



165 Childers Street, January 2024 © Acme.

Artist studio charity Acme receives significant donation to save studio building

LONDON, 21 JULY 2025 - Affordable artist studio provider Acme have been awarded a £2.5m grant from The Julia Rausing Trust towards securing the largest remaining artist studio building of its kind in London.

[Acme Propeller Factory \(APF\) in Deptford](#) has been home to artists for 35 years. Currently, its 70,492 sq ft of studio space is divided into 135 units, with 180 artists working in them.

Over the past 35 years, more than 650 artists have worked in the building, which has become a key component of Lewisham's cultural heartbeat.

The Julia Rausing Trust's generous grant means that it is now feasible for the charity to buy the building at the end of its current lease.

Purchasing the building would increase the number of Acme's long-term, permanent studios from 290 to 419, out of its total of 608 studios across London. Securing Acme Propeller Factory long-term means security for the building's community of artists and represents a landmark moment for affordable studio provision in the city.

Welcoming the announcement, **Acme Co-Founder, Co-Director and Chair of the Board, David Panton**, said:

“We’re immensely grateful to The Julia Rausing Trust for their momentous support, not only for Acme Propeller Factory and its 180 artists but as a vote of confidence in Acme’s long-term provision of permanent, affordable studios. Over the past 50 years, Acme’s commitment to keeping artists working and living in London in terms affordable to their means has never wavered. Visionary funders like The Julia Rausing Trust help us deliver that mission in perpetuity.”

David Panton OBE

Co-Director, Co-Founder & Chair of the Board, Acme

Simon Fourmy, Director of The Julia Rausing Trust, said:

“We believe a thriving cultural sector is essential to the life of this great city. This grant helps preserve affordable studio space and secures the long-term future of a vital creative hub. We are proud to support Acme in acquiring the Propeller Factory building, ensuring a permanent space for a community of 180 artists.”

Simon Fourmy

Director, The Julia Rausing Trust

Acme will continue its fundraising efforts through 2025 to raise money for Acme Propeller Factory and to provide even more opportunities for artists living and working in London.



Notes for editors

About Acme

London-based charity [Acme](#) has been supporting artists in need since 1972. Over this time, we have provided thousands of artists at all stages of career with **affordable** studios, work/live space and a programme of artist support through residencies and awards. We support the development and production of art by reducing the practical challenges that artists face, increasing their ability to take creative risks.

Acme is the single largest provider of **permanent** affordable artist studios in England, supporting over 800 individual artists across 15 buildings in Greater London each year. [acme.org.uk](#) / [@acme.art](#)

About the Julia Rausing Trust

[The Julia Rausing Trust](#) has been established in memory of the late British philanthropist Julia Rausing (née Delves-Broughton), who died in 2024.

The Julia Rausing Trust will see £100million donated to charities and organisations in its first year and annually thereafter, making it one of the largest charitable funds in the UK.

Julia Rausing co-founded The Julia and Hans Rausing Trust in 2014. She was widely known for her unwavering commitment to philanthropy and her impactful contributions to a wide range of UK charitable causes. She was instrumental in building The Julia and Hans Rausing Trust into one of the largest philanthropic funds in the country, donating £400 million to causes across Health, Welfare, and the Arts, primarily within the UK. [juliarausingtrust.org](#)

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