT



In September 2020 we began our Gyhama Arts! project in partnership with our tenants the *Bangladeshi Parents and Carers Association (BPCA)* who support disabled adults from the Bangladeshi community in Tower Hamlets and Newham.

Through support from *City Bridge Trust* this project provides **three years of weekly workshops** in theatre working with *Spare Tyre Theatre*, film making with *Chocolate Films* and circus skills with graduates from the *National Centre for Circus Arts*. All these workshops lead to public celebrations with the local community.

Again, Covid-19 meant that to reach our participants we had to take a digital approach due to lockdown. However a lot of our potential participants did not have access to either laptops, Zoom or Wi-Fi. So we do very much thank

Bute House Preparatory School for Girls based in Hammersmith who donated **30 laptops and iPads** which has enabled *Gyhama Arts!* To flourish. Their contribution and support has been fantastic and helped us provide:

12 workshops in theatre skills partnering with *Spare Tyre Theatre* leading to a public Zoom sharing of their work to **25 community groups**.

24 theatre workshops lead by a third year degree and MA work placements from *Royal Central School of Speech and Drama*.

12 workshops partnering with *Chocolate Films* where the group explored green screen effects and animation making two films which they shared with an **audience of 35 people** in an online film premiere.

Across Lockdowns we worked with **11 families** on a weekly basis. Participant's age ranged from 27 – 45 and each had their unique individual needs, including

participants with Downs's syndrome, Congenital Cerebral Palsy, moderate learning disabilities, use of electronic wheelchair to mobilise, some participants were single word verbal communicators, some participants are able to communicate but need support with expressing themselves. Some participants have visual and hearing impairment. **99% of the participant's first language is Bengali.**

A real exciting highlight for the project in March 2021 was a visit to the project by world famous choreographer *Akram Kahn* and theatre writer and producer *Leeza Gazi*.

Our participants had been inspired by watching Akram's film on the making on his dance piece, *Desh*, and what it means to be British Bengali. Not only did the group share experiences with Akram but they also got to dance with him!

"I FEEL HONoured TO HAVE WORKED WITH SUCH A TALENTED TEAM ON AN ARTS PROJECT WHICH BRINGS CONNECTION, COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION AND CREATIVITY TO A GROUP OF PEOPLE FOR WHOM THERE IS PROBABLY LITTLE PROVISION IN THE COMMUNITY. MY DEEP CONVICTION THAT THEATRE AND DRAMA CAN TRANSCEND CULTURAL, LANGUAGE AND LEARNING DIFFERENCES HAS BEEN AFFIRMED THROUGH THIS WORK."

— PETRA PETERS, ROYAL CENTRAL SCHOOL OF SPEECH AND DRAMA WORK PLACEMENT

"TODAY IS A PARTY. GOOD DRAMA. I ENJOY."

— GYHAMA ARTS! PARTICIPANT

"I HAD A JOYFUL TIME. I HAVEN'T HAD SO MUCH JOY IN A LONG TIME. IT WAS TRULY HEARTENING."

— LEEZA GAZI

Molly's Masquerade

We were delighted to gain funding from the National Heritage Lottery for our project Molly's Masquerade investigating early LGBTQ heritage inspired by our discovery that a Molly House (an 18th Century meeting place for gay men) existed close to us on Whitechapel Road.

Again impacted by lockdown and pandemic the delivery of this project-engaging communities in LGBTQ heritage through creativity, research workshops, costume, singing and theatre- had to be adapted. However:

We delivered **15 Molly House research workshops**. We worked with Queer Tours of London who delivered **5 walks** mapping the Molly houses across London and using the talks as a method to do this. Metropolitan Archive also shared the history of Mollies and 18th Queer London through an online workshop. There were **6 online talks** led by various practitioners on different Molly and queer heritage themes- Molly history, queer language, 18th Century costume, reformation of manners and sex workers. There were **4 workshops** held at St Margaret's House where participants worked with the Project Coordinator to discuss and plan what they had learned into a sharing.

Online workshops engaged **78 participants plus 437 people** through online views on YouTube. The walks

engaged **36 people and the planning workshops 17**.

