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# LIGHT LONDON

INSPIRING  
CREATIVE  
APPROACHES

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Cities use light to express their different identities. Light London asks what kinds of values and messages London wants to convey in lighting its public realm.

**Light London** is a city-wide initiative to influence the capital's public realm and its creative opportunities through the theme of light. Developed by Open House/ Art in the Open with the London Development Agency/ Design for London, Light London is a programme of **forums** and **resources** to inform London's policy and support more imaginative approaches.

This leaflet outlines the Light London Principles for a more creative and sustainable approach to light, developed in consultation with the Light London Working Group (see overleaf for details), for use by public and private clients, architects, artists, curators, professional lighting designers and others.

The principles emphasise that to transform our public realm we need to use light as a powerful tool with a functional and a creative purpose. They reinforce high-quality approaches as enhancing people's experience of a place, rather than detrimentally detracting with promotion or advertising.

These principles take as their basis the need to act locally and city-wide to enhance the capital's image and the experience of its public realm. They support **high-quality and intelligent approaches** for light to benefit London and Londoners.

## Principles

### **We need to strategically embed ambitions to**

- 1 Use light to enhance the character and meaning of places**
- 2 Encourage the use of public space through light**
- 3 Make sustainable places with light through creativity and collaboration**
- 4 Treat the lighting of places holistically**
- 5 Respond to the rhythms and activities of daily life through light**
- 6 Think long term about light for London**

## Principles

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## Light London Background

We have many associations with light that affect its role in our public spaces. By taking a multi-disciplinary and collaborative approach involving architects, artists, professional lighting designers and others we can use light to make places that showcase the capital and its creativity.

### Cultural, Social & Environmental

Light has many cultural, social and environmental meanings. Artists have historically used light as a concept, subject, material and form. Thinking laterally about light is critical for our individual and communal experiences of the city.

### Future Generation

For young people the public realm is their social space and needs to be appealing and safe. Light is an attractive medium that increases feelings of safety – changing mood and signalling a well-cared for space.

### Creativity & Sustainability

Sustainable approaches for the long term are inherently creative – using technology as a tool. Sensitive site-specific responses bring about lower energy consumption and cost savings.

1 We need to **use light to enhance the character and meaning of places.**

2 To be inclusive and instil ownership we need to **encourage the use of public space through light.**

3 High-quality approaches **make sustainable places with light through creativity and collaboration.**

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# Light London

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## Light London Background

Preserving darkness is important – lighting more places more brightly does not necessarily make better, sustainable places. Lighting more forgotten places alongside busier public spaces increases perceptions of safety.

### Light & Dark

Times of day and year, and daylight levels, affect our perception of light and dark. Responding to places and their users means thinking creatively about both the functional and artistic aspects of light.

4 Successful approaches **treat the lighting of places holistically.**

### Fascination, Attraction and Distraction

Light can be used to fascinate, attract and even distract. It can emphasise landmarks, historic places, skylines; navigate routes and make connections.

5 Successfully animating spaces means **responding to the rhythms and activities of daily life through light.**

### Temporary & Permanent

Sustainable lighting approaches are long term – the temporary part of wider environmental changes, rather than stand-alone. Permanent responses can be as creative as temporary, where longevity increases ownership by communities and clients.

6 Creating sustainable places means **thinking long term about light for London.**

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The **Light London Principles** have been informed by a series of forums, including the Working Group, and an initial Visioning Forum (held with London Development Agency/Design for London, their project partners and architects, artists and professional lighting designers).

### **Working Group Members**

Chair: Fred Manson, Open House Trustee  
Peter Bishop, Director, Design Development & Environment (DDE), London Development Agency (LDA)  
Mark Brearley, Head of Design, Design for London, LDA  
Tom Campbell, Culture Strategy Officer, Greater London Authority  
Stephen Kennard, Director, Land & Development, DDE, LDA  
Elliot Lipton, Chair, Art in the Open Advisory Board & Managing Director, First Base Ltd  
Martin Lupton, Lighting Director, BDP & President, Professional Lighting Designers' Association  
Martin Richman, Artist  
Lucy Sollitt, Communications and Events Executive, DDE, LDA  
Victoria Thornton, Director, Open House  
Louise Trodden, Head, Art in the Open, Open House  
Isabel Vasseur, Director, ArtOffice

### **Resources**

Background on other cities, schemes and programmes can be found at [www.artintheopen.org.uk](http://www.artintheopen.org.uk)

### **For more information on Light London**

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