

Wednesday, 20 May 2026 20/05/2026 22:06:31

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20 May 2026

By Email and Post

To:

Bernie Grant Arts Centre
Town Hall Approach Road
Tottenham Green
London
N15 4RX
United Kingdom
Email: hire@berniegrantcentre.co.uk

Bernie Grant Centre Partnership
(Registered Charity No. 1102263 / Company No. 04528346)
Town Hall Approach Road
Tottenham Green
London
N15 4RX
United Kingdom

The Bernie Grant Trust
c/o Bishopsgate Institute
230 Bishopsgate
London
EC2M 4QH
United Kingdom

Arts Council England
The Hive
49 Lever Street
Manchester

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M1 1FN

United Kingdom

Email: enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk

Haringey Council

Civic Centre

High Road

Wood Green

London

N22 8LE

United Kingdom

Email: enquiries@haringey.gov.uk

Charity Commission for England and Wales

PO Box 211

Bootle

L20 7YX

United Kingdom

Email: contactusform@charitycommission.gov.uk

Cc:

Relevant Trustees

Relevant Directors

Relevant Governance Officers

Relevant Stewardship Stakeholders

Relevant Heritage Stakeholders

Relevant Funding Stakeholders

Subject: FORMAL COMMUNITY INQUIRY REPORT — REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION, STEWARDSHIP CLARIFICATION, GOVERNANCE TRANSPARENCY, AND PUBLIC-INTEREST RESPONSE CONCERNING THE BERNIE GRANT ARTS CENTRE AND THE CONDITION OF THE BERNIE GRANT STATUE/BUST

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find enclosed a formal Community Inquiry Report prepared in the public interest concerning matters arising from recent visits to the Bernie Grant Arts Centre in Tottenham, London.

This correspondence and the enclosed report concern:

- the apparent visible condition and stewardship of the Bernie Grant statue/bust located within the Bernie Grant Arts Centre;
- wider questions concerning maintenance, presentation standards, institutional vitality, cultural stewardship, and governance transparency;

- the present operational condition and atmosphere of the Centre and café environment;
- and broader questions relating to stewardship of the legacy associated with Bernie Grant and the public role of the institution bearing his name.

For the avoidance of doubt, and to prevent misunderstanding of any kind, neither this correspondence nor the enclosed report makes:

1. any accusations;
2. any allegations;
3. any assumptions;
4. any assertions of wrongdoing;
5. any assertion of intentional neglect;
6. any assertion of misconduct;
7. any assertion of financial impropriety;
8. any assertion of discrimination; or
9. any assertion of unlawful activity.

This inquiry is instead a documented request for clarification, explanation, transparency, and constructive engagement concerning matters that have generated visible concern and public discussion.

The report has been prepared carefully, conservatively, and systematically.

Particular effort has been made throughout to distinguish clearly between:

- verified facts;
- documentary evidence;
- chronology;
- observations;
- recollections;
- perceptions;
- opinions;
- questions;
- and matters requiring clarification.

The report includes, among other things:

- documented attendance evidence;
- dated receipts evidencing repeated visits to the Centre;
- photographs;
- screenshots;
- stills from video footage;
- social media publication evidence;
- chronology of events;
- evidence of previous constructive engagement with the Centre;
- and formal governance and stewardship questions requiring explanation.

The inquiry arises following a visit to the Bernie Grant Arts Centre on 20 May 2026 involving myself, John Canoe, and George Nomen.

During that visit, concern was expressed regarding the apparent visible condition and presentation of the Bernie Grant statue/bust located within the Centre.

Video footage exists showing George Nomen discussing the apparent visible condition of the statue/bust and expressing concern regarding what appeared to him to be visible dust, dirt, or insufficient maintenance.

The footage also appears to show visible residue/dust transfer after physical contact with the statue/bust surface.

Again, for the avoidance of doubt, the report does not assert that any particular individual or organisation intentionally caused the apparent condition observed.

The purpose of the inquiry is to seek explanation and clarification.

The inquiry also arises because the Bernie Grant Arts Centre publicly presents itself as a major Black-led cultural institution associated with the historical and symbolic legacy of Bernie Grant.

Accordingly, questions concerning stewardship, presentation, governance transparency, institutional vitality, maintenance standards, and preservation of public confidence naturally become matters of public and community interest.

The report also documents the fact that I, John Canoe, have attended the Bernie Grant Arts Centre over many years and have previously experienced the Centre during periods when the café environment appeared substantially more active than at present.

I do not presently possess documentary evidence proving comparative operational decline, and therefore no such decline is asserted as established fact.

However, the contrast between my recollections of earlier years and my recent observations contributed to concern and prompted further questions regarding the present condition, stewardship, atmosphere, and operational vitality of the institution.

The report further documents prior constructive engagement with the Centre, including previous community-oriented proposals connected with justice-support and community-engagement concepts.

The intention of this inquiry is not to inflame controversy or generate hostility.

Rather, the intention is to encourage:

- transparency;
- clarification;
- accountability;
- constructive engagement;
- accurate understanding of facts;
- preservation of public confidence;
- and responsible stewardship of an important Black cultural institution associated with the legacy of Bernie Grant.

Given previous experience concerning communications and concerns raised in relation to the Centre, this correspondence is being circulated simultaneously to multiple relevant governance, stewardship, funding, heritage, regulatory, and public-interest stakeholders in the interests of:

- transparency;
- accountability;
- procedural fairness;
- preservation of evidence;
- institutional awareness;
- and avoidance of misunderstanding.

The enclosed report respectfully requests written clarification regarding a number of matters including:

- maintenance responsibility;

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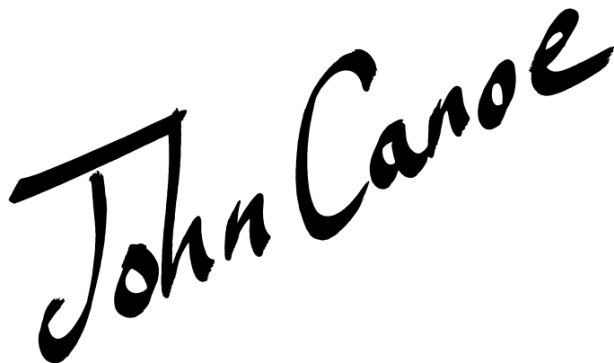
- governance structures;
- stewardship arrangements;
- conservation and inspection procedures;
- operational oversight;
- café status;
- public accountability mechanisms;
- and future institutional plans.

A full written response is respectfully requested within 14 days.

Written communication is preferred in order to maintain a complete, accurate, transparent, and reviewable evidential record.

Please ensure that this correspondence and the enclosed report are brought to the attention of all relevant trustees, governance officers, stewardship personnel, and responsible decision-makers.

Yours faithfully,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Canoe". The signature is slanted upwards from left to right.

John Canoe
(also known as Derrick Lynch)

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Enclosure:
Formal Community Inquiry Report