

**SOMERSET
HOUSE**



SOMERSET HOUSE

2016/17

INSPIRING CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

Over the last year we have taken significant strides towards realising our vision to be an inspirational creative community where contemporary culture is imagined, created and experienced.

A highlight has been the launch of [Somerset House Studios](#), our new experimental workspace connecting artists, makers and thinkers with audiences. Made possible through a number of generous supporters who helped us transform former Inland Revenue offices into affordable workspace, it was opened by the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan in October 2016.

For the first time Somerset House worked with colleagues across the Courtauld Gallery and Institute and King's College London to present a multi-dimensional year-long programme to mark the 500th anniversary of the publication of Thomas More's seminal Utopia. Across all corners of the site [Utopia 2016: A Year of Imagination & Possibility](#) challenged artists, residents and audiences to consider what Utopia means today.

Throughout the year a record number of visitors were able to enjoy an expanded programme of contemporary culture in the magnificent setting of this architectural masterpiece of which we are proud to be the custodians.

William Sieghart CBE
Chairman

Jonathan Reekie CBE
Director

Somerset House Studios resident Lonelady, Photo by Dan Wilton | Cover photo by Peter Macdonald



SOMERSET HOUSE IS MADE UP OF...

Our Building

500,000
SQ FT
of Grade I listed architecture

Our Visitors

OVER
3.4 MILLION
VISITORS

Our Residents

Creative Enterprise

123

resident organisations

70+

micro businesses

Artists & Makers

300+



Somerset House Studios
artists and Makerversity
members

Our Neighbours

THE COURTAULD
GALLERY AND INSTITUTE
and
KING'S COLLEGE
LONDON

Our People

70

Staff

100+

Volunteers

IN 2016/17 WE ACHIEVED...

3.4 million visitors. **17** exhibitions six of which were entirely free. **11** nights of live music , **14** nights of film screenings and **9** weeks of ice skating in the Edmond J Safra Fountain Court, attended by **175,522** visitors. **65** artists resident and **30,865** sq ft of previously disused space opened as part of Somerset House Studios and **250+** Makerversity members . **90** events and workshops as part of our Learning programme attended by **6,000** participants. **4,200** visitors attended free Historical Highlights tours. **13** new resident organisations. Installation of **3** new lifts in South Wing to improve visitor experience and accessibility. **Completed renovation** of entire estate roof and chimneys. **16% reduction in our carbon footprint** with the introduction of a Combined Cooling & Heating Plant.

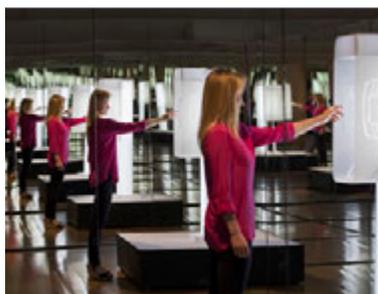
2016/17 PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Somerset House seeks to be an inspirational place to experience the work of today's boldest minds, providing intellectual and **cultural connections** with new ideas and the people behind them. The combination of our celebrated neo-classical setting and our bold, forward-thinking output creates **surprising, stimulating and joyful** shared experiences for our visitors.



UTOPIA 2016: A YEAR OF IMAGINATION & POSSIBILITY

17 exhibitions, 50 larger scale weekend events and 120 free workshops, involving 30 different resident organisations.



DAYDREAMING WITH STANLEY KUBRICK

"A captivating visitor journey which turns an exhibition into theatre."
- Design Week



NOW PLAY THIS

A festival exploring the possibilities of games, gaming and play.

"A fun-filled weekend, from the lo-fi and familiar to the new and cutting edge."
- Time Out

(T - B) Utopia - Peter Macdiarmid | Kubrick - Peter Macdiarmid | Now Play This - Ben Peter/Catchpole



BJÖRK DIGITAL

"Björk Digital has significant implications for where technology and art can take us from here!"
- The Times



LONDON DESIGN BIENNALE

37 countries, 1 language: design.

