

NEWS

NEW COVENT GARDEN SITES



Aerial shot of the Market

Back in action

After a pause in works due to Covid-19 restrictions, VINCI St. Modwen is pleased to be back on site at New Covent Garden Market. All hands are on deck to prepare the site for the beginning of the next phase of work on the Fruit & Veg Market, with works on the next phase starting on 18th Jan 2021.

Wessex Archaeology are undertaking digs on site on this phase to feed into their understanding of the historic Battersea channel while also looking for remnants of the old railway works from a ground engineering reasons.



Aerial of the Market

Remember the incredible 19th Century life stories that came out of the graveyard dig at the Flower Market site in 2018? Wessex Archaeology are also in final phase of analysis on the remains found, and will share results in a draft report this year.

Visit our website for more site news.

IN BRIEF

Back in action

All hands on deck as works restart on the market

Vitrine: window to the market

News on the next instalment of the Vitrine art display and an interview with the artists

Light in the darkness

Nine Elms will be twinkling this December

Fresh ideas

During Covid-19, CGMA has been working behind the scenes on fresh new uses of the Market

Vitrine: Window to the Market



This October, VINCI St. Modwen (VSM), in collaboration with Covent Garden Market Authority (CGMA) and Art Night, unveiled the winning artwork of the new Vitrine art commission, featuring a powerful new outdoor mural by south-east London based BLKBRD Collective.



We spoke to BLKBRD Collective about their experience winning the 2020 Vitrine Art Commission.

What did you learn about the New Covent Garden Market?

Its importance and its history. Its significance as the biggest fresh produce and floral distributor in London for hospitality. Also, discovering the local and independent businesses that have been supplying the market for generations. It revealed to us the importance of the market for the community and cultural heritage of Nine Elms.

Initiated and funded by VSM in association with CGMA, and realised in collaboration with Art Night – the registered charity and art commissioning platform behind London's annual all-night contemporary art festival – this new artwork, titled 'BLOOM!', shines a light on the valued market workers across the fruit, vegetable and floral industries that keep London running.

'BLOOM!' is presented on the building façade of The Flower Market at New Covent Garden Market, offering passers-by and market visitors an accessible insight into the trade and

custom of the market workers – traditionally not visible to the public due to their night-time working hours. BLKBRD Collective creates public murals that aim to raise support and morale during difficult times and ask important questions about the state of overlooked communities and areas. For more information on BLKBRD on BLKBRD Collective and the art commission go to the Community News section on www.newcoventgardensites.com

or visit:

bit.ly/392b5Mm

How did it inspire your final creation?

We were struck by its vibrancy and vitality. We were able to see the diversity of the fresh produce and hustle and bustle of the market environment. We wanted to focus on the fruits, vegetables as well as the florists and market workers. We wanted to make something colourful that reflected the market produce, environment and diverse workforce.

What did having your artwork displayed at the Market mean to you?

The opportunity to have our work displayed on the façade of the flower market facing Nine Elms Lane has been amazing. Especially being able to represent market workers and essential workers, who have been so important in this difficult time.

Emphasising the importance of such professions and trades, and their roles in shaping our communities and lifestyles. For us, it's great to have an artwork on display that reflects and celebrates Nine Elms and London at large.

Any upcoming projects/ exhibitions?

We currently have an exhibition 'The Ghost Meridian' at the Maritime Museum in Greenwich which is a display of a hand painted sail that we created for the Cutty Sark ship. The sail addresses the generational experiences of migrants in a historic and contemporary British environment. This exhibition will be available to see until early January.

Visit blkbrd.co.uk and [@blkbrdcollective](https://www.instagram.com/blkbrdcollective) on Instagram.

Nine Elms: Light in the darkness

Last year thousands of people visited the Nine Elms Advent Calendar – with 24 events in 24 days, a trail of 25 stunning windows and over 50 organisations involved from across Nine Elms and beyond. Led by Betsy Blatchley, Pioneer Minister in the Arts for Nine Elms, The Nine Elms Arts Ministry are back this year with brand new trails and ways for you to get involved this Christmas.