We delivered **14 sessions** on Molly House culture. **7 sessions** were delivered online by our Project Coordinator and used all the research gained from the research workshops as well as the scripts of Mark Ravenhill's Mother Claps Molly House and other texts from the 18th Century such as Playhouse Creatures, Theatre of the Oppressed where we presented historical texts and testimony, Sex Workers Opera and City of Sin. **9 participants** attended on a regular basis.

We also delivered **7 online dance sessions** where participants explored gender and 18th century movement to create Molly characters through the dance style of Voguing with renowned voguer Father D'relle West. These sessions attracted **87 participants** across the sessions.

We delivered **8 sewing workshops** and **1 making workshop**. The sessions were attended by a regular group of **9 people**. These have been online and were delivered between Jan and March 2021. These workshops are a real example of heritage learning in that most participants were attracted to the craft aspects and were new

to the idea of Mollies. It is also an example of participants joining in from other areas of the UK. Through talks and sharing of the research within the sewing sessions the group were very inspired by the Molly mock birthing rituals and what happened to some of the Molly's after being arrested. These led to the creation of the Molly Spoon Dolls. Spoons because that is what the Molly's used as a prop in their mock births and the sewing and embroidery represents the outcome of some of the real life stories.

So far Molly's Masquerade has reached **680 people** and will continue to raise awareness of LGBTQ issues into the next year with the Molly Ball.



Molly's Masquerade

"THE CURATING OF THE WORKSHOPS IS BRILLIANT IN ITS BREADTH AND I FEEL HONOURED TO BE PART OF THE WHOLE EXPLORATIVE EXPERIENCE. I AM LEARNING MUCH WHILE REALLY ENJOYING THE RE AWAKING OF MY CREATIVE CONSCIOUSNESS THAT HAD BEEN SO CRUSHED BY COVID LOCK DOWN."

— MOLLY'S MASQUERADE PARTICIPANT

"I HAVE LEARNT LOTS. HISTORICAL, CONTEXTUAL AND SKILLS. I HAVE BUILT CONFIDENCE."

— MOLLY'S MASQUERADE PARTICIPANT

"LEARNING ABOUT LONDON QUEER HISTORY OF THE PAST STRENGTHENED MY UNDERSTANDING OF GENDER POLITICS AND ADDED AN EXTRA LAYER OF UNDERSTANDING ON URGENT LGBTQ+ AND FEMINIST ISSUES OF TODAY. I THINK EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE MOLLIES AND THEIR LIVES. THERE'S IMPORTANT LESSONS TO BE LEARNT FROM THEM. ..."

— MOLLY'S MASQUERADE PARTICIPANT



Workshops

Mulberry Tree of Plenty



We were so excited to be asked by artists Sara Heywood and Jane Watts and scientist Dr David Chau to collaborate with

them on their project with University College London and be part of this year's Trellis Festival.

The project, *Mulberry*

Tree of Plenty explored the materiality of the mulberry tree in Bethnal Green. It considered how this iconic tree can be used as a vehicle to stimulate discussion, debate and engagement in cutting-edge research and applications in biotechnology, heritage and contemporary engaged art practice.

We assisted in the creation of **walks, workshops and events** to support the project which included:

Housing a 3D digital scanning camera in our own Mulberry Tree and working with Sara and Jane so they could take virtual images of our tree passed on to David to create 3D objects.

Working with the team

to present *Mulberry Taste & Virtual Walk* on 17 October 2020. Using our Chapel and film we created a virtual walk to discover the stories and heritage of the mulberry trees of Bethnal Green. And **18 participants** sampled some mulberry products made by our *Gallery Café*, using berries from our very own mulberry tree.

The exciting culmination of the project was a live, **site-specific moving image installation** on the exterior windows of Create Place, for 3 days. People walking by got to see for themselves images and screens all showcasing our very own mulberry tree. This attracted **50 visitors** and interest in St Margaret's House.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD, WITHOUT YOU LAST FRIDAY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE, A BIG THANK YOU!"

—Participant



The Mulberry Tree

Performance

Open Door Season

From August restrictions to lockdown lifted which enabled us to open our doors and deliver a season in person. This season included:

Through *London Response Funding* we were able to commission our Associate Artists *Bric a Brac Theatre* to develop their next Children's Show, *The Elf that Saved the Snow*. Our first public sharing was a work in progress of the show which played to audience of **25 invited local families**.

