

Senate Update: Public Engagement and Student Enterprise

Engagement and Enterprise Awards – This year’s ceremony is scheduled for 23rd April 2018. The event will feature 15 categories, with an estimated audience of over 100 at the event, including a mix of internal and external stakeholders.

CPE Large Grants Scheme – The Centre for Public Engagement (CPE) recently re-launched its successful large grants scheme. This year the scheme received 19 applications, and funded seven projects, across a range of disciplines. Funded projects included:

- A lot of “A bit of cs4fn”
- Women’s Voices in Parliament
- Think you're Immune to Trauma?
- Visual Reflections of Mental Health: Realities of Severe Mental Illness for Ethnic Minority People and Those Involved in Their Care
- Changing Climates? Women in Arctic Science
- Bridging the gap: story retelling across the generations in the London Bangladeshi community
- Engaging Students and Artists in Engineering using Digital Musical Instruments

New funding opportunities – This year the CPE launched two new funding schemes. The Community Engagement Grants Scheme awards funding for pilot projects delivered in collaboration with community groups or members of the local community. The Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Grants Scheme is designed to allow staff and students to develop connections with patient groups and individuals to support future collaborations. The schemes attracted nine applications in the first round, with funding decisions due in March.

New training courses – The CPE recently partnered with colleagues in The Blizard Institute to create a new training course in Patient Public Involvement (PPI). This new approach to training saw academic staff from four research groups work with patient representatives during a day-long training session, which took place on 22nd February 2018.

Festival of Communities – Planning for the next Festival of Communities is underway, with the event due to take place on 12th and 13th May 2018.

Advice Surgeries – The CPE continues to offer regular advice surgeries for staff and students across QMUL to access advice and guidance on all aspects of public engagement. In the past 6 months the CPE has increased the number of surgery dates available by 50% and the sessions continue to be popular.

Science Museum Lates and Tate Exchange – The CPE has recently started an ongoing collaboration with the Science Museum, where QMUL staff and students will have the opportunity to develop activities for the successful “Lates” events, which regularly see audiences of over 5,000 attend themed evening events at the museum. The CPE is also working with the Arts and Culture team to support the upcoming Tate Exchange, where QMUL staff are delivering activities and events as part of this programme between 30th April and 7th May 2018.

‘Start Up 2018’ – On 13th January QMUL welcomed 1,600 people to Enterprise Nation’s annual ‘Start Up’ event; a day of workshops and seminars for prospective entrepreneurs. 160 of the attendees were QMUL students, and the rest of the tickets engaged the general public. The event was a success with over 30 different speakers and workshops for attendees.

East London Social Hack - The 3rd East London Social Hack event took place from 23rd – 25th February, which saw 50 students working in teams to address social issues in East London. Attendees were tasked with solving problems in the areas of health, housing, environment and community cohesion. The winning teams were 'ROAR – for social change', a fashion brand that will use designs from local artists on reusable coffee cups and bags, and 'Seeds2STEM', an organisation that will target disadvantaged youths and give them training to enter STEM pathways to employment.

The event included 30 different mentors and judges over the weekend from a range of different local social enterprise and businesses, and took place in Stour Space, a community arts venue and gallery space in Hackney Wick.