

**public works**  
**Proposal for Peckham Space**  
January 2010

**Approach**

**One-to-One**

public works often suggests and organises actual activities on site, such as ad hoc workshops or small informal events. The activities are always open to the general public and offer different ways for individuals or groups to contribute and participate with their ideas and interests.

We believe that ideas that are turned into reality – however temporary or small scale – are an important step towards change and an understanding of what this change should be and how to achieve it.

The one-to-one approach creates precedents, which can be used as an example or guide for further activities and proposals.

We have worked on numerous public participatory projects, where one-to-one activities are used as a catalyst to start and nurture local engagement. Examples include “cut and paste” for Pembury Estate in Hackney, “Mobile Porch” for the Westway Flyover in Notting Hill and “Granville Cube” for NDC in South Kilburn.

“cut and paste”



The project was about improvements to the communal spaces.

We turned suggestions into realities (low-tech and fast) and tested them on the estate.

E.g. many residents wanted a sculpture, so we had a “one hour sculpture” that moved around the estate for a day. The test raised important issues on “what kind of sculpture”, locations, representation etc.

For another event we set up a public kitchen on one of the car parks, which triggered new ideas for public multi-cultural cooking events by residents.

## “Mobile Porch”



A mini mobile architecture to roam the public spaces underneath the Westway Flyover. Everybody could use the multifunctional space to run small scale public events, and to promote/show/perform something they do/like in public. Events included the launch of a new book by a local writer's group, a public survey for a cultural project, music performances, diners, etc.

## “Granville Cube”





Since 2008 public works is organising a community led programme for the “Granville Cube” , a simple metal frame structure to host and promote local activities.

We regard a one-to-one approach as suitable for this commission because it allows us

- to involve residents in the making of the project
- to create objects and situations that reply to local desires
- to test the objects together
- to develop ideas and proposals based on this experience which might go beyond the project.

### **To identify an issue together**

We propose to work in close collaboration with EQRA and the Peckham Space partners in order to run a public programme both on the estate and in the exhibition space, where we produce things that address the local situation and desires.

From the information we have received so far, we understand that one big issue seems to be the fact that there are no meeting spaces. As a starting point it would be interesting to look at existing meeting spaces, however obvious or temporary they are. They might not be in the public realm, they might be in cars or phone boxes, etc.

### **Methodologies and one-to-one production**

#### **Informal Mapping of Meeting Spaces**

We would have an open call invitation across the neighbourhood (using door-to-door flyers, posters and word-by-mouth) to find out about existing meeting spaces.

We could host a public event and walks to discover existing and possible places for meetings and get-togethers.

The collected information can be visualised in a map, and produced as a hand-out fanzine.



## On site participatory workshops

We would announce and set up informal workshops on the estate, where residents could be involved in making things that help to create meeting spaces, such as a bench, a public pop up kitchen, a temporary awning, a small flower bed, etc.

Those spontaneous productions can then be tested in real and in public.

The result will often be surprising (at least from our experience).

For the public programme we would evaluate experiences from the first series of workshops and elaborate more refined “public meeting” tools.

These could again be produced locally and with the direct involvement of residents.



Ad hoc bag production on Petticoat Lane, recycling local material into Bags – made there and then together with local traders and passers-by.



Street workshop to produce stools and benches for public use from found local material.

## Public Programme in 2011

### Using and showing it in public

For the exhibition the things and objects that have been made can be shown together with documentation about their background. They could at the same time be used by the public in the public realm, both in the exhibition space and the estate.

### After the exhibition

After the objects should remain with the residents who were involved and/or with EQRA. The objects could be simply used in public, or inform further discussions and activities.

## Other possible local partners and existing local knowledge

### New Economics Foundation

public works had a meeting with the Southwark based New Economics Foundation (nef) earlier this months.

nef are currently preparing a three months long pilot project called “The New Peckham Experiment” which refers to an innovative and bottom-up local initiative and movement in Peckham from 1926 to the 50ies.

The new commission for Peckham Space could be linked to this much larger network of ambitious and resident-led local groups and activities.

### South London Gallery

public works is involved with the outreach team of SLG on an ongoing mapping project that looks at SLG’s involvement with Sceaux Gardens Estate. SLG are running a very committed and long-term local outreach programme, and have numerous residents on board who have been involved in the programme.

If of interest, we could organise a site-visit and facilitate an informal event to look at and discuss different public art programmes.

## “lay-out” for Gasworks

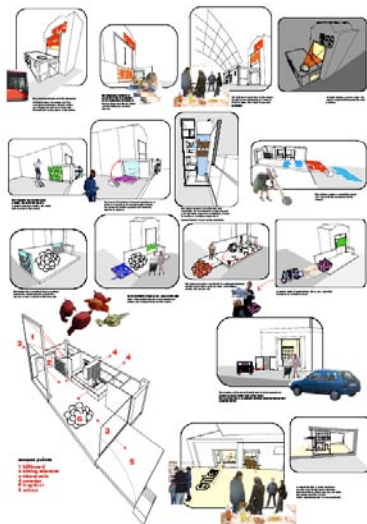
During 2003/04 public works has been leading on a public consultation and design project for Gasworks Gallery. The project was called “Lay out” and consisted of a three months on-site and on-the-street residency where we talked to officials, other institutions, the local authorities, visiting individuals, neighbours and passers-by about possible changes to Gasworks Gallery. The numerous conversations led to a multi-faceted list of proposals. Some of them have been implemented since.



## Peckham Square Architecture competition

In 2005 public works was shortlisted to propose a multifunctional building for exhibitions and public programme for Peckham Square.

The key idea of the proposal was to create multiple and very different access points (architecturally, culturally, socially) which would allow for a broad range of local individuals and interest groups to find an easy access and to get involved.



## Possible Schedule

- Summer 2010**
1. **Announcement Overall Project and Open Call for Mapping existing meeting spaces**
  2. **Public launch event and walk/s in order to:**
    - **collect information about existing meeting spaces**
    - **collect things/tools/objects used for meetings across the estate**
    - **brainstorm and identify new meeting sites**
    - **brainstorm and invent tools for meetings**
  3. **Production and hand-out fanzine with the mapping and list of ideas**
- Summer 2011**
4. **Production workshops on the estate**
  5. **Outcomes featured in the exhibition space, together with documentation of the process/stories/ideas**
  6. **Public programme using the “Meeting tools” for public events on the estate and in the exhibition space**
  7. **“Meeting tools” remain on the estate**

## Budget outline

### Material and Production

Announcement, Mapping event and Fanzine (1.-3.)	£ 300
Materials and on-site workshops (4.)	£ 700
Materials exhibition	£ 500
Public programme (3-5 small scale informal events)	£ 500

### Fees (25 days)

Preparation Announcement and public event (1. /2.) (2days)	£ 400
Public event and walks (2 people/ 1 day)	£ 400

Compiling information for Fanzine (1day)	£ 200
Preparation workshops (4.) (2days)	£ 400
Workshops on site (2 people/5 days)	£ 2,000
Preparation and Installation Exhibition (3days)	£ 600
Organising public programme (4days)	£ 800
Handing over (1day)	£ 200