



PUBLIC STATEMENT 17 FEBRUARY 2020: STILL TIME TO DO THE RIGHT THING

The Cinema Museum (TCM) has battled for a sustainable future in Lambeth for 35 years. It has spent 22 years on short/one yr leases at The Master's House (on the wider Woodlands site). Until 2018, the wider site was publicly owned land, allocated to South London & Maudsley NHS Trust (SLaM). From 2007-2015 SLaM made promises to TCM to sell us our home. The last being 2015, when SLaM agreed to sell the wider site to TCM and Family Mosaic (Housing Association) for £15 million (this had NHS England's authority and support of their regulators, NHS Improvements). Nevertheless, in early 2017 SLaM put the wider site on the open market, selling in early 2018 for £15.5 million to private developers 'Anthology' (who in 2019 merged to become 'Lifestory'). At the time SLaM issued a letter saying they sold the public land at below market price on the proviso that Lifestory would work with TCM's to ensure their sustainable future. Pre and post the sale TCM have shared their needs with Lifestory; which expressly involve ownership/improvement of our buildings and protecting local people from the inconvenience of duplicated/consecutive heavy plant work, construction traffic and pollution. In late 2018 the Greater London Authority (GLA) announced they were funding Lifestory's development plan via a £21.8 million loan.

TCM covers all its own core costs via earned income and public donations. We open to the public 40-50 hrs a week for: tours/screenings/public events/meetings/study sessions/projects/wellbeing initiatives. Annually we draw in 20,000+ visitors; have 60+volunteer opportunities; donate free tickets to the value of £5,000; give 1,000 hours of free/subsidised space to local schools, charities, community groups and Lambeth and Southwark Councils and 1,000+ hours of volunteer's time.

For over a decade our plan has been to secure ownership, so we can raise the funds for urgent repairs to the Master's House, rescue the Male Receiving Wards & Lodge and cover over/bring into use the walled yard at the Museum's rear. Our plan evolved over the years, with help from local people and stakeholders, and was shared in our 2018 'Our Future' booklet. We plan to continue sharing our resources and assets with the community but ownership will also provide the basis for a sustainable business plan to ensure TCM's financial future and create 25+ local jobs.

Short leases make us vulnerable; we are financially stable, but we can't plan ahead and we rely on the grace of our landlords and the planning authorities for our short-term survival and long-term future. This precarious position, along with a lease that requires us not to make formal objections to any Woodlands planning applications, means that to date we have remained neutral on the matter of Lifestory and their planning application. However, despite two years of assurances from various players involved in this development scheme, TCM is at serious and increased risk - and our local community's lives remain blighted by uncertainty and anxiety. We love our Museum and we love our community so despite having just weeks remaining on our lease we feel its time to speak - we all need a fair and timely outcome that works for everyone and ends uncertainty.

Kennington will be changed by our landlords (Lifestory) and the planning powers that shape our built environment (Lambeth Council; The Mayor of London and the GLA). We will write to them all asking that they bring their expertise and superior power to design a solution that respects the future of our home and those of our friends and neighbours. In the meantime TCM remains open to approaches from/discussions with anyone who can help us all reach a fair and timely resolution.