



HOW DO YOU ACTUALLY DO IT?

This is how some of the Fun Palaces made themselves in 2014 and in 2015 ...

Lambeth Libraries made 11 Fun Palaces across the borough in 2015 – they put posters up on their notice boards asking two simple questions with room to write answers below: ‘What would you like to do or learn?’ and ‘What can you offer to share or teach?’ The content was completely driven by the input from each library’s community.

Whitstable Museum of Fun kick-started themselves on Twitter. We’ve found Twitter very useful for linking Fun Palaces people and places. If you think a social media push might help, try us @funpalaces and we’ll do our best to link you to useful people.

Farnham Fun Palace was made by a group of people who work together (not in the arts) who wanted to do something in their community – and in doing so, they got to know a whole load of new people in their community. The local museum offered them their space and the Mayor even came along during the second Fun Palace in 2015!

Brockwell Lido Fun Palace was made by a few artists, some people who go to the gym at the pool, others from a local action group. It started with just one of them and ended up with about 20 people making their Fun Palace as each person brought along a friend to get involved.

At Liverpool Everyman Fun Palace and ARC Stockton Fun Palace and many other arts centres and venues, the producers invited local people (artists and not) in to use their spaces and to create the Fun Palace in their local venue.

At Old Bexley School Fun Palace the Head and a couple of teachers went knocking on doors in the streets near the school to invite people to get involved – not the PTA or parents or grandparents of the kids, all of whom were already welcome, but ANYONE in the community – real community.

Start where you are, with who you are. Invite other people to join you. Don’t feel you have to do it all alone (you can’t!), welcome others to make your local Fun Palace with you. They’ll have different ideas to you, the more varied and diverse your Fun Palace, the more you’ll have to offer those who want to participate.

There is no right way to make a Fun Palace, but we think that perhaps the best way is to say “Yes and ...” There’s a story that when Joan Littlewood asked the kids of Stratford East what they wanted in her prototype Fun Palace, the Stratford Easter Fair in 1975, the kids said “Donkey rides!” She replied, “Yes, and how do we get the donkey here?”

We think there’s nothing more radical than saying “Yes and” – and then doing it.

FUN PALACES 2016
YEAR OF THE MAKER