"The best bits remind you of the power of critical, speculative, truly utopian design."
- The Guardian



SUMMER SERIES

"Somerset House remains one of the most atmospheric outdoor venues in the UK."
- The Guardian



FILM4 SUMMER SCREEN

"Somerset House presents an edgier and more grown up selection of movies than the usual summer fare."
- Daily Telegraph



SKATE

"London's most fabulous winter tradition."
- Vanity Fair

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Other cultural programme highlights included **Hair by Sam McKnight**, **Malick Sidibé: The Eye of Modern Mali**, partnership projects including the second annual **Photo London** site-wide fair and **1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair** and a growing public programming relating to **Somerset House Studios**.

(T - B) Björk - Santiago Felipe | London Design Biennale - photo by Somerset House | Summer Series - Ben Peter/Catchpole | Film4 - photo by Somerset House | Skate - James Bryant

SUPPORTING ARTIST DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION

at Somerset House Studios

Somerset House Studios provides affordable workspace and support for artists with the emphasis on cross-disciplinary practise, as well as being the home to Makerversity. This is a platform for the development of new creative projects and collaboration, promoting work that pushes bold ideas, engages with urgent issues and pioneers new technologies. By April 2017 we have **65 artists** in residence as part of Somerset House Studios.

Charles Jeffrey, Photo by Dan Wilson



“It’s a place where artists can meet each other and work together - they have lots of events to promote this cross-pollination. It’s a great place for original work to come from. There’s a solid, yet moving and dynamic aspect to it, it showcases that a building can act as a home for so many different viewpoints and expressions of artistic endeavour.”

- Charles Jeffrey,
Somerset House Studios
resident artist

(T - B) Totality by Katie Paterson. Photo by Flora Barlett | Larry Achiampong. Photo by Geoffrey Taylor | Sadiq Khan and Gareth Pugh at launch of Somerset House Studios. Photo by Ben Peter Catchpole

“It’s great that Somerset House, with its links to Inigo Jones, Canaletto and the Royal Academy, should be restored to its 18th-century use as a hub of artistic talent.”

- The Times



“Collaborating, meeting other artists, working on incredible projects has been an amazing opportunity, something I’ve just not found anywhere else.”

- Larry Achiampong,
Somerset House Studios
resident artist



LEARNING & SKILLS

Last year saw the introduction of a **new pilot skills programme** connecting Somerset House Studios resident artists with young people. Our longer term aim is to establish an ongoing programme of activity connecting Studios artists with **a new generation** as part of our wider programme, nurturing new creative skills and offering meaningful progression routes.

“As our students have speech, language and communication needs, figurative language can be very abstract to them and often quite difficult to understand. I loved the way the kids were able to use the photos to help them break down what the words and phrases could actually be referring to.”

– Secondary school teacher, participating in Malick Sidibé inspired writing workshops with Royal African Society



Malick Sidibé workshop. Photo by Somerset House



T - B) Werkflow & Elaise Haswer workshop. Photo by Somerset House | Björk Digital workshop. photo by Somerset House | Family workshop. photo by Pat Brodbery



“The students found out a lot more about Björk and started to discuss her influence on musicians and artists they like now. They got a lot from the VR experience and really enjoyed making their own videos using stop-animation.”

– Secondary school teacher, Björk Digital workshops



BUILDING A CREATIVE COMMUNITY

Resident community at Utopia launch. Photo by Peter Macdonald

In addition to the new Somerset House Studios resident artists, **13 new creative enterprises** joined as residents over the course of last year. New residents include producers Crying Out Loud, Hofesh Schechter Company, London School of Architecture and Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company.

“A phenomenal artistic cultural base in which to undertake your daily work.”

– Somerset House resident*

46% of our resident organisations are registered charities or social enterprises. We now have an active Residents' Council working together to share knowledge and stimulate collaboration across this community.