On the third weekend of September we took part in *Open House*. We supported and worked with two of our valued volunteers Brenda Davies and Maureen Payne

who researched, planned, devised and led their own tours of our building. Our previous work placement from *Royal Central School of Speech and Drama*, Amelia Mehra recreated her *St. Margaret's House Escape Room!* We **reached 75 people** on the day as well as **8 volunteers** from *Open House*.

In the first weekend of October we also delivered a *Fun Palace* in person **engaging over 63 participants of all ages** in fun activities including Marble Painting led by our *Create Place* practitioner Ginny Hawke, Sylvia Morgardo and craft with *Haus Of*.

Also in October we

welcomed RSC actor Mark Lockyer and his much acclaimed play, *Living with the Lights On* for 3 nights of fantastic theatre. This play has played the *Young Vic* as well as toured Europe and it was delight to welcome Mark in the play which focuses

"IT WAS A REAL HIGHLIGHT OF SEPTEMBER FOR THE KIDS. THE EVENT REALLY CAPTURED BOTH OUR DAUGHTERS' IMAGINATIONS. IT WAS ESPECIALLY WONDERFUL FOR OUR ELDEST, AS STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL IN A PANDEMIC IS TOUGH AND THIS REALLY TOOK HER MIND OFF THINGS."

— PARENT FEEDBACK

on his own story of being diagnosed with Bi-polar. All performances were sold out (**over 90 people**) with standing ovations from the audience.

In November we worked with a project called *UNITY* which supports local young black entrepreneurs led by a local young woman Shadeen Thomas. We welcomed dance, craft, creative writing even Bath Bomb making and **25 members of our community** were invited to join in. This was *UNITY*'s first ever event and we are now supporting them develop and grow.

This amazing season delivered through the challenge of lockdown and tier systems culminated in two magical performances of *Dicken Theatre's A Christmas Carol* to **48 people**.



Children's workshops



"AS A DISABLED PERSON I'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED A WORKSHOP THAT WAS SO ACCESSIBLE"

— Rosamond Martin's Dance Class Participant

Reimagine

Between January and March 2021 we began our Reimagine season. And Reimagine we did due to another National Lockdown. We adapted and using our REACH platform and YouTube page offered online workshops and engaged communities through online Book Clubs, yoga, theatre workshops and film screenings.

Women of *Create Place*: For Women's Month our *Create Place* artists created their own art work based on women who inspire them. These went into an online gallery shared on our YouTube page with **currently 91 views**.

Our Arts Manager, *Idgie* spoke to many of the inspirational women who play a part in the *Create Place* whether as artist, volunteer or participant and created a series of blogs celebrating our work and shared on our *REACH* pages.

Inspiring Women workshop: To celebrate *International Women's Day* we worked with *Freshwater Theatre* and delivered an online workshop to **12 young people aged 7-11** on "Inspiring Women". This fun empowering workshops increased awareness in young people of inspiring women in history who have led positive change.

Virtual Get Togethers– We worked with Trapped In Zone One and Inspiring City to support and host three online get togethers to share films made by local young people on groups to raise awareness on climate change, women's month and LGBTQ history month.

Writing Fantasy Workshops– We worked with fantasy writer Simon Maeder on a writing workshop funded by the Arts Council where **8 young people** worked with Simon online for day learning how to devise and write their own fantasy stories.

A4U2 – Daily Arts Challenge– Ginny Hawke transferred her group online and worked with our *Create Place* Intsagram account to offer the community daily challenges in art to help people get creative during lockdown. This was for an online exhibition which is now on our YouTube page with **52 pieces of art created** during lockdown submitted.

As the year ended we started to emerge very slowly from lockdown with a roadmap to making our way back to being face to face again. The year of 2020 to 2021 has been a massive challenge but we hope that the above also reflects some exciting developments, progress, innovation and positivity for the work of St Margaret's House in the future.

Reflecting of the challenges of the year this report is also an opportunity to say a big thank you to the St. Margaret's House team, freelance artists, theatre makers, volunteers, audiences, partners and participants who have helped keep us growing and developing in this year.



Reimagine workshop

"THE BEST CENTRE I WORK WITH FOR ENSURING PEOPLE ARE APPRECIATED AND CELEBRATED, WHILST ALSO KEEPING THEM SAFE."

