



Transforming local
lives over 10 years

Transforming local lives over 10 years

The Octavia Foundation turns ten this year. Like many of the ten-year-olds in our BASE youth group, we're proud of reaching double figures and we want to celebrate our achievements. And we'd like to share them with you.

The genuine desire to make a real difference at a local level is clearly held by [the Octavia Foundation team] and this shines through the work they deliver.

Evaluation Survey with stakeholders, 2016

Since we started out in 2006, with the goal of making a real difference to local lives in central and west London, we've helped 10,000 people, young and old. Some of those lives we touched only briefly. Others, we helped transform. And what excites us most, as we look back over the past decade, is how those individuals who were empowered to make the greatest changes in their own lives, were often those who then drove real change for others. Take a look at **The circle of giving** on page 10 to find out more.

An anniversary provides the opportunity to reflect not only on the story so far, but on the next chapter. To help us identify our future goals, we recently carried out an independent evaluation of the Octavia Foundation. We asked our partners, funders and other organisations what it's like to work with us. We wanted to find out what they think we do well, how we could improve and where we should go from here. You can read more about this in **2016 and beyond** on page 23.

Within central and west London, there are pockets of severe deprivation. Our work supports those affected by low income, ill health, social isolation or unemployment. We set out to address these needs back in 2006 and sadly they are still with us today. In fact, they're growing. Please support us in any way you can as we try to meet them. Together, we can strengthen our community and transform lives.

Reena Mukherji
Director of the Octavia Foundation



Contents

Where it all began From filing cupboard to foundation	02
Community champions Partnering with those already on the ground	04
The circle of giving Getting help and giving back	10
Our work today Made possible by 200 volunteers and supporters	16
Taking stock Learning how to be the best we can be	22
2016 and beyond Supporting the central and west London communities of the future	23

Where it began From filing cupboard to foundation

The Octavia Foundation started life in what's fondly remembered as little more than a filing cupboard in the depths of the Octavia Housing offices on Fernhead Road. Octavia Housing wanted to set up an independent local charity to help it fulfil the legacy of its founder, Octavia Hill, whose mission was to "make individual life noble, homes happy and family life good".

In 1865, Octavia Hill persuaded John Ruskin to buy three properties in Marylebone to house poor people. This radical act proved to be the start of her lifetime of pioneering work in social reform. Octavia saw a great need not only for housing itself, but also for after-school clubs, after-work societies and training for young people. She looked at people's lives in the round, understanding that a roof and four walls, whilst fundamental, are just the beginning of a good life.

In 2006, Octavia's mission was just as relevant as it had been in 1865. With a significant disparity in wealth in central and west London boroughs, the greatest need was among those affected by low income, ill health, social isolation or unemployment.

To identify the most pressing needs we consulted local residents. Their views were unequivocal. They wanted us to:

- Offer **support to the elderly, housebound or lonely** in the neighbourhood
- Provide meaningful **activities for young people** that could lead to jobs or further education
- Deliver access to **training for local unemployed people** that would lead to employment

Armed with a small pot of money donated by Octavia Housing, a single member of staff and a large dose of determination, we set about making things happen in the community.

Today, more than 150 years after Octavia decided to step up and make a difference, we have grown the Octavia Foundation to a team of 23 dedicated individuals who still deliver those projects. In 2016, we continue to receive significant support from Octavia Housing, and have more than doubled that income through our own fundraising activities. Supported by statutory, charitable and corporate sources, as well as generous individuals, our turnover has increased from £345,000 to almost £1,000,000. Through hard work, passion and commitment we have used those funds to support the lives of over 10,000 local people.

We appoint our very first member of staff.

2006

2007

14 local community champions win grants amounting to a total sum of £22,000. (Find out more: page 4)

Rachid Boufas responds to the needs of local young men in North Westminster and together we develop the transformational SPIT music project. (Find out more: pages 4-8)

2007

2008

We deliver our first digital media project, the award-winning Grove Roots, providing training and opportunities for 8 local young people. (Find out more: pages 10-13)

We launch our volunteer Befriending project, providing support for local older and vulnerable people in Westminster. (Find out more: pages 16-19)

2008

2010

Young film-maker Chris Lamontagne receives two United Nations Alliance of Civilization Plural+ Awards for his short film Black to Yellow which is based on the Charles Booth Poverty Map. Chris's film is made through his participation in a digital media heritage project Breaking into the Museum delivered in partnership with Manifesta.

