

Press release

31 May 2006

## Minister for Culture David Lammy MP to open Acme Studios' and Barratt Homes' scheme to secure affordable studio space for artists



On Tuesday 20th June David Lammy MP, Minister for Culture, will officially open 50 artists' studios created by Acme Studios, the UK's largest workspace provider for artists. The scheme is the first of its kind to include artists' studios alongside private and affordable apartments and has been developed through mixed-use planning gain in partnership with Barratt Homes and Southwark Council.

Acme Studios involvement 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 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.

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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  
Vat Reg No 680 7763 03  
**Acme Artists Housing Association Limited**  
Reg No IP27215R  
**Acme Housing Association Limited**  
Reg No IP20468R

Acme Studios Co-Director Jonathan Harvey says: “Acme Studios are thrilled to pioneer this new scheme to create 50 permanent and affordable studios for artists. We are proud that this scheme has not just provided 53 artists with a purpose-designed place to work, but has distinguished The Galleria as a new, exciting and unique place to live. Having proved the success of this scheme, we hope to work with developers and local authorities to help create the mixed-use planning gain developments of the future.”

Schemes like the one at The Galleria could see local authorities and developers reap the benefits of mixed-use developments. Property prices in areas where artists chose to work traditionally rise in value and mixed-use schemes help to create sustainable, diverse communities.

Clive Fenton, Chairman of Barratt’s south region says: “It’s already clear that our residential buyers at The Galleria enjoy the idea of having a colony of working artists as their neighbours...the studios are definitely seen as one of the development’s attractions.” In partnership with private developers and local authorities, Acme Studios plan to increase the number of much-needed affordable and permanent studios for artists.

### **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**

Opening event: 11.30am, The Galleria, Peckham.

For further press information and images, please contact: Pippa Gavaghan on 020 8981 6811 or email [pippa@acme.org.uk](mailto:pippa@acme.org.uk)