

# Queen Mary foundations for public engagement partnerships

Partnerships are an essential part of our engagement practice at Queen Mary, ensuring our projects and activities are designed and delivered with mutual benefit from the start. From local community groups to museums and cultural institutions, we connect and collaborate with others to engage locally, nationally and internationally to create a better world.

These principles were co-designed with representatives from local community organisations and their Queen Mary collaborators to provide you with foundations you will need to build and sustain equitable partnerships in public engagement.

- 1 Take the time** to develop your understanding of each other's contexts and communities.
- 2 Share your motivations** and expectations for partnership and listen to those of your partners.
- 3 Recognise power imbalances** and identify how you can proactively work to minimise them.
- 4 Decide clear aims, outcomes and outputs** from your activities, agreeing what success looks like for all and how this will be measured.
- 5 Share the resource needs** for your partnership. Identify what resources you and your partner already have access to and decide where it's appropriate and feasible to share them. This may change over time, so revisit when new opportunities arise.
- 6 Be honest and transparent** about each **organisations' policies**, processes and working practices and clarify any distinctions between partners.
- 7 Agree whether and how participants are recompensed** for their time, and be transparent about timescales and processes of payments.
- 8 Agree ways of communicating** which are timely, clear and work for both partners. Create opportunities to check in on progress.
- 9 Respect each other's contributions and time** in and outside of meetings. Be proactive, share ownership of tasks and follow through with actions.
- 10 Recognise when things don't go to plan** and take appropriate action. Adapt to changing contexts and be flexible.



**Thank you** to all of our local partners and Queen Mary colleagues for their time and insight shared with us to develop these principles.



**Resources** could be funding, space, knowledge and expertise, access to organisational support.



**Organisational processes** could be recruitment processes, copyright, payment processes, how actions from meetings will be recorded and shared.



## Work in progress

We're currently piloting these principles and they will be reviewed in Autumn 2024. Please let us know if you have any feedback on these – we'd love to hear from you!

# Our values

Queen Mary's commitment to create a truly inclusive environment, building on our cherished cultural diversity, where students and staff flourish, reach their full potential and are proud to be part of the University.



## **Inclusive**

We will be inclusive, with transparent processes and opportunities that are accessible to all our partners. We will value different types of skills, knowledge and expertise.



## **Proud**

We will work with partners to build something that we all can be proud of and celebrate our shared successes.



## **Ambitious**

We will seek to build meaningful and impactful partnerships, investing energy and time to see activities through.



## **Collegial**

We will listen to and act on constructive feedback, providing it in turn. We will work together to resolve issues respectfully with patience and empathy.



## **Ethical**

We will value our partners' time and expertise, taking shared ownership of the project from work to reward.