BASE, our creative and cultural centre, arrives in Pimlico. It aims to provide consistent support for young people living in the shadow of gang activity. The children and young people describe it as 'a second family'. (Find out more: pages 16-17)

2010

2012

We lead a local partnership to establish Your Credit Union, an independent credit union vital to local people in RBKC.

The Foundation wins the Gold Standard in the Pathways to Work Charter from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

2012

2012

We launch our paid Young People's Employment programme, helping young people to earn while they learn. (Find out more: page 20)

We celebrate our first Volunteer Awards in the Chelsea Old Town Hall, as a way of recognising the enormous contribution made by our army of dedicated volunteers. (Find out more: 16-17)

2012

2013

We host Reprazent, a live youth-led conference with over 300 delegates. A panel made up of those working in the media debated the question: Does Britain Hate Young People? The event was entirely conceived and delivered by local young people.

The Foundation is named winner of the Better City, Better Lives Award by Westminster Council for our work with young people at BASE. We are also highly commended for the Outstanding Organization Award.

2014

2015

The Story of QPR premieres at Westfield Shepherds Bush. It is watched by over 1,600 people and the extended trailer is viewed 10,000 times. The project gives invaluable media skills and experience to 38 young people, many of whom go on to find paid employment in the media industry. (Find out more: page 21)

We announce our new two-year media skills and training heritage project, Waking the Dead. This intergenerational project will uncover the hidden histories of Kensal Green Cemetery, one of London's oldest public burial grounds.

2016

2017

We will open BASE 2 in North Kensington, our second creative and cultural centre for local young people.

2006

2017

Community champions Partnering with those already on the ground



Right from those early days, our goals were very clear. The local community had spoken and we understood where the key needs lay: supporting older and lonely people, providing activities for young people and helping unemployed people on the path into work.

What was less clear, was how we would deliver those goals, or what success would look like. As it turned out, the most important question wasn't *what* or *how*; it was *who*.

We quickly identified local people already trying to make a difference on their doorstep; people whose passion and dedication could help us achieve our objectives. Through our partnership with the Scarman Trust, we were able to provide one-off grants of up to £2,000 to support fledgling projects. The Trust's Community Champions programme encouraged individuals to volunteer their time and provided funds to enable those individuals to deliver activities for the benefit of the community.

One of our first successful applicants was Rachid Boufas. Rachid was well known locally for his community spirit. With our help, he was able to secure a Scarman Trust grant to run Stay in Touch, a social club for older and isolated people living in the Harrow Road ward in Westminster, one of the most deprived neighbourhoods in the country. But Rachid wanted to do even more for local people.

Rachid had noticed that a group of young men hung around at the end of his road each night. And he wanted to know why. Because Rachid was genuine and approachable, he was able to find out about the lives of these young men. As one of them, Kenneth, said at the time: "Most people were giving us negative vibes. But he was different and kept coming back".

Rachid discovered that there were few local activities suitable for the young men and that they had real fears about gang territory. He approached the Octavia Foundation and, together, we secured funding to set up our very first youth project. The SPIT music project provided the opportunity for nine young men to make two music videos and a documentary film. During the project, they were able to work with Bashy, an emerging local Grime artist. The young men showed their work to the public, including a group of MPs. The whole experience was transformative, building their confidence and widening their horizons.

Another of our early community champions was Sean Mendez. Sean was volunteering in Earl's Court supporting children living in temporary accommodation, many from refugee communities.

Passionate about sports, especially football, Sean received a grant to run after-school football coaching sessions for the children. The project was a staggering success, with over 20 children attending each session. Through these sessions, it became apparent that regular after-school sessions were needed because of the cramped nature of the housing in which many of the families lived. Keeping young children occupied during school holidays put real strain on both the parents and their children. And so Solidarity Sports was born.

