

# Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



## Job vacancy

### Research & Engagement Lead (Communities of Liberation)

£37,026 - £38,934 pa pro rata

0.5 FTE, 18-month contract

A rare opportunity has arisen, based at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, for a researcher to uncover narratives illustrating African presence in the East End of London and share the evidence gathered with the wider public.

[Communities of Liberation](#) is a historical research and public art project which aims to increase awareness of the long history of the African presence in the borough of Tower Hamlets, by focusing specifically on excavating and sharing stories of individuals who lived here in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The aim of the project is to identify the places, spaces and networks in which African people lived, worked or socialised during the period of operation of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and map them to specific locations in present day Tower Hamlets. We are especially interested in the buildings and spaces - homes, taverns, places of worship - where 'working class' African people would gather, meet and coalesce as a community during the 17th and 18th centuries.

The postholder will have experience in using primary and secondary sources to carry out historical research. You will have lived experience of issues facing Black British communities today, excellent group facilitation and communication skills, and the right to work in the UK.

[Visit the Tower Hamlets Council website](#) for more details and to apply.

Closing date: Tuesday 2 May 2023

Interviews: Friday 19 May (tbc)

## Temporary Reading Room closure

We are pleased to announce that the lighting in our Reading Room is being upgraded thanks to an investment by the council in a bespoke new lighting system. The existing light fittings date from the 1960s and are now obsolete. Many lights in the room are not functional, which leads to low visibility in the room, particularly in winter.

Unfortunately, while the works take place, the Reading Room service will close temporarily. Due to the high ceiling, a scaffold needs to be erected inside the room for contractors to work at height, and the collections need to be moved out to protect them from dust and damage.

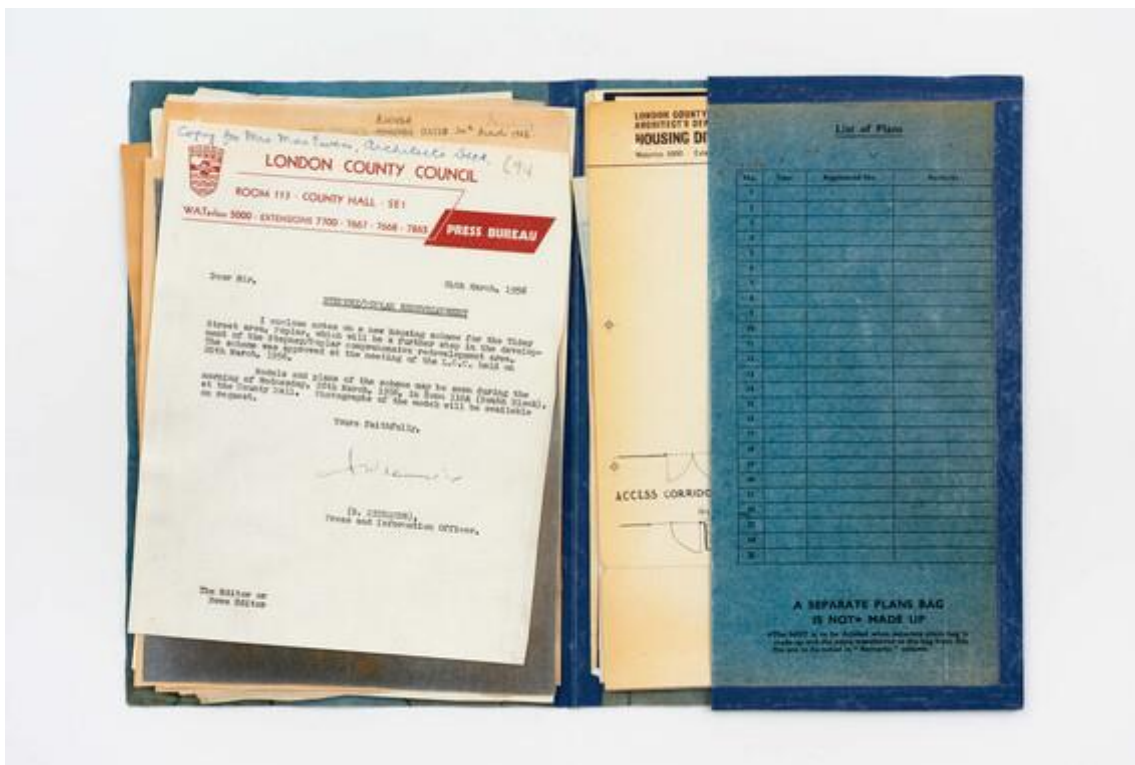
Exact dates are still being confirmed, but we wanted to give you a heads up that the Reading Room will be closed for 2-3 months over the early summer period. If you are planning a long-distance trip to visit us please bear that in mind.

