

BA AGM 29 April 2023

Talk by Claire Spencer, Managing Director, Barbican Arts Centre

The Arts Centre's refreshed purpose is to be a creative catalyst for the arts, curiosity and enterprise

Its values: Inclusive, sustainable, connected, daring, joyful ("the estate itself is a place of daring")

There was a new leadership team and the Renewal project:

A lot of the renewal was about the state of the building – systems no longer fit for purpose. In recovering that they were also looking to futureproof.

The BAC is huge 46,000m<sup>3</sup> – bigger than British Museum, Tate Modern, etc

They have appointed top team of architects and engineers and will bring on board fund raisers because that will be important

Their consultations with artists, users, residents, etc gave 5 consistent messages:

Fix the fundamentals

Care for and celebrate the heritage

Resolve wayfinding, inclusivity and welcome

Improve overall audience experience

Seize the opportunity of underused spaces

The repair elements will ramp up over 2 years, the design elements are much longer terms.

They have identified 20 separate projects and are starting with 5 key areas:

The 5 initial projects are:

Building infrastructure

Exhibition Halls and Beech Street

Conservatory + garden room and restaurant block and gallery foyer

Foyers and lakeside

Silk Street entrance – issues with loading for the Hall

Design Principles

(they have done RIBA stage 1, now into stage 2 (23/24) then stage 3 (2024)

We won't build another square foot

Heritage guardians

A new public realm

Activate the street – improve Beech street

Sense of Welcome

-Also sustainability