—Create Place Artist



"THE CURATING OF THE WORKSHOPS IS BRILLIANT IN ITS BREADTH AND I FEEL HONOURED TO BE PART OF THE WHOLE EXPLORATIVE EXPERIENCE. I AM LEARNING MUCH WHILE REALLY ENJOYING THE RE AWAKING OF MY CREATIVE CONSCIOUSNESS THAT HAND BEEN SO CRUSHED BY COVID LOCK DOWN."

— MOLLY'S MASQUERADE PARTICIPANT

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— MOLLY'S MASQUERADE PARTICIPANT

The Gallery Café

Visit, eat well, feel good.

Like most cafés and restaurants across the UK the year of April 20 to March 21 was extremely challenging due to the impact of Covid-19 and Lockdowns. And like most of the hospitality sector across the UK the Gallery Café unfortunately had to close its doors to the public.

However this was anything but a quiet year for the Gallery Café team. Realising the needs of the local community of Tower Hamlets and Hackney our café team connected with two food projects to volunteer and ensure that families in our local area experiencing poverty would not go hungry during lockdown.

The first project the café teamed up with was Community Food Hub lined with Hackney Council based on the De Beauvoir Estate and Wilton Estate where the café team provided **40 meals weekly to families in need** across the whole year. Because we are a vegan café, people approached this new (for them) diet with a lot of excitement and curiosity.

On Tuesdays; a delivery of food would arrive at St Margaret's House which would consist of vegetables and dry food such as beans, grains and rice

On Wednesdays: The Gallery Café volunteer team would get together and plan what meals they would create. This would consist of a meal of three courses- small salad, main course and a desert.

On Thursdays: The food would be prepared and the parcels would leave our kitchen ready to out by 1pm

For this project we also worked with a local volunteer Zirro.co.uk who is personal food shopper and would deliver parcels on his bike.

The Gallery Café team also had the opportunity to visit the food project on the estate and see the impact of their volunteering. One of the things they learnt is that a lot of people had tried vegan food for the first time because of the Gallery Café's parcels, a lot of these people had never before thought vegan food was for them and it had taught them how accessible vegan food can be.

Another food project the Gallery Café linked with was the Feel Good Community Project based in Hackney, led by Rochelle Nyabunze, to ensure that none of the food used to make the parcels went to waste, all leftovers were made into hampers and collected on so that users of the Hackney Food Project could benefit.

From mid-July to December 14th 2020 our Gallery Café team navigated through restrictions and the Tier system but remained open! The team regrouped and adjusted the menu offering takeaway services, counter service and easy options to eat outside. There was a new menu created of soups, salads and a very popular burrito. The breakfast burrito was very popular manging to include all the ingredients of our much loved Full English Vegan Breakfast.



Our regular customers were heartened to see the Gallery Café open at this time with lots of comments to the team on how much the café had been missed and how much they appreciated and enjoyed the new adapted menu

Not only did our Gallery Café team serve customers and develop ways of delivering a service during a very challenging they also went out of their way to help local communities and families in need.

And added bonus is that all this encouraged more people to think about becoming vegan who may have not thought about it before.

The Gallery Café

"HONESTLY LOVE THIS PLACE AND HAVE FOR YEARS. LAST WEEK I HAD THE OYSTER MUSHROOM KEBABS AND THEY WERE TO DIE FOR. PLEASE KEEP ON THE MENU!"

— CAFÉ VISITOR (2021)

"WIDE SELECTION OF EXCELLENT FOOD AND GOOD COFFEE. FRIENDLY STAFF. THE GARDEN AT THE REAR OF THE CAFÉ IS SO RELAXING. A PLEASANT EXPERIENCE."

— CAFÉ VISITOR (2021)

"FRIENDLY, RELAXED, UNPRETENTIOUS, A HIDDEN GEM JUST FAR ENOUGH AWAY FROM THE BUSTLE OF BETHNAL GREEN, AND WITH A LOVELY GARDEN AREA. DEFINITELY WORTH CHECKING OUT."

— CAFÉ VISITOR (2021)

"I NEVER WRITE REVIEWS BUT HAVE TO GIVE 5 STARS TO THIS LOVELY ESTABLISHMENT. THE STAFF IS LOVELY, AND THE VIBE IS SO CUTE! I HAD A WONDERFUL FLAT WHITE AND SLICE OF LEMON CAKE WAS SPECTACULAR. LOVE THAT EVERYTHING IS VEGAN!"