This winter, more than ever, we need to light up our area with joy and laughter – Christmas is very definitely not cancelled in Nine Elms. Nine Elms Arts Ministry are back – with a new Advent Calendar project for our 'new times'. This year's theme is 'Light in the Darkness' - where they plan to light up Nine Elms - literally and in the hearts of the whole community.



24 beautiful windows will be revealed online through December to create the complete trail, and all physical windows will be viewable by 5th Dec which can be enjoyed in Covid-safe ways by all ages, exploring the trails in household groups. There will be areas of 'light up' events to launch each trail, an online 'spotlight' of a different venue each day, competitions, interactive maps, activity packs for families, and a performance element in each area.

VINCI St. Modwen and Covent Garden Market Authority are getting stuck in again

this year by sponsoring and dressing an advent installation at the Griffin School, a popular pit stop along the Advent Calendar trail. Get involved!: This year the Nine Elms Arts Ministry are inviting residents to decorate and light up their own windows around the theme, with online workshops and resources to support you.

For more information on the Nine Elms Advent trail, visit:

nineelms.org/focus/nine-elms-arts-ministry

Twitter: @9ElmsArtsRev

Insta: @NineElmsArtsMinistry



Lighting up Thessaly

Continuing the theme of lighting up the darkness, together with our partners Covent Garden Market Authority, VINCI St. Modwen will be providing three large Christmas trees along Thessaly Road this December.

You'll find one in the garden of Yvonne Carr Centre, another inside the school gate at St George's Primary School and the final one outside the R.O.S.E. Community Centre.

The trees and materials have been sourced from Evergreen, Evergreens, Wittington's

and Lavenders, all based at the Flower Market, making it a truly local Christmas. The trees will be loaded with hundreds of fairy lights and will be decorated by local children over the coming weeks.

For VSM, it really is about giving back to the communities we serve and ensuring that in this dimmest of years, there is some extra Christmas cheer to help us all through. 2020 will be remembered for those small, personal moments close to home. We hope the trees with their twinkling lights will give everyone walking past one – or all three – an extra reason to smile.

Fresh ideas at the Market



Mission Kitchen

Mission Kitchen, at New Covent Garden Market's Food Exchange, is being built to help food businesses grow.

Construction of a unique shared kitchen and co-working space for London's small food businesses is underway at New Covent Garden Market. Called Mission Kitchen, the 18,000 sq ft production-standard kitchen will be somewhere affordable for start-up businesses to make amazing food with all the tools and equipment they need.

Construction is due to finish during February 2021, with an opening date of mid 2021.

Mission Kitchen will include a café and bar, with an ever-expanding seasonal menu.

To register interest, please email Richard McAuley (richard.mcauley@cgma.co.uk).

British Food Fortnight

New Covent Garden Market celebrated British Food Fortnight during September and October, promoting fresh British produce through collaborations with businesses at Old Covent Garden Market (the market's original home).

Highlighting amazing British suppliers in daily features, they interviewed wholesalers at the historic Fruit and Vegetable Market on Nine Elms Lane. Business owners explained why they're passionate about British produce and wholesalers teamed up with restaurants at old Covent Garden to offer special menus created with fresh produce from New Covent Garden Market.



Community Partnerships

Charities Waste Not Want Not (Battersea) and City Harvest have been collecting unwanted food from New Covent Garden Market for years, distributing it to people who need it the most.

Since the Covid-19 outbreak they've increased their collections to several times a week. The fresh fruit and vegetables collected by Waste Not Want Not (Battersea) are then redistributed to at least 250-300 vulnerable local families each week, while City Harvest operate across the South East, feeding thousands of families.

Food Exchange tenant Food Cycle also runs community projects across the country, serving tasty food for people in need of a hot meal and friendship and have been supported by City Harvest.



CONTACT DETAILS

For specific information or to provide feedback concerning construction activity on the New Covent Garden Market site please contact:
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Follow us on Twitter:
@STM_NineElms



For an overview of the project visit: www.newcoventgardensites.com



Covent Garden Market Authority



ST. MODWEN