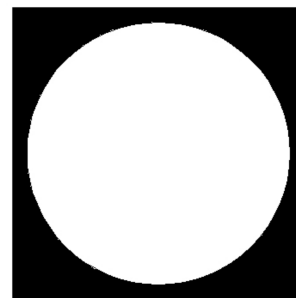


Abundance



the community life centre

This **Abundance Centre** is now the core project of the **Abundance Centre Development Trust (Peckham)**, which is a specially convened association tasked with the Centre's incubation and launch. Our Centre's mission and vision is to establish and maintain an ethos of abundance in the life of the local community. Our service revolves around the development of *education, health and social networking*. Whilst completely open to and nurturing of the **WHOLE** community, our centre proudly celebrates the wealth of African heritage and *panAfrican* experience. The Centre is specifically focused on the communities of the London Borough of Southwark and naturally cares for the immediately surrounding boroughs too.

We have come together in response to the deafening call for; 1) self-defined space-time for well-being, 2) guidance and protection of the young, 3) respect for the diversity of our free expression. Currently in these areas there is a powerful perception and experience of "lack" and "deficiency", which our Centre seeks to help redress with its fresh, renewing vision and capacity to serve efficiently and effectively. We (our membership) have collectively identified these needs and wants over many years of collective community development work.

In our ideal world our Centre will swiftly become well established as a "*community life centre*", thus serving as a blueprint for similar centres in other areas. This network of centres will then be a powerful and positive influence for unified community life locally, nationally and even internationally.

Services @ the **Abundance Centre** – the community life centre:

- A selection of adaptable **spaces that are well suited to the provision of unified approaches to education, health care and social networking**. This includes substantial open spaces (indoors and outside), meeting and consultation facilities, areas dedicated to complimentary education (inc. specifically designed areas to advance the study of math, science and art from a unified (*yeht'mr urwuk'eht*) approach.)
- Office **administration space and support facilities** for organisational members of Abundance Centre and other community organisations.
- **gehbehya** (the marketplace) – a programme of theme "market days" where representatives of local service providers (statutory, community interest and commercial) can gather, introduce and share their services to the local community. The overarching themes will be education, health and social networking. From this we will develop and promote the (monthly and quarterly) programmes to the public.
- **abundance Radio** – a localised intelligent speech internet radio provision. Providing:
 - **proportional representation of local African (inc. Caribbean) communities** by country of origin. These programmes will cover local news issues as the priority, but also feature related national and international issues as well. This service will encourage "citizen journalism" and thus support community engagement and interest.
 - **audio educational learning resource broadcasts and programmes**. Here we use the model of the Open University and BBC Education services to further support local learners, families and schools. The programmes and broadcasts will come from a unified (*yeht'mr urwuk'eht*) and African place of being, which means that they, whilst dealing with core Foundation, GCSE and university curricula, will embrace African cultural references, principles and values.
 - broadcast feed-ins from/to other local radio service providers and media.
- "**Our In-house services**" provided by Centre members and associates facilitators:

We are connected to a network of educators, health professionals, agencies and community organisations. In developmental partnerships the scope of our pilot service already ranges through the following areas and provides the pre-launch baseline for truly wholistic community development in our area.

 - Social gatherings that focus on cultural exploration, dance, edutainment (educational entertainment), relationship revitalisation (personal, family and communal wellness), the presentation of holistic (unified) approaches to education – with a special interest in the mathematical, scientific, agricultural, musical and medical.
 - This parents' support forum we seek to raise awareness and build capacity through a range of in-house and outreaching forms including workshops, presentations, discussions, video resources, information leaflets and handouts, conference interventions or any other identified appropriate methods.
 - Programmes that ensure that parents and families are reassured about local Sex Relationship Education (SRE) in schools and giving parents and guardians practical tips on how to talk to their children about sex and

- relationships as well as giving advice on sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).
- Personal development programmes to empower young people by enabling them to go through a process of self reflection and evaluation.
- Community service focused specifically on the needs of Somali people and others of East Africa. The support comes in three main forms; 1). *Drop-in Sessions*; advice, advocacy and counselling services in local centres, 2). *Outreach Support*; visiting those in need in the community and 3). *Social and Cultural Networking Events*; monthly and ad-hoc activities.
- Programmes where parents and their children can learn to learn together, these complimentary educational provisions utilises the unified knowledge (*yeht'mr urwuk'eht*) approach to education where math and the sciences are taught through creative arts, cultural arts and nature-centred learning.
- Support with organisational and personal development with the fundamental insight that people should have every opportunity to reach their full positive potential. Fully embracing this underlying principle we provide personal and professional management; workshops, training, policy and best practice guidance.
- Supplementary schooling for children to support their standard schooling and also madrassa (Islamic studies).
- Language studies; Various African languages, Arabic & English.
- Women's empowerment circles (forums) – developing health education and sisterhood support structures in the local community.
- Film screenings, audio and multi media presentations as a fun and dynamic means of social networking, edutainment and relaxation.

In very general terms the primary “market” (clients, consumers and users) for **Abundance Centre** services is the whole community of Southwark. Given the nature of our Centre we expect that peoples of African (inc. Caribbean, British etc.) heritage will form the majority the Centre's users. We also recognise that our services will be of interest to the communities of neighbouring boroughs (especially Lewisham) and even further afield. As can be seen we seek to support all from pre-birth and the youngest children through the various key life stages. Families and children are a pivotal sector of our client market. In the corporate sphere we are keen to develop functional service relationships with the local governance and other local organisations in the community interest sector.