— CAFÉ VISITOR (2021)

AYOKA

AYOKA is our charity shop built on acts of kindness. We see our volunteers as part of the family within St. Margaret's House and we are always looking at new ways to support them. We are able to reuse or recycle more than 90% of donated clothing, over 100 % of the donated books, CDs, DVDs and 50% shoes.

Between April 2020 and April 2021 was a massive challenge for AYOKA, as for the most of the year the shop had to close for Covid-19 restrictions and lockdowns. However this did not stop the Ayoka team reaching out and connecting with the community:

AYOKA still kept regular contact with its much valued volunteers ensuring they were kept up to date with developments at St Margaret's House but also acting as a connection for volunteers who may have otherwise been isolated.

Volunteer Manager, Nigel met with customers who still wanted to make donations to arrange collections. In fact during the year of lockdown there were many donations. Nigel liaised with loyal patrons and customers and worked around their diaries and arranged a meeting time to accept the kind donations filling a studio with amazing donations for the day when, once more, we could open for our community. Kitchenware, camping equipment, books, toys, ornaments, DVDs, music, furnishings and fabulous clothing were donated through two lockdowns.

Knowing that AYOKA is much loved community asset on the Old Ford Road the much loved window displays were maintained and new ones created.

During the lockdown there was a big opportunity to play around with the stock and the layout of the shop so it was bright, clean and Covid safe when the shop was able to open

It was a fantastic achievement that the shop was open to public from mid-July to Dec 20th 2020. Much work went into Covid training risk assessments, cleaning, PPE and volunteer training to ensure the shop was Covid safe.

Many regular customers and volunteers were delighted to return. Our first day of opening we had a queue of 10 people waiting to get into the shop. Suzanne and Nigel arrived two days before to get shop ready. Every rail was full of the new season attire and we through in some sale items. It was incredible to once again appreciate, share stories and chat to our patrons.

AYOKA personality was able to shine through once again! And we still continued our work supporting local community groups. We shared donated fabrics to Create Place groups including Fast fashion, Crafting is Connecting and the sewing group.

A local teacher based at St Johns School collects children's books from us for the less fortunate children in our community. We also worked with a men's homeless group based at St. John's Church Bethnal Green providing their users with toiletries such as shower gel, combs and toothpaste. We also supported the Secret Underwear project supporting Bengali women.

We've continued to motivate our team of volunteers and creating the environments where they are valued, and can achieved their own personal goals. We were delighted that one of our volunteers went on to a full time post this year to All Saints but also keeps connected to Ayoka by coming back on occasions to volunteer.

Our shops are constantly changing each day whether with new designer stock through to familiar or new faces. Our Volunteers play a pivotal role in helping our charity shops run, and their time and experience is invaluable.



AYOKA Charity Shop



Our friends

Organisations and Groups who call us their home

This year we have welcomed the exciting theatre company Fevered Sleep to our family of residents. We provided 2,111 hours of complimentary use of our spaces, worth £33,870 to several groups, including U3A, Tower Hamlet Labour Party and Lemonhouse Theatre, Bric a Brac Theatre, Fevered Sleep, Eats London Cares among many others.

Activities in our buildings have been mainly art (43%) and wellbeing (37%). Religion comes next at 9%, and the remainder is a very wide combination of politics, education, community activities, sports, and internal use.



