

PRESS RELEASE

Planning permission granted to create new 'World-Class' park for London

London, 28 April, 2006: The London Borough of Lambeth has given the go ahead for plans to transform Jubilee Gardens on London's South Bank into a world-class park, creating a new green landmark for the capital.

The design for the park is the work of landscape architects West 8, who were selected following an international design competition and in-depth consultation with the local community. They have conceived a lush and green park with softly undulating hills and a "botanical ambiance" created by trees and flowers blooming all year round.

The project is led by South Bank Employers' Group on behalf of the Jubilee Gardens Steering Group, which represents local business, community and statutory authority interests as well as the land owner South Bank Centre.

Ted Inman, Chair of the Jubilee Gardens Steering Group and Chief Executive of South Bank Employers' Group comments: "We are committed to creating a Jubilee Gardens which mixes peaceful spaces, fantastic views and facilities for public events and performances. Securing planning permission is an important milestone for us and we will now be fully focused on fundraising to ensure that this project comes to fruition as soon as possible.

The new park will be worthy of the garden's central London location and the enormous number of people who visit the South Bank every year."

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For further information and images, please contact:

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Notes to editors:

For background information: www.jubileegardens.org.uk

Members of the Jubilee Gardens Steering Group:

British Airways London Eye
Coin Street Community Builders
Department of Culture, Media and Sport
Friends of Jubilee Gardens
Greater London Authority
London Borough of Lambeth
Shell International
South Bank Centre
South Bank Employers' Group
Waterloo Community Development Group
Waterloo Community Regeneration Trust
Waterloo Green Trust
Waterloo Project Board
www.jubileegardens.org.uk

About the winning team:

West 8 is a cutting-edge practice which delivers ground-breaking urban parks and public spaces. Set up in 1987 as an international team of architects, urban designers and industrial designers, West 8 designs landscape interventions, urban plans, squares, parks and gardens worldwide.
www.west8.nl

About South Bank Employers' Group

South Bank Employers' Group is an association of the major organisations in the South Bank, Waterloo and Blackfriars with a long term commitment to improving the experience of the area for employees, visitors and residents.

Members of South Bank Employers' Group include: British Film Institute, Coin Street Community Builders, Ernst & Young, Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital Trust, IBM UK Ltd, ITV, King's College London, London and Continental Railways, London South Bank University, National Theatre, Network Rail, P&O Developments, Shell, South Bank Centre, The London Eye Company

For the past fifteen years, the Group has been responsible for transforming the South Bank with a variety of high profile projects including the revitalisation of the riverside walk. South Bank Employers' Group's priorities for 2005 – 2007 include leading the redevelopment of Jubilee Gardens, refurbishing the IMAX underpasses and reducing fear of crime.