We engage in several types of “trade”; 1) Centre to public (direct consumers of our Centre's services), 2) Centre to statutory services (schools, local government, health provisions etc), 3) Centre to community interest and commercial organisations. These varied trading concepts allows us to develop the right blend of income sources so that the Centre can develop its right standing with a clear sense of self-dependence and mutual respect from those who we work with.

The principle of our Centre's success is “*hashima tehwagi asab*”, simply put this *panAfrican* proverbial sentiment embodies an active respect for space and the development of peace in our communally shared spaces. It also acknowledges the connection of each individual with the broader community, recognising that they share some essential quality of oneness (unity). All of our developmental partners are aligned to this ethos and so our networking, acquisition of resources and use of them is made more harmonious and thus more successful.

We grow and learn from our work because we have no fear of challenge. The Abundance Centre brings into focus a powerful network ready and keen to serve the community. This network possesses a profound collective insight and wealth of experience in local, national and international development. We are keen to connect, work organically and build the most progressive local community resources, services and well-being.

It is our observation that there are many services in Southwark (and London in general) that when properly connected, profiled and integrated, into facilities like those of our Centre, will become much more effective. As well as establishing and maintaining the abundance space to the best standards we have much internal work to do in the areas of service connectivity and integration. The Abundance Centre is a major development, set to establish new paradigms of best practice, because it is so extensive we plan to implement it in a modular way.

Of high priority is the **accessibility and visibility of the Centre**, which is sited on a major public byways near to Peckham bus station two overground stations and a major shopping/market area. The **aesthetic of the Centre's internal space** is also of great importance, this will reflect the broad cultural heritage we have founded as our priority interest. We are determined to have the right amount of qualified, experienced, caring and ready staff present in all Centre operations. We anticipate the need to seriously invest in the **development of a volunteer pool; administration support, pr/marketing and research**, which will be useful both to the Centre's internal management and for our associate membership. The spirit of volunteering is, though understated, vitally important in the development of community interest ventures. This attitude is integral to the idea of environmental care and responsibility too. We will work with all volunteer support services to work through this challenging developmental objective.

This **community life centre** is a beacon of (*right*) light in the community and as such we see great value in being well aligned to natural cycles (sun cycles - season changes, moon-earth cycles, etc.) and fully embracing their importance. This is an example of the challenge we must grow through; some of the services we will deliver are best suited to the early morning practice (which is a human biological reality). Popular culture (western) and “economic” imperatives often mean that the population find doing the “*right thing*” difficult. At our Centre we seek to break out of these constricted self-defeating paradigms with more flexibility in our approach to service provision and a stronger commitment to public relations, marketing and education. As well as opening early in the mornings we will be open everyday. In the future we envision an **open 24 hours service**.

The first priority of our public relations (pr) / marketing strategy is to ensure that we are known to all appropriate organisations and featured in all appropriate directories and databases. We are keen to implement direct community engagement – thus we will not shy away from distribution of publicity materials door to door or in public spaces. In the same vein we will seek representation at all local public events that relate to our Centre's ethos and objectives. We will build a great relationship with local, London wide and national media, working hard to extract every opportunity for promotional cover. As we are working with well known developmental partners we will capitalise on their networks as our own. **gehbehya**, our “marketplace” service and **abundance Radio** (see above) will also greatly facilitate our ongoing outreach networking.

Our work is fun and enjoyable because our services are all pro-life. The Abundance Centre is formed of people who are committed and effective in working with people, thus we have a special advantage in the development of our working relationships. As stated above the principle of our Centre's success is “*hashima tehwagi asab*”.

As can be seen a core part of our operational policy is anchored in effective networking, partnership and integration of services. In our Centre we practice regular partnership and network opportunities reviews. The rewards of these reviews should be exponentially great with time as most members of the Abundance Centre are already keen “network development” enthusiasts.

As mentioned we intend to build and implement this community life centre in a modular way. This can be viewed in two dimensions. Firstly we will launch each service/aspect stated above in an organic way, seeking to build on their natural synergies and resource sharing potentials. Secondly we are keen to start in an incubation space/building before moving to the significantly larger venue that we envision for the fullest realisation of the services. The premises of 186 Peckham High Street SE15 5EG (formerly managed by Southwark Arts Forum - SAF) provides the perfect incubation space as the current organisational residents have been here for many years. All members involved in this initial developmental phase are familiar with the space and are agreed that we can fully utilise it as we work towards establishing a purpose designed space for **the Abundance Centre's fullest expression**.

After the planned incubation period of 4/5 years at SE15 5EG we estimate our resource and financial requirements to be; a) New building acquisition, 8.5k – 9.5k sq ft (£1.8m to £2.2m) + refurbishment's (costs subject to the new building's condition), b) annual operations – core centre costs (£360k), c) annual operations – service/project costs (£180k), d) post-incubation start-up/launch budget requirement (£96k).

We anticipate incorporating the **Abundance Centre** as a community interest company, thus reflecting its charitable nature and maintaining its need to operate as a social enterprise.

please note that this document supersedes:

“abundance – the community life centre
a preliminary executive summary: prepared by the Peoplescience Intelligence Unit (update 20090918)”

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