THE BLKOUT

21 July 2026

Founding Venue Partner Proposal

Presented By: Urielle Klein-Mekongo

A Borough-by-Borough Celebration of Black Creativity
Presented by Concrete Flower Productions

MUSIC • FILM • POETRY • DANCE • CONVERSATION • COMMUNITY

"Connecting London's creative communities, one borough at a time."

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Concrete Flower Productions

WHY THE BLKOUT?

Introducing THE BLKOUT

THE BLKOUT is a new London-based creative network and cultural platform designed to celebrate, connect and champion Black creativity across disciplines.

Born from the experience of award-winning writer and creative producer Urielle Klein-Mekongo touring her work across London, THE BLKOUT responds to a simple question:

What happens when Black creatives from different worlds are given a dedicated space to meet, collaborate and create together?

THE **BLKOUT** brings together:

- Artists
- Performers
- Filmmakers
- Musicians
- Writers
- Designers
- Entrepreneurs
- Creative organisations
- Industry professionals
- Audiences
- Allies

Through regular gatherings, live events, creative markets, screenings, conversations and networking opportunities, THE BLKOUT aims to become a home for Black creativity in London.

OUR MISSION

CREATING SPACES WHERE CREATIVITY CONNECTS
THE BLKOUT exists to:

CELEBRATE
Provide platforms for Black artists to showcase their work and reach new audiences.

CONNECT
Create opportunities for creatives across different disciplines to meet and collaborate.

DEVELOP
Support emerging talent through conversations, workshops, mentoring and industry access.

AMPLIFY
Increase visibility for Black-led creative projects, businesses and organisations.

BUILD COMMUNITY
Create consistent spaces where people feel welcomed, represented and inspired.

THE WHY

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London has one of the world's most exciting creative communities.

Black creatives are shaping culture across:

- Film
- Theatre
- Music
- Fashion
- Dance
- Literature
- Visual arts
- Digital media

However, many creatives experience barriers including:

- Limited access to networks.
- Lack of visibility.
- Difficulty finding collaborators.
- Limited industry connections.
- Few spaces designed specifically for creative exchange.

Often, talent exists—but people are not connected.
THE BLKOUT exists to close that gap.

OUR COMMUNITY

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WHO IS THE BLKOUT FOR?
THE BLKOUT is Black-centred and community-focused, while welcoming everyone who supports and values Black creativity.

BLACK CREATIVES

Artists & Makers

Including:

Actors
Filmmakers
Directors
Writers
Musicians
Singers
Poets
Dancers
Designers
Photographers
Visual artists

Opportunities:

✓ Showcase work
✓ Meet collaborators
✓ Build audiences
✓ Access opportunities
✓ Grow professional networks

BLACK ENTREPRENEURS

Supporting:

Fashion brands
Food businesses
Beauty brands
Creative agencies
Independent businesses
Publishers
Designers

Opportunities:

✓ Market stalls
✓ Brand exposure
✓ Networking
✓ Partnerships
✓ Customer growth

INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

Connecting with:

Producers
Commissioners
Funders
Festival programmers
Arts organisations
Creative companies

Opportunities:

✓ Discover talent
✓ Support emerging artists
✓ Build partnerships
✓ Share knowledge

ALLIES & AUDIENCES

THE BLKOUT welcomes everyone who wants to:

Experience Black creativity.
Support artists.
Discover new work.
Build connections.
Participate in meaningful cultural experiences.

THE BLKOUT EXPERIENCE

MORE THAN AN EVENT
THE BLKOUT combines creativity, networking and community.
Each gathering includes:

THE SHOWCASE

A platform for live creativity.
Featuring:

🎵 Live music
🎭 Theatre extracts
🎤 Spoken word
💃 Dance
🎬 Film screenings
🎨 Visual art

THE CONVERSATIONS

Thought-provoking discussions exploring:
Examples:

BLACK STORIES ON SCREEN
How are Black stories being told through film?

FROM STAGE TO SCREEN
A conversation inspired by Yvette.

BUILDING CREATIVE CAREERS
How do emerging artists create sustainable careers?

THE FUTURE OF BLACK CULTURE
Where is creativity heading?

THE MARKETPLACE

A space celebrating Black-led businesses and creators.
Featuring:

Fashion
Art
Books
Food
Jewellery
Beauty
Photography
Independent brands

THE NETWORK

The heart of THE BLKOUT.
Creating opportunities for:

Collaboration
Introductions
Mentorship
Partnerships
Future projects

THE BLKOUT EVENTS MODEL

A London-wide network of local gatherings
THE BLKOUT will partner with venues and communities across London.
Each edition will reflect the identity of its location.
Example:

THE BLKOUT: DEPTFORD
Partner Venue:
The Albany
Focus:
Community storytelling
Local creatives
Performance
Film
Market

THE BLKOUT: TOTTENHAM
Partner Venue:
Bernie Grant Arts Centre
Focus:
Music
Film
Creative development
Industry conversations

THE BLKOUT: SHEPHERD'S BUSH
Partner Venue:
Bush Theatre
Focus:
Theatre
Writing
Performance
Stage-to-screen conversations

EVENT FORMAT

A TYPICAL THE BLKOUT GATHERING

AFTERNOON
CREATIVE MARKETPLACE OPENS
NETWORKING
ARTIST SHOWCASES
WORKSHOPS

EVENING
Performances
Film screenings
Q&As
Panels

NIGHT
BLKOUT After Dark
Music
DJs
Social connection
Celebration

THE NETWORK BEYOND EVENTS

THE BLKOUT aims to become an ongoing creative ecosystem.