COUNSELLING / WELLBEING

Bodywise
BODYWISEHEALTH.ORG

Reality Shift Counselling
REALITYSHIFTCOUNSELLING.CO.UK

London City Psychotherapy
LONDONCITY-PSYCHOTHERAPY.CO.UK

Wish
WOMENATWISH.ORG.UK

City & East London Bereavement Service
CELBS.ORG.UK

Inner City Centre Community Psychotherapy Network
ICCLONDON.ORG.UK

ARTS

Freshwater Theatre Company
FRESHWATERTHEATRE.CO.UK

Grand Union Orchestra
GRANDUNION.ORG.UK
NMC Recordings
NMCREC.CO.UK

Fevered Sleep
FEVEREDSLEEP.CO.UK

Ned Bennett (Theatre Director)
NEDBENNETT.CO.UK

Outside Edge Theatre
EDGE.TC.ORG

Sylvia Morgado (Visual Artist)
SYLVIAMORGADO.WORDPRESS.COM

DESIGN / ARCHITECTURE

Tall & Ginger
TALLANDGINGER.COM

Arboreal Architecture
ARBOREALARCHITECTURE.COM/PROJECTS

SPECIALIST

British Stammering Association
STAMMA.ORG

Action Reconciliation Services for Peace
ASF-EV.DE/UK

Bangladeshi Parents and Carers Association
BPCAONLINE.ORG.UK

Speak Network
SPEAK.ORG.UK
Globe Bengali Mohila Shamity
GLOBEBENGALIMOHILA.COM

Christ Mercy Gospel Church LTD
CHRISTMERCYGOSPELCHURCH.ORG

Globe Community Project
GLOBECOMMUNITYPROJECT.ORG

The Kid's Network
THEKIDSNETWORK.ORG.UK

The Independent Workers' Union of Great Britain (IWGB)
IWGB.ORG.UK

Afasic Consortium for Street Children
AFASIC.ORG.UK

COMMUNITY

Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service
THCVS.ORG.UK

Tower Hamlets Friends & Neighbours
THFN.ORG.UK

Quakers Social Action
QUAKERSOCIALACTION.ORG.UK

East London Cares
EASTLONDONCARES.ORG.UK

Thank you to our supporters

We are so grateful to our supporters below for their massive contribution to our work.



Financials for the year

Our income for 2021 — £809K (£1,026K in 2020)

Voluntary Income — £402K (£22K in 2020)

The increase of in the year were primarily due to HMRC JRS grants of £244K and Restricted Grants of £138K in the year.

Charitable Income — £391K (£988K in 2020)

This is income generated by the charity from its activities and is considerably down from the previous year due to COVID 19 apart from rents £329K (£345K in 2020) after rent holidays.

Expenditure

The overall fall in expenditure from £1,130k (2020) to £724K (2021) is due to a general reduction of activity which resulted in reducing costs and no spending/suspension of the Barn (Capital) project in the year estimated at £3.2m

	20/21	20/21	19/20	19/20	19/20	19/20
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total funds 31 March 2021	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total funds 31 March 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Voluntary income	262,888	139,442	402,330	2,597	18,916	21,513
Investment income	16,204	-	16,204	16,948	-	16,948
Income from charitable activities	390,491	-	390,491	987,730	-	987,730
Net surplus (loss) on disposal of assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total income	669,583	139,442	809,025	1,007,275	18,916	1,026,191
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	620,824	102,895	723,719	1,110,359	20,046	1,130,405
Total expenditure	620,824	102,895	723,719	1,110,359	20,046	1,130,405
Gain on investments	(6,776)	-	(6,776)	2,113	-	2,113
Net income for the year	41,983	36,547	78,530	(100,971)	(1,130)	(102,101)
Corporation tax on café activities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer of funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement of funds	41,983	36,547	78,530	(100,971)	(1,130)	(102,101)
Total funds brought forward	6,626,097	4,259	6,630,356	6,727,068	5,389	6,732,457
Total funds carry forward	6,668,080	40,806	6,708,886	6,626,097	4,259	6,630,356

