

Hackney Town Hall Square

What is this project?

Improvements to Hackney Town Hall Square have been identified as a key priority in the Hackney Central Town Centre Strategy, adopted by the council in 2023.

This Strategy outlines plans for the area's development over the next decade and has been shaped by extensive community engagement, including the Hackney Central Conversation.

These conversations have informed our focus on inclusive growth and addressing critical issues such as poverty, housing affordability, support for local businesses, air quality, and the need for greener, healthier, and more accessible public spaces.

In line with these objectives, the council aims to revitalise Hackney Town Hall Square to better support the borough's civic and cultural life, reflecting its diversity and heritage. The project will create a vibrant and accessible public space that enhances local cultural institutions like Hackney Central Library, Hackney Museum, and Hackney Empire, while also improving green spaces for climate resilience.

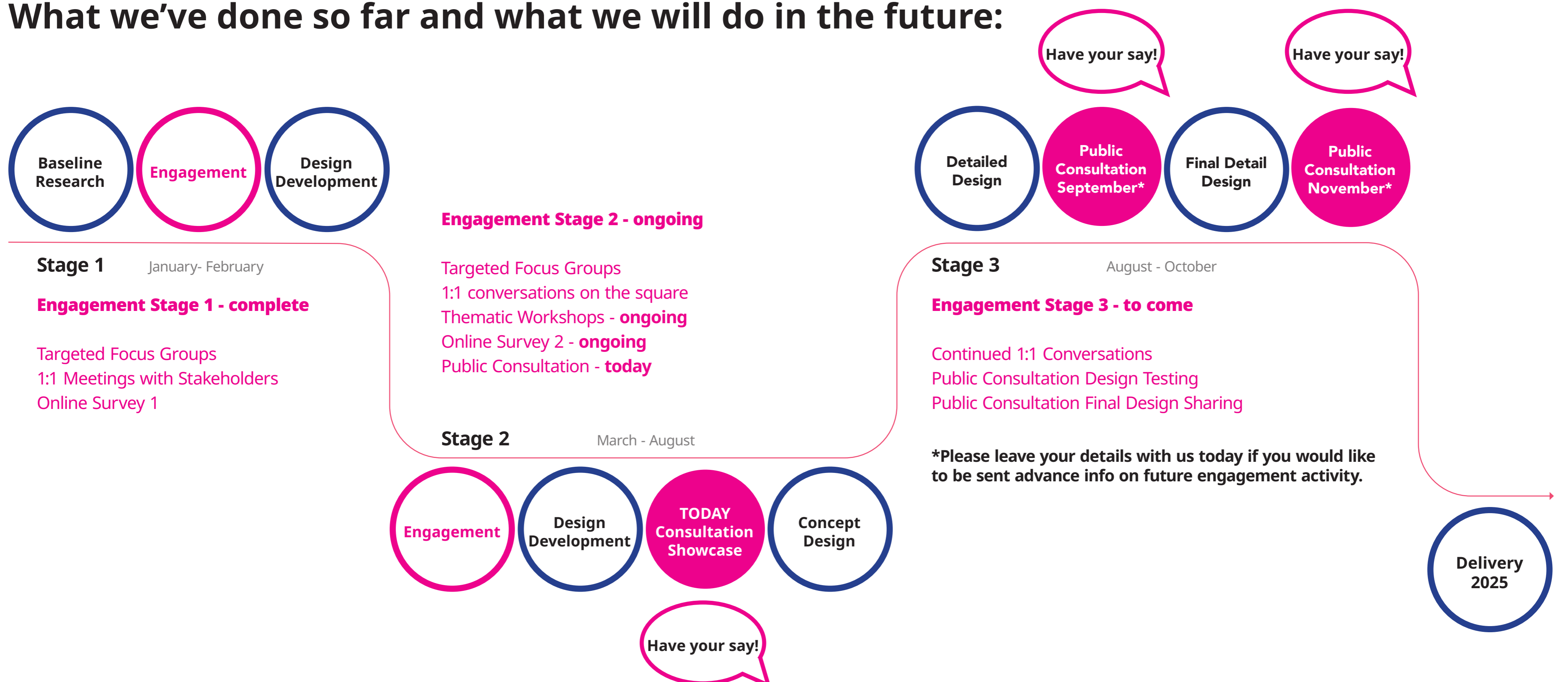
muf architecture/art has been commissioned to lead the design process, ensuring that the project aligns with these community-driven goals.



Hackney Town Hall Square



What we've done so far and what we will do in the future:



What have you told us so far?

What people have told us in the first survey

"The Town Hall Square is important as a quieter place to sit, pause and rest on a noisy and congested High Street."