Now supporting over 200 local children each year, Solidarity Sports has gone from strength to strength. In addition to football sessions, they now offer children's tennis coaching each summer. The Octavia Foundation engaged Campden Hill Lawn Tennis Club, which provides both facilities and expert coaches. Each summer, over 50 local children benefit from this programme, most of whom would otherwise be unable to learn and enjoy tennis.


Sean Mendez
 Community champions

I run a charity called Solidarity Sports that provides sporting opportunities and healthy eating initiatives to disadvantaged children. When we started back in 2007, it was a very small community organisation.

The Octavia Foundation has supported us from the beginning. Throughout the years they have supported us in many ways, either financially or with advice and mentoring. We continue to work closely together.

In the beginning, we hardly had any funds, so everything we did was free. We applied to the Scarman Trust to become community champions; if you applied successfully you got funds. The Octavia Foundation helped me put together that application.

And today we're still doing projects with them. Thanks to the Foundation, we get access to Campden Hill Lawn Tennis Club in Holland Park for two weeks in the summer, and the children get to do brilliant tennis activities. The Foundation has access to the club through one of their contacts. They fostered a relationship with the club and negotiate for us - we just piggyback on that!

It's good to see the children doing something different, not just playing football or running around. Tennis needs coordination and teamwork. It teaches them something new and that's all thanks to the Foundation.

It's really rewarding to see young people develop and grow. We've had several people who started off as participants who have become volunteers. It's great to see that come full cycle .

I definitely get the feeling that the Octavia Foundation is part of the community. It's good to see the level of diversity in their activities, from the youth club to the filmmaking projects and the befriending service for older people. It's all needed. They are very much part of the community, and it's great how they support the different age groups in their work.

They really look after their staff and volunteers. They believe in the charity and what they're doing. There's a good team spirit there among the staff and management - it's great to see that level of togetherness. You get a feeling for that whether you go into their office or see their outreach work. I've got a lot of respect for the people that work there. And it's great to see the synergy that exists between our two organisations.



“““ EVERY Child HAPPINESS “””
They are very much part of the community



Rachid Boufas

Community champions

Where I live we used to have problems with a group of young people hanging around the street. I thought, I'll have to confront them. So I spoke to the boys. I told them I couldn't promise anything but I would try and do something for them.

So I went to the Octavia Foundation, and we had a meeting, and I started taking the boys over to the Foundation. They started an eight-month project called SPIT – Spreading Positive Images Through Music. The boys worked together to make music and videos.

It really did a lot of good things for those boys. It has helped them a lot with finding jobs. Some of them have gone on to work for banks, some went on to study. We gave them the right path to building a foundation for themselves. That's what young people need – they need guidance.

That's what we need in every area. We need to start tackling problems before they get too big. If we look after our children, we will make a better society. They are our future, and we must look after them, because if you want a better society you have to start with its roots.

The Foundation also does a lot of work with elderly people. I volunteered as a befriender with the Foundation, and it makes a lot of difference to people – you can see that when you go and talk to them, and listen to them. That's what people need; they need to know there are people out there who care. The Foundation does a lot of that.

I set up a project called Stay In Touch, too. Every Friday evening I would cook a buffet, and we would bring a group of local older people together and everyone would bring their own food and music. In the beginning it was a little cool, but slowly things got better and better. It was all about fitting in together and easing tensions between people. It worked perfectly.

If I was in the government I would back the Octavia Foundation! It works, and it doesn't need much money. And it makes a big difference. They are really doing a good job. I am very happy with them and I would like to do more work with them in the future.

“““

We gave them the right path to building a foundation for themselves

The circle of giving

Getting help and giving back



"...the individuals who were empowered to make the greatest changes in their own lives, have often been those who then drove real change for others."

Over the years, one of the most rewarding aspects of our work has been watching many of those we've helped go on to support others. In fact, the individuals who were empowered to make the greatest changes in their own lives, have often been those who then drove real change for others.

One such individual is Moktar Alatas. We first met Moktar in 2008, when he was studying for his A levels. The Foundation had secured a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable young people to make a documentary film about the history of Ladbroke Grove. Moktar was keen to get involved. Through this project, eight young people including Moktar received training in filmmaking, research and promotion. They even secured TV news coverage by interviewing local resident and filmmaker Richard Curtis about his film Notting Hill and its portrayal of the local area. Grove Roots premiered at the Electric Cinema on Portobello Road, on the same bill as Clint Eastwood's Gran Torino!