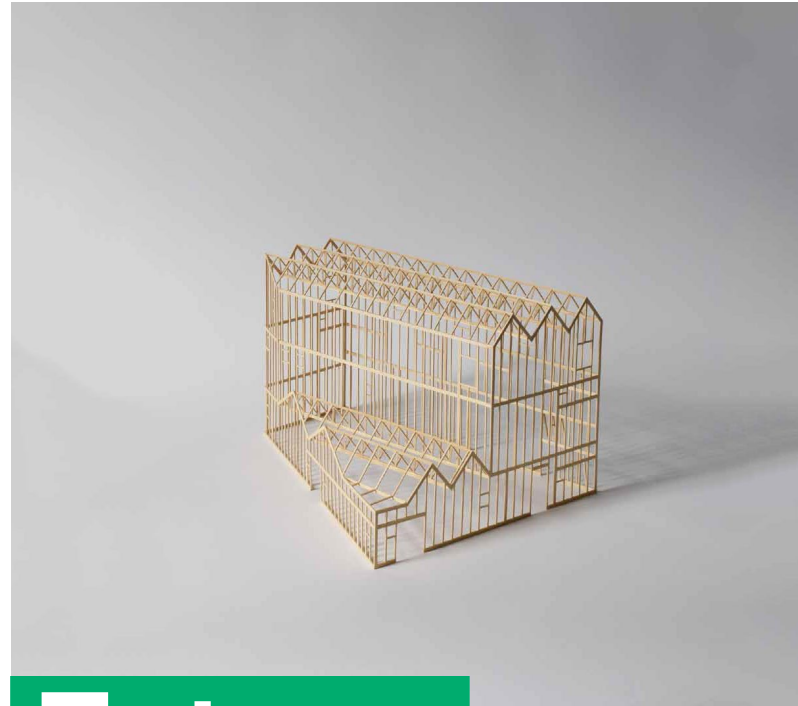
Reserves policy

The Board has examined the organisations requirements in the light of the main risks to the organisation.

At this time the policy is to have 3 months of unrestricted reserves for ongoing operations estimated at £188K based on the 21/22 budget. The current general reserve excluding fixed assets is £223K and no decision has been made to transfer any monies to the Designated fund at this time until there is a clearer picture of the future impact of the pandemic.

The tables show our official accounts, which at the time of print were yet to be officially signed off by the Trustees.

	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets		
Tangible fixed assets	6,065,914	6,065,000
Investments	490,961	547,737
	6,556,875	6,12,737
Current Assets		
Debtors	26,007	9,630
Cash at bank in hand	184,093	132,687
	210,100	142,317
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	58,089	124,698
Net Current Assets	152,011	17,619
NET ASSETS	6,708,886	6,630,356
Represented By:		
Restricted Funds	40,806	4,259
Designated Funds	379,248	379,248
Unrestricted General Funds	6,288,832	6,246,849
Total Funds	6,708,886	6,630,356



Future Plans

Overview of future plans for St. Margaret's House

We have been working hard on establishing St. Margaret's House as the arts & wellbeing hub of East London. With that in mind we are really excited about our future work:

We have just received funding from the Arts Council's Thriving Communities Fund to begin a year-long investigation into social prescribing in Tower Hamlets. We'll working with some exciting partners including Spare Tyre Theatre, Social Action for Health, Outside Edge Theatre, Fevered Sleep and London Arts in Health. We be working together to create workshops, events and opportunities for people to experience all kinds of Arts and Wellbeing Activities.

We also have received Arts Council Funding for a Research and development arts project where we'll be working with Tower Hamlets Carers to look at what "care" is and means in the world today. The carers will be working two exciting artists Kazuko Hohki and Milou Stella.

We also have aims to expand our work with our Associate Artists Bric a Brac and Lemonhouse Theatre and gain our first Arts Council Funding.

As we write this review we are in the centre of the Covid-19 pandemic but we still have ambition for our new Arts and Wellbeing Centre "The Barn" and to make progress in making this new space happen.

Our new building will create a hub where arts and wellbeing will physically merge, where collaborations between

artists and practitioners will thrive and where our community will reap the benefits.