"It is a focal point, but not for meeting people. I describe it more as a directions indicator."

"The Square offers a vital green space - trees, grass and shade - in an otherwise built up urban landscape."

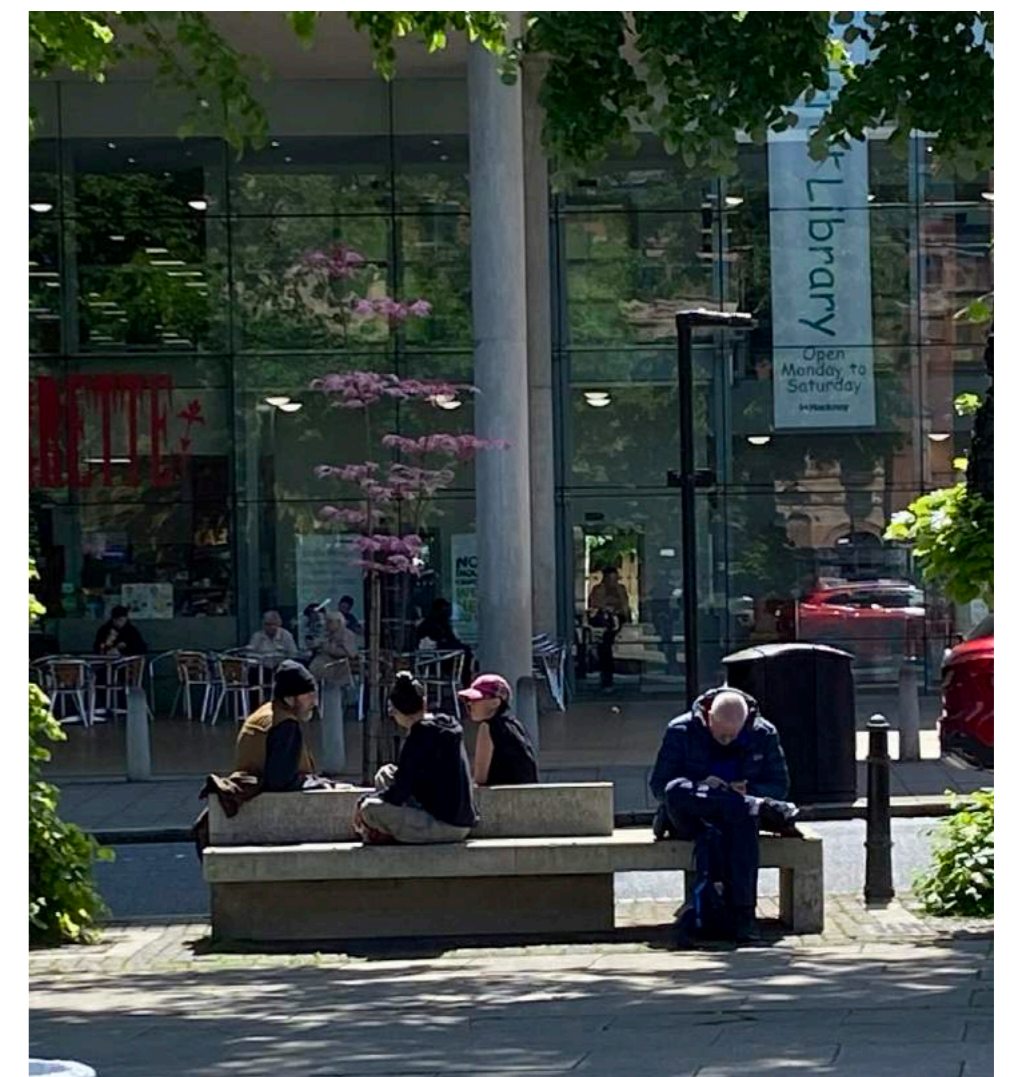
"It's a great place to protest, and it feels like it's owned by the people. It's a truly public place."

"The architectural heritage of the square - the beautiful 1930s town hall and the Art Deco lights - is important to highlight and celebrate."

"I love the palm trees - they're an important part of the square's character."

What we have learned at community workshops

Memories of Hackney Town Hall Square people have shared with us



Design Principles Emerging From Engagement

What we have learned from the Hackney Town Centre Strategy (2023), what people told us in the first survey and what we heard in our targeted focus groups has been carefully looked at and distilled into design principles:



Hackney Town Centre Strategy (2023):

- Safe, accessible and inclusive public space
- Support the day to day life in the borough
- Support civic and cultural institutions around the square, such as through improved wayfinding
- Represent and celebrate the diversity of Hackney Central