Moktar subsequently changed one of his A level subjects to Film Studies and took part in our next film project, Hidden Herstories, which provided training for 20 young people. He was

one of the team of young people who secured the last interview with the activist Jayaben Desai, famous for her campaign for workers' rights in the 1970s.

Moktar later set up his own social enterprise, Aspire 2 Inspire, aimed at supporting disaffected local young men, particularly those from Arabic speaking communities. So impressive was Moktar's work that in September 2011 he won an award from the Mayor of London for his work with local young people. Having graduated in law, Moktar is now working as a teacher in a local secondary school and continues to inspire young people.

Zakiya Amlak was another Grove Roots recruit, joining the project aged just 14. Zakiya worked on a number of our films and went on to volunteer at our youth club, BASE, and with Solidarity Sports. She later became an Octavia Foundation apprentice, learning to design and deliver workshops on disability and sexual health. The Octavia Foundation now employs Zakiya as a youth worker specialising in detached youth work. She is a vitally important member of our team and a shining example to the young people she supports.



Moktar Alatas

The circle of giving

I was 16 and I had just started sixth-form college, when I got a leaflet through my door. It was from the Octavia Foundation and it said they were about to start a film project. I thought, "A film, OK". So I went and met the team at Emily House and I loved the idea. I was going to be a filmmaker at 16! I haven't looked back.

We made our first film, Grove Roots, with a team of about ten local young people. It documented the history of Ladbroke Grove, going right back to the 1950s. It looked at all these interesting local characters like Claudia Jones who started the carnival. It was a great experience. I loved it.

Every single day, every single shoot, was its own little story. We had ups and downs. I remember being out in Ladbroke Grove, freezing, and thinking I wanted to go home. And then we'd meet someone really interesting. There was one guy who remembered coming off the boat in the 1950s. We were digging behind what I saw, the world I lived in. We were on a mission; we were part of something bigger than any of us. That was exciting, because you knew you'd have something to show for it.

It's not for people trying to get short-term skills - it's about tomorrow. Thinking about where you want to go, and getting

information about where you want to be. As a teenager, you're at that stage where you're trying to find yourself, trying to work things out. The Octavia Foundation project was really important for me because it gave me a way to channel my creativity and energy, and I was finding stuff out about myself as well as about the area and its history.

At that time I was thinking a lot about who I am. My family comes from Yemen. I wasn't born here. I came when I was two or three, and I didn't speak a word of English, and then suddenly I'm a Londoner. I kind of forgot my heritage. So when I got to 16, I was thinking, "Who am I? Where do I come from?" The Foundation allowed me to track the history of our community, and that really helped me to put things into perspective. We are all just people.

I'm an English teacher now. I do feel that the project prepared me more than anything else I've done for where I am today. Multi-tasking, juggling all these different things you are interested in. You don't want to do a half-hearted interview just because you've got an exam next week. Those skills really helped me.

“
We were on a mission;
we were part of something
bigger than any of us.”



Zakiya Amlak

The circle of giving

College wasn't really working out for me, so in 2013 I left and started looking for a job. The Octavia Foundation was looking for a youth apprentice to work at their youth club, BASE, and in their offices as well. I applied and got the job.

It was my first full-time job. I stuck it out for the year, and it was great. It was strange at first because I'd been coming to BASE as a young person since 2010, when I was 16, and now I was working there. I couldn't be the person I was before because my role had changed, but the young people were pretty great about it. The other youth workers were great too; it was a good experience for a first job.

I never thought youth work would really be for me. I do enjoy it, though. It's fun. There's always something new and different - it's never the same day to day.

After my apprenticeship, the Foundation offered me a youth worker role at BASE and I did that for a couple of months. Then I took on a new role as a detached youth worker, where you're going out into young people's environments and engaging with them there, getting to know them where they're comfortable. It's been a bumpy ride and quite challenging at times. Sometimes you'd go out and see four or five young

people, and sometimes you'd see one or two. Sometimes the weather didn't help - if it was cold and raining, people didn't really want to leave their houses. That made it quite difficult at times. But now we have a relationship with a local school, we're doing workshops and engaging with pupils there who have challenging behaviour. So it's kicked in, and we're doing our work properly now. We're excited about it.