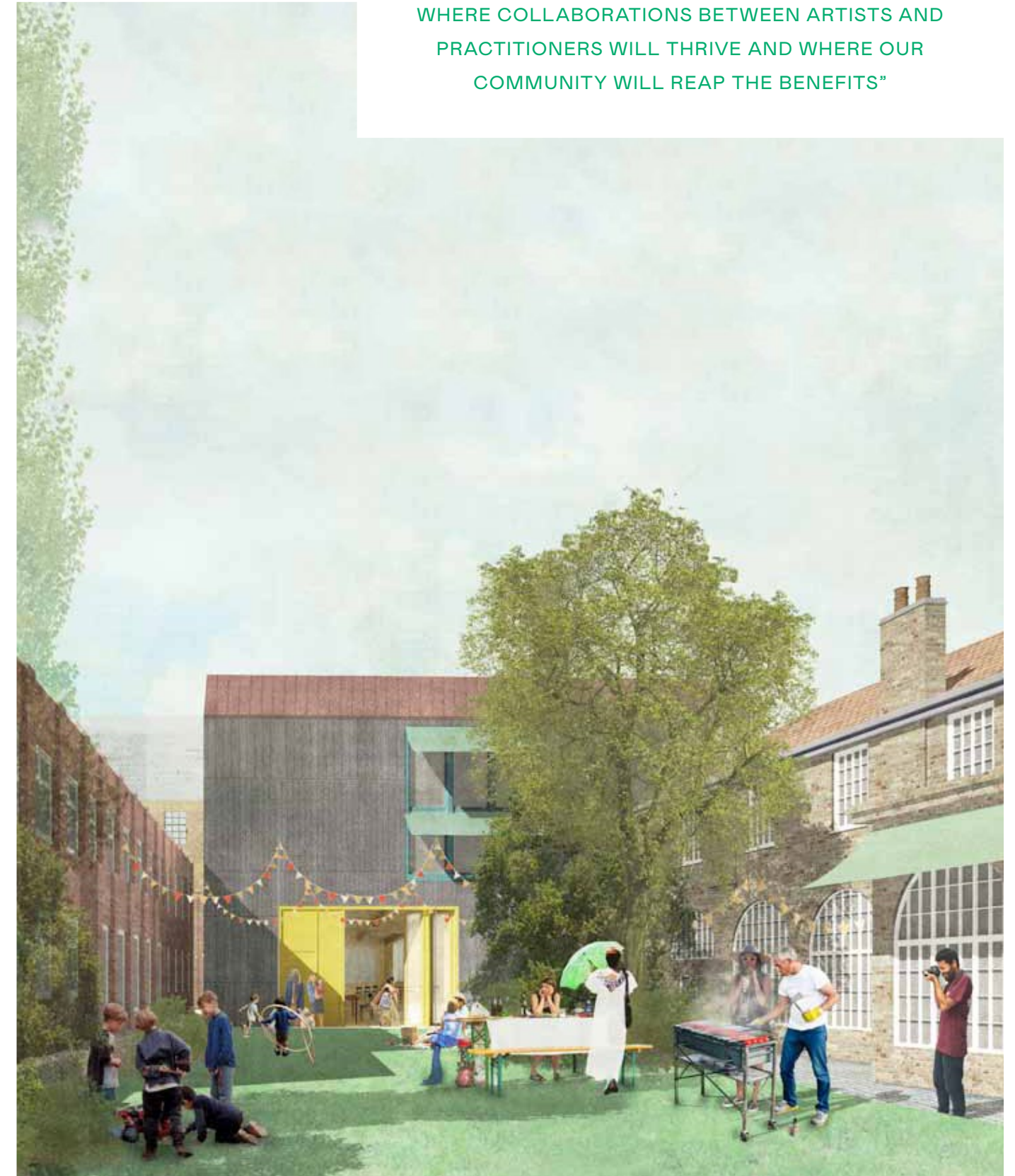
The ground floor will be a fully accessible rehearsal and workshop space for everything from dance to theatre and will be flexible as to transform into a public performance space. We are also looking forward to using this space to develop our partnership with the Bangladeshi Parents and Carers Association (BPCA) who have been supporting disabled adults through their day care programme at St. Margaret's House since 2005.

We have created a sustainable model of putting the funds earned from low rents of our spaces straight back into the community so the first floor will continue on this by providing more sought after low-cost office space to arts and wellbeing charities. The upper floor will house a variety of studio spaces for our visual art workshops and our wellbeing projects. We'll build on our work in Create Place where we are using arts to tackle isolation and showcase a strength in peer to peer learning through our many community led arts groups. We'll do this by providing more accessible spaces, better storage, and increased opportunities. Our Wellbeing programme is fast developing and our new studio space will be more adaptable allowing increased variety and creativity.

Help us shape the cultural landscape of Bethnal Green! If you would like to support us in any way, please get in touch with our Director at tony.hardie@stmargarethouse.org.uk.

THE BARN
Architect's model

"OUR NEW BUILDING WILL CREATE A HUB WHERE ARTS AND WELLBEING WILL PHYSICALLY MERGE, WHERE COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN ARTISTS AND PRACTITIONERS WILL THRIVE AND WHERE OUR COMMUNITY WILL REAP THE BENEFITS"



THE GARDEN
Artist's illustration



All information contained in this publication is correct at time of press.

St. Margaret's House is a member of Locality, a nationwide network for community-led organisations.

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Company Number: 07645599

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