

Press release

20 June 2006

Minister for Culture David Lammy MP opens Acme Studios' new-build affordable workspace for artists in a pioneering public / private partnership with Barratt Homes.



Minister for Culture David Lammy meets Galleria artist Rebecca Stevenson

Photo: Emma Bowkett

On Tuesday 20 June, David Lammy MP, Minister for Culture, officially opened the UK's first development of 50 artists' studios, built alongside private and affordable apartments in Peckham, London.

Acme Studios have pioneered this unique scheme in partnership with Barratt Homes, Southwark Council and architects from Dransfield Owens de Silva, through mixed-use planning gain.

Speaking at the launch, David Lammy MP said: "I think it's wonderful that we can create mixed communities in this way – I hope this will be replicated across the country. We

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Acme Studios is a group of three exempt charities registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965

Members of the National Housing Federation

Acme Studios Housing Association Limited
Reg No IP28377R
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Acme Artists Housing Association Limited
Reg No IP27215R
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have to make more space available to artists. This scheme is precisely what the Government and local authorities should be supporting.”

Lending his support to Acme Studios’ plans to replicate this scheme across the UK, David Lammy said: “If you believe in artists and the social and instrumental side of art, how can you not believe you have to provide space for artists to work in?”

Acme Studios’ involvement in The Galleria development was a deal-clincher for Barratt Homes, after their application to build a residential-only development was turned down by Southwark Council, which wanted to keep local employment in the area.

By agreeing to sell one block to Acme Studios at a price Acme could afford, Barratt Homes were able to go ahead with the rest of the development of private and affordable apartments, while Southwark Council retained a higher level of employment than had originally existed on the site.

Acme Studios Co-Director Jonathan Harvey said: “Acme Studios are thrilled to pioneer this new scheme, which has provided 57 artists with a purpose-designed place to work and has distinguished The Galleria as a new, exciting and unique place to live.”

In partnership with private developers, housing associations and local authorities, Acme Studios plan to increase the number of much-needed affordable and permanent studios for artists.



The Galleria Studios, Sumner Road, Peckham, London, SE1

Photo: Jonathan Harvey



David Lammy MP talks to Galleria artist Mark Haywood

Photo: Emma Bowkett

Notes for Editors

- The Galleria Studios have been part-funded by Arts Council England's Grant for the arts – capital programme, which has made £2 million available to Acme for this and future projects
- 430 studios managed by other studio organisations in London are at risk over the next 10 years from rising land values and new development schemes
- The Galleria Studios is one of only nine permanent studio buildings out of over 90 in London, four of which are owned by Acme Studios
- Established by artists in 1972, Acme have helped over 5,000 artists with affordable studio and living space

Press Information

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