The pupils are excited for us to be there, which is really positive to hear. We want to build a relationship with them so we can keep engaging with the pupils throughout the summer. I'm looking forward to it.

I want to do a qualification in youth work now, get something on my CV, and then I want to travel. If I had a qualification I could work abroad - there are children everywhere in the world. And then I want to look for a higher position, maybe a management role, in a couple of years' time.

Getting involved with the Foundation has opened a whole lot of doors for me. To anyone thinking about doing the same, I'd say - go for it.



“Getting involved with the Foundation has opened a whole lot of doors for me.”

Our work today

Made possible by 200 volunteers and supporters



What stands out for me is the way in which the services are tailored to achieve personal impact. From befriending to BASE, concerns and ideas are listened to and incorporated into future programme development to help the users feel it's 'their' programme.

Evaluation Survey with stakeholders, 2016

Today, the Octavia Foundation helps over 2,000 people each year. We run a wide range of projects and activities to meet the needs of local people. And although we've grown, our key aims are still closely aligned to those original requests the community made in 2006. In short, we:

- **Care for older people** through befriending and social activities
- **Support children and young people** through inspirational projects and outreach work
- **Help people into work** through volunteering and training

Our success in all these areas depends on the army of dedicated volunteers who support us, as well as the generous individuals and organisations who donate funds. Our 200 volunteers help to raise funds in our charity shops, provide emotional and social help to older people and inspire local young people. Others have taken on intrepid, personal challenges to generate funds through sponsorship.

Volunteer befrienders offer their company and support, visiting an older person in their own home or providing the support they need to venture out. Fully trained and carefully matched, they provide a lifeline to an older or isolated person. Some of these matches last for many years, a reflection of the true friendships and connections the scheme fosters. Read about the experience of Kitty and her befriender, Claire, to see just what a difference the befriending scheme can make.

We put our apprentices and interns to work for the good of the community too! Find out how Clara, one of our 2015 interns, made a big difference at our BASE youth club. The club provides support for two age groups: 7-12 year olds and 13-25 year olds. They take part in a range of cultural, creative and sporting activities and each evening the young people help cook a nutritious meal that they sit down and eat together.



Kitty and Claire

Our work today

Kitty Morris

Claire knows what I like and what I don't want. She is a darling, a lovely lady. The first day I met her I said, "Aren't you tall?" And we've got on lovely ever since.

I've got nobody looking after me apart from Claire. She's the only lady I've got. I can hardly walk and my eyes are going. And if she goes away, she always makes sure there's someone else to come round and take me shopping. Always.

You can imagine this old girl sitting by herself on the floor, moaning and groaning at herself because she can't get out. That's what it would be like for me if I didn't have young, darling Claire coming and taking me out. And I like the way she talks, even if I can't understand her accent sometimes! She's a treasure. She makes me so happy. I've been crying all week - now look, I'm laughing!

I've met all Claire's family. Her husband kisses me on the cheek, don't you know, and I've met their kids. They are lovely. Claire's mother-in-law buys me treats from Paris and I've never even met her. Isn't that lovely?

Claire is one in a million. You don't find many people like her in this world.

Claire Levavasseur

Kitty and I will have been meeting for four years in September. When we first met, we sat and had a cup of tea with someone from the Octavia Foundation. I wanted to see someone regularly, once a week because I wanted to speak English better; someone who was chatty who I could see on a long-term basis.

So we started seeing each other every week. At first, I wasn't meant to take Kitty shopping but very quickly I found that she didn't have anybody to take her, so this is our thing now. Every Thursday we have a chat, go shopping, come back and have a coffee.

A long-term relationship is much better for me. So is consistency. I've got three kids, so I have to be back home in time to take them here and there - so having the same day every week works well.

