

MEDIA RELEASE: 07 March 2018

Love2Dance steps its way into London Youth Awards shortlist

Love2Dance, a free street dance programme for young people in Lewisham, has been announced as a finalist in the upcoming London Youth Awards.

Shortlisted for the Awards' Arts and Culture category, Love2Dance has been recognised for going above and beyond to improve young Londoners' access to cultural activities and innovatively encouraging their creative expression.

Through a flagship partnership between the Albany, a performing arts centre in Deptford, and Lewisham Homes, a local social housing provider, the Love2Dance programme enables five to 18 year olds living in the borough to get involved in weekly workshops, holiday masterclasses, and live performances.

The 150 young participants are also given opportunities to take part in professional shows touring to the Albany and some of them recently competed at the UK Street Dance Championships in December, winning eight awards including four first places.

Following recent additional investment, some of the troupe have been working on [The Cloud](#), a new hip hop dance theatre show, which premieres at the Albany as part of Lewisham Live this month.

With one young dancer saying it's their favourite part of the week, and 100 per cent of the participants' parents agreeing their child's confidence has increased thanks to Love2Dance, it's clear the programme is having a positive and long-lasting impact on local young people.

Zaylie Wilson, Youth and Community Programmes Manager at the Albany, said: "We're thrilled Love2Dance has been nominated for a London Youth Award. It's fantastic to see the impact programmes like this have on young people, from the incredible development of their dance skills to their growth in confidence, concentration and aspiration, both within and beyond the programme. These are the kind of outcomes that change the lives of people and communities for the better."

Ainsley Forbes, Lewisham Homes Board Chair, said: "Having supported and funded Love2Dance for many years, Lewisham Homes is extremely proud to see this recognition from the London Youth Awards. I want to say a special thank you to choreographer Aaron Augustus, who is a brilliant and inspirational leader to the young dancers."

The London Youth Awards generated over a hundred entries from across the capital, with Love2Dance making the shortlist for the Arts and Culture Award alongside just two other nominees. Winners will be announced on Wednesday 21 March during a ceremony held at Channel 4's headquarters – watch this space!

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Photo attached: Love2Dance's young dancers celebrate the London Youth Awards nomination

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Notes to editors

Lewisham Homes manages 18,000 council homes in Lewisham, operates its own repairs and maintenance company and employs more than 450 staff. It is undertaking a major investment programme to improve homes and local communities as well as building new homes in the borough.

Frankie Fallowes

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