THE BLKOUT DIRECTORY

A DATABASE CONNECTING:

- Artists
- Businesses
- Organisations
- Opportunities

THE BLKOUT NEWSLETTER

SHARING:

- Opportunities
- Funding
- Events
- Collaborations
- Artist features

THE BLKOUT DEVELOPMENT

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES:

- Mentoring
- Workshops
- Residencies
- Creative commissions
- Partnerships

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

FOUNDING PARTNERS
We are seeking organisations who want to help build a new cultural platform.

VENUE PARTNERS
Support:
- Hosting events
- Providing creative spaces
- Connecting communities

Benefits:
- New audiences
- Cultural impact
- Artist engagement
- Visibility

COMMUNITY PARTNERS
Support:
- Outreach
- Local connections
- Audience development

INDUSTRY PARTNERS
Support:
- Mentoring
- Panels
- Opportunities
- Talent development

BRAND PARTNERS
Support:
- Funding
- Resources
- In-kind contributions

Benefits:
- Brand visibility
- Cultural alignment
- Community engagement

THE BOROUGH MODEL

Each edition is created in partnership with local organisations.
Example:

THE BLKOUT: Deptford

Host Theatre
↓
Community Hub
↓
After Dark Venue

Each location showcases local artists while welcoming audiences from across London.

WHY WE'D LOVE TO WORK WITH YOU

Rather than hiring a venue, we want to build a partnership.

As a Founding Venue Partner you would help shape a new platform for Black creativity while benefiting from:

- New audiences
- Increased community engagement
- Cross-sector partnerships
- Marketing and press visibility
- Opportunities to co-curate programming

THE FOUNDING STORY

From Concrete Flower Productions

THE BLKOUT is created by Urielle Klein-Mekongo, founder of Concrete Flower Productions.

Urielle is an award-winning writer, performer and creative producer whose work centres storytelling, representation and social impact.

Her achievements include:

- Young Harts Writing Fest Audience Favourite Award
- King's Head Theatre Stella Wilkie Award
- East15 Pulse Award
- BBC Writersroom London Voices
- Published by Oberon Books

Following the journey of her award-winning play Yvette through London's theatre landscape, Urielle recognised the importance of creating spaces where artists and communities can connect beyond individual productions.
THE BLKOUT was created from that vision.

PILOT SEASON

PILOT YEAR

Launching THE BLKOUT
2026 Pilot Season

Three London editions.

Three communities.
One growing network.

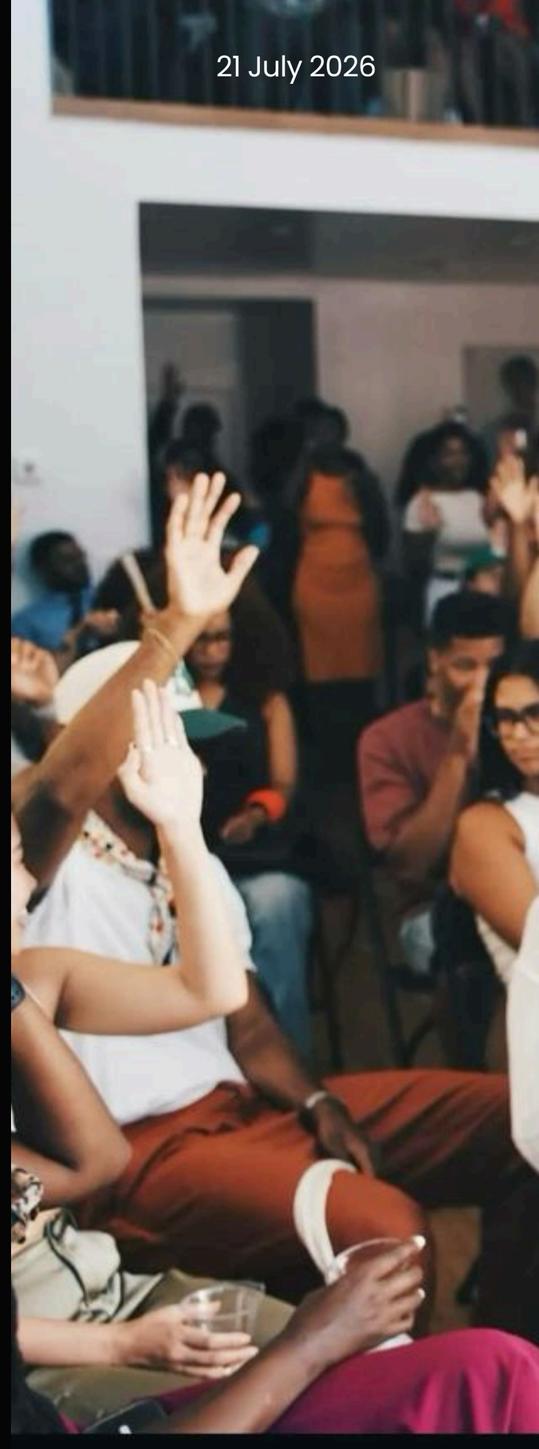
EXAMPLE:

THE BLKOUT: Deptford
↓
THE BLKOUT: Tottenham
↓
THE BLKOUT: Shepherd's Bush

LONG-TERM VISION

Building London's home for Black creativity

Year 1:
Pilot events
↓
Year 2:
Expanded London network
↓
Year 3:
Annual THE BLKOUT Festival
↓
Year 5:
National platform



CLOSING

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

THE BLKOUT is not simply an event.
It is a platform.
A network.
A meeting point.
A celebration.
A place where ideas become collaborations, and collaborations become creative work.

We are looking for founding partners, venues, organisations and supporters who believe in building the future of Black creativity.

Concrete Flower Productions presents

THE BLKOUT

Where creativity connects.

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LET'S BUILD IT TOGETHER

We are currently seeking our first Founding Venue Partners to help launch THE BLKOUT.

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