Doing something for somebody else is important. It's rewarding. I started volunteering when I moved to London from France five years ago. It is a real commitment, but you have fun and you get to know someone from a different background. I think it's the least you can do if you have spare time, to give some time to someone who needs it. Everyone deserves a cup of coffee and a good chat once a week. It makes me happy, and it's very rewarding.

“
**Claire is one in a million.
 You don't find many people
 like her in this world.**”

📖 Gopesh Pathak

Our work today

I got involved with the Octavia Foundation in 2013, when I was 17 years old. I had just messed up my AS levels, and at that point all I wanted to do was become a football manager. So I emailed every football club in London asking if they had opportunities in football coaching or in their media department.

I got one reply, from a coach at Queens Park Rangers. He said "I'll set you up with some Level One coaching", and he also told me about this project called The Story of QPR, which was being run by the club and the Octavia Foundation. He said I could volunteer on that. So I did.

I didn't know what to expect. I thought it was weird that I could just walk into a football club and start making a documentary, but everyone was really welcoming.

For the project I wrote blog posts and press releases and conducted interviews, and contributed a lot of ideas. My favourite was one called What's In Your Loft, where we encouraged fans to bring in memorabilia. Some people had great stories. That event made me realise how closely knit the club and its community are. And that's a lot like the Octavia Foundation, I think. When you work on a project like this you realise that community spirit is a real thing.

Through this project, I've gained experience that people ten years older than me haven't had. How many people get the chance to interview Joey Barton? How many 17 year olds can say

they have directed a documentary? Being credited as a director has been invaluable; my CV was empty, and this project has filled it up completely.

To this day, it's still quite hard to believe I was a part of it. When we watched the film for the first time there was still a part of me expecting it to be poor quality, but it was really good – a proper documentary. I loved it.

I would do it all again if I could. By volunteering on this, my chances of getting a good paid job have increased by a million per cent. And it was one of the greatest experiences I've had. Just being able to work in that environment, and to pick up new key skills – it has been a privilege to be involved. I never did get to do the coaching, though!



'When you work on a project like this you realise that community spirit is a real thing.'

📖 Clara Fiti

Our work today



'If you want to learn, if you're open to new things, if you want to grow – it's an invaluable experience.'

I first found out about the Octavia Foundation when I was job hunting and looking to gain some experience in the charity sector. I really liked the values and ethos of the Foundation, and how they were making a difference to their community by giving people the opportunities and tools to shape their own lives. I wanted to be able to contribute to that, so I applied for a year-long internship there.

I spent one day a week in BASE, the Octavia Foundation's youth club in Pimlico, and two days a week doing admin at their office.

At BASE I was coordinating youth teams and doing frontline youth work – engaging with the young people, cooking, building relationships.

And I helped organise half-term trips. We took them to the Chelsea Physic Garden, for example, and some trips over the summer holiday.

I didn't expect to be organising trips. I gained a lot more responsibility than I had in previous places and I think that built up my confidence. I feel more able to take the lead on things now. At the office, my manager was very supportive in letting me take control of tasks. I was working independently and I gained a lot of skills. Once I mentioned I hated public speaking, so my manager asked me to do a project where I would have to deliver three presentations! So that was really good and really beneficial.

I've been in touch with Octavia since leaving. They gave me some help with interview preparation because I felt really out of practice. I was looking for something socially driven, something with a social impact – I got that from working at Octavia – and I've just been offered a job with a London company that works in education.

This time last year, I didn't really know which way to go, so the internship has opened the door for me. It's given me a stepping stone to the career I want. I know what I want to do now. And because it's such a small team there's a lot of support and an opportunity for you to make an impact.

If you want to learn, if you're open to new things, if you want to grow – it's an invaluable experience.

Taking stock

Learning how to be the best we can be

In January 2016, we carried out an independent evaluation with our partners, funders and other organisations to find out what it's like to work with us. We wanted to find out what they think we do well, how we could improve and where we should go from here.

"I think the befriending service is a vitally needed service that makes a real difference. The funding for the BASE project and the enthusiastic staff also reflect very positively on Octavia's commitment to deliver high quality services that make a difference."