As soon as we have exact dates for works to start on site we will update you via this newsletter, our website, and our social media channels. We will provide one month's notice before we close.

The Exhibition Hall and Education Room will continue to operate as normal.

## Our current exhibition by artist Maria Amidu





Lincoln Estate archive material, c. 1950s. Photo: Jonathan Bassett

## living in fear of quicksand

Until Saturday 20 May

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives (THLHLA) in partnership with the Nunnery Gallery is delighted to be hosting *living in fear of quicksand* by artist [Maria Amidu](#) – an exhibition of new work and existing archive material. *living in fear of quicksand* is a solo exhibition taking place across two venues. It explores the fragmentary nature of memory in relation to a fragile experience of home.

In the work on display here at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, the focus is placed on the architectural and social history of the Lincoln Estate in Bow Common, and the artist's brief place within it. Designed in the 1950s, the Estate includes Sleaford House – a 19-storey block of 90 maisonettes where the artist lived in the 1970s.

From among the extensive collections held here Maria has unearthed council correspondence, plans, drawings and newspaper cuttings about the Estate – material that has played an integral role in the development of the resulting artworks. A selection of these historic records is displayed alongside items from Maria's personal archive and accompanied by a timeline documenting the development of the Estate.

The exhibition continues a short bus ride away at the [Nunnery Gallery](#) in Bow with five new artworks including a print work, a text-based installation, a film piece, a sound work, and a bespoke paint colour.

The exhibition is on show until Saturday 20 May. The final event of our programme is a walking tour of Bow Common - see below. There are many other fantastic events organised by Bow Arts - [check them out here](#).

## Walking tour: Histories of Bow Common

Saturday 6 May | 1.00-3.00pm | [Book your FREE place here](#)

Join Heritage Officers Sanjida Alam and Genova Messiah for a walking tour of the Lincoln Estate and surrounding area of Bow Common - a long-standing East End community whose heritage is often overlooked. [Advance booking essential.](#)



*Bow Common Lane at the junction with Devon's Road. This photo, dating from the 1950s, shows the 86 bus and the site of the Moor's Arms pub. Ref no: P00934 (c) THLHLA*

## New fees and charges from April 2023

At the beginning of April increased charges for digital image reproduction and room hire came into effect. No new charges have been introduced. Increases are in line with inflation, or lower, and have been approved by Cabinet.

Discounted rates are available for local residents and charities.

[Please visit our website for the updated charges.](#)

## Contact us

- Email us: [localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk)
- Visit our website: <http://www.ideastore.co.uk/local-history>
- Phone (answered during opening hours only): 020 7364 1290

### Reading Room - Regular opening hours

- Tuesday 10.30am-4pm
- Wednesday 10.30am-4pm
- Thursday 10.30am-7pm

First and third Saturdays of every month:

- Saturday 10am-5pm

That's the following Saturdays coming up:

- Saturday 15 April
- Saturday 6 May
- Saturday 20 May

Exhibition opening times are: 10am-5pm Monday-Friday, plus the Saturdays and Thursday evenings noted above. On Monday and Friday lunchtimes, the exhibition will be closed for lunch between 1 and 2pm.

Stay Connected with Idea Store on social media:



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Unsubscribe All](#) | [Help](#)