



Festivals
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CUSTOMER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Director: Toni McConville

Mahogany
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Dear Clary

I am writing to you to thank you for your continued support in Brent Council's events to date. Brent Council is very proud to have a leading Carnival organisation in our borough. Mahogany embodies the very spirit of carnival in the heart of Harlesden and as Town Centre Regeneration Manager Peter Paddon said; "We are indebted to Louis Theroux who has given his time to help us because he cares about his local area and also to Mahogany, Harlesden's world famous carnival company for supporting their home town in their unique way.

Over the five years I have worked with Mahogany, young people in Brent have been at the heart of all the work that you have done with us. You have developed young people's creative, performing and business skills and provided them with skills to gain employment. Mahogany's international portfolio of a vast range of events from music launches for famous musicians, to Olympic hand over ceremonies and Notting Hill Carnival is very inspiring for Brent's youth.

This year Brent Diwali had the highest attendance and the most positive feedback ever, particularly in relation to the quality of the parade. Thank you for working closely with 100 pupils from Alperton School to provide them stunning costumes for the parade. The pupils took such pride in wearing the costumes and working with a choreographer to bring the costumes to life. As you know last year we won 2 awards for Brent Diwali and we would not have been able to gain these awards with out Mahogany's input.

As a Brent Officer I was proud to hear you talk at the puppetry conference at Luton Carnival Centre. It highlighted that you are a group of leading multi-disciplinary artists who design and create large scale kinetic sculptures/carnival costumes. I noted that aside from fellow artists aspiring to learn your skills, many of the attendees were reminded of the depth of context to creating each of the costumes and how they each have stories to tell, many of which our communities can learn from.

You always deliver no matter what demands or pressures an event will ask of you. The collection of costumes you created for the Leeds Special Olympics event is a fine example; so many stunning costumes, each with different movement and rhythm.

As you are aware Brent is currently reviewing its Arts and Festivals provision for the borough and will be going to public consultation around this. I hope that you and your community will feed in to the consultation so that we can continue to work together to deliver great projects and develop the work of Mahogany.

Yours sincerely

Vashti Waite
Festivals Manager