Evaluation Survey with stakeholders, 2016



We had a very high response rate to the survey and all responses were positive and supportive. 100% of those who replied said the Octavia Foundation delivers high-quality services that place the user at the heart of what we do. They described the Foundation as acting with integrity and being transparent and collaborative in approach. 96% said they strongly, or very strongly, agreed that we are inclusive, creative and innovative.

Respondents were also asked how the Foundation could improve its services. Here are some of the key themes:

- Increase funding and the size of our teams for even greater impact
- Develop partnerships to increase our ability to reach more people
- Grow intergenerational work so that project impact is more than the sum of its parts
- Innovate further, be a test-bed, create an issue-based network, share best practice

We have ambitious plans for the future that reflect this feedback. We have recently strengthened our staff team in the areas of detached youth work, befriending and intergenerational digital media projects. We are constantly exploring new sources of income as well as mutually beneficial partnerships. And we will strive to set even higher standards of service delivery, consulting with partner organisations so that we learn from each other.

2016 and beyond

Supporting the central and west London communities of the future

Over recent years, with welfare reforms and cuts to public services taking effect, we have seen a significant increase in the need for our work. The key strands of our future plans are:

Detached youth work

Increase our support for young people by delivering a mobile youth work service throughout the tri-borough.

Befriending in Kensington and Chelsea

Expand and develop our volunteer befriending scheme to meet the needs of older people and other isolated people in Kensington and Chelsea, building on our Westminster scheme.

Kensal Green digital media and heritage project

Deliver an intergenerational media skills and training heritage project that will uncover the hidden histories of Kensal Green Cemetery, one of London's oldest public burial grounds.

Apprenticeships and internships

Run a paid apprenticeship and internship scheme for young people, in addition to our broader employment and training programme.

BASE cultural and creative youth club

Plan the development of an additional BASE in Kensington and Chelsea, building on the success of our Westminster youth club, that delivers creative and cultural after-school club and holiday sessions for young people.



£900,000
by 2020

By **2020** we need to raise almost **£900,000** to support our existing projects and the new ones in the pipeline.

Which of our goals will you help us achieve?

Who we are

Back in 2006, we started out with just one member of staff. Over time, we have grown to support an increasing number of those in need in central and west London.

If you would like to find out more about the work we do, please get in touch. Some of our staff members are listed below and the full list is available on our website. We look forward to hearing from you.



Reena Mukherji - Director

Reena is the Director of the Octavia Foundation and has overall responsibility for the charity and our shops. Reena has over 30 years' experience of working with charities and joined the Octavia Foundation in 2006. If you would like to find out more about our history, future plans or our organisational values, please contact Reena.

E reena.mukherji@octaviafoundation.org.uk T 020 8354 5695

Gabrielle Tierney - Deputy Director

Gabrielle has worked in the charity sector for over 12 years and joined the Octavia Foundation in 2007. She has overall responsibility for our community projects and focuses on developing key partnerships. If you would like to find out more about the projects, please contact Gabrielle.

E gabrielle.tierney@octaviafoundation.org.uk T 020 8354 5558

Naomi Roper - Head of Fundraising

Naomi works closely with individuals and organisations who support us through fundraising, direct donations or giving their time and talents. She has over 14 years' experience of fundraising for local charities. If you or your organisation would like to make a difference in your local community, please contact Naomi.

E naomi.roper@octaviafoundation.org.uk T 020 8354 5619

Colm Ennis - Head of Retail

Colm joined us in April 2015 and is responsible for the profitability and development of our 19 charity shops in central and west London. He has over 20 years' experience in retail. If you or your organisation would like to support our shops through donations, volunteering or sharing your expertise, please contact Colm.

E colm.ennis@octaviafoundation.org.uk T 020 8354 5536

Thank you

We'd like to say an enormous thank you to all the volunteers, staff, funders and countless other individuals whose support over the last ten years has been invaluable. We simply couldn't have achieved our goals without each and every one of you.

In particular, we'd like to thank those who took the time to share their story for this report. You will have seen some of the names below in these pages. Others helped us piece together the wider story of the Octavia Foundation and the work we do today.

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Our trustees

- Laurie Soden (Chair)
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- David Dunbar
- Gwen Godfrey
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- Lara Samuels
- Rosalind Stevens
- Aldo Williams



Maria



Kim

Craig



Philomena