“A dynamic organisation that’s redefining what it means to be a cultural institution.”

– Somerset House resident*

*Feedback from the annual Somerset House Residents' Survey



FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN 2016/17

Somerset House Trust aims to generate surpluses to fund both the ongoing restoration and maintenance of the site and a dynamic cultural programme. We strive to operate efficiently and effectively, investing our resources wisely to optimise the delivery of our charitable purposes over both the short term and long term.

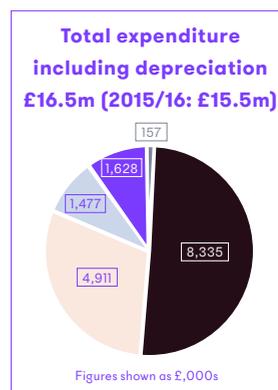
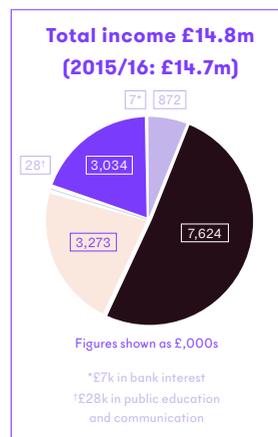
Income for the year to 31 March 2017 was £14.8m. More than half of total income was generated through the Trust's community of tenants in rent and service charges and this was invested back into property management and conservation.

Ticket income from the cultural programme represents just under a quarter of total income at £3.3m. Expenditure on the programme increased to £4.9m, equivalent to around a third of total expenditure.

Income from trading activities (including private venue hire and retail activity) accounts for a quarter of total income at £3.03m, with grants, donations and corporate sponsorship making up the majority of the remainder.

The overall decrease in total funds of £1.67m is the result of significant depreciation charges associated with the high value of our property lease from DCMS and other fixed assets. Our unrestricted 'free' reserves increased this year, consistent with our plan to build these reserves to a target level of £500,000 over the medium term.

The summary income and expenditure figures presented here are extracted from our full audited financial statements which can be found on the Charity Commission website.



- Grants, donations and sponsorship
- Development Cost
- Property rental, management and conservation
- Cultural and public events
- Public education and communication
- Trading activities

OUR SUPPORTERS

Somerset House Trust is an entirely self-funded charity, receiving no regular public funding. We are grateful to everyone who has supported our public programme, our continued efforts to restore and renew our historic site and the creation of Somerset House Studios.

Funders and sponsors including

AHRC
American Express
The Blavatnik Family Foundation
Bowers & Wilkins
Canon
Daphne & Harold Cooper Charitable Trust
Film4
Fortnum & Mason
Foyle Foundation
Garfield Weston Foundation
Sir Siegmund Warburg's Charitable Settlement
Jagermeister
TheOutnet.com
Peroni
Westminster City Council

Corporate Members

Bloomberg (founding partner)
Bank of America Merrill Lynch
Bowers & Wilkins
Coty (for 2017/2018)
Saxton Bampfylde (for 2017/2018)

Somerset House Supporters' Court members

Carolyn Addison
Edward Bell
Tony Elliott
Robert and Vanessa Enserro
Charles Hoare Nairne
James Lambert
Stefanie Lawrence
Marcus Lyon
Georgia Oetker
William Sieghart

Trustees (as of 1 April 2017)

William Sieghart CBE, Chairman
Tony Elliott
Brian Eno
Judy Gibbons
Sir Malcolm Grant
Laurence Green
Melanie Hall
Jon Higgins
James Lambert
Marcus Lyon
Caroline Michel
Mark Pain
Nitin Sawhney (retired May 2017)
Julien Sevaux

For more information on how you can make a difference to our work, please contact supportus@somersethouse.org.uk

Or visit somersethouse.org.uk/support-us



somersehouse.org.uk

Somerset House Trust – registered charity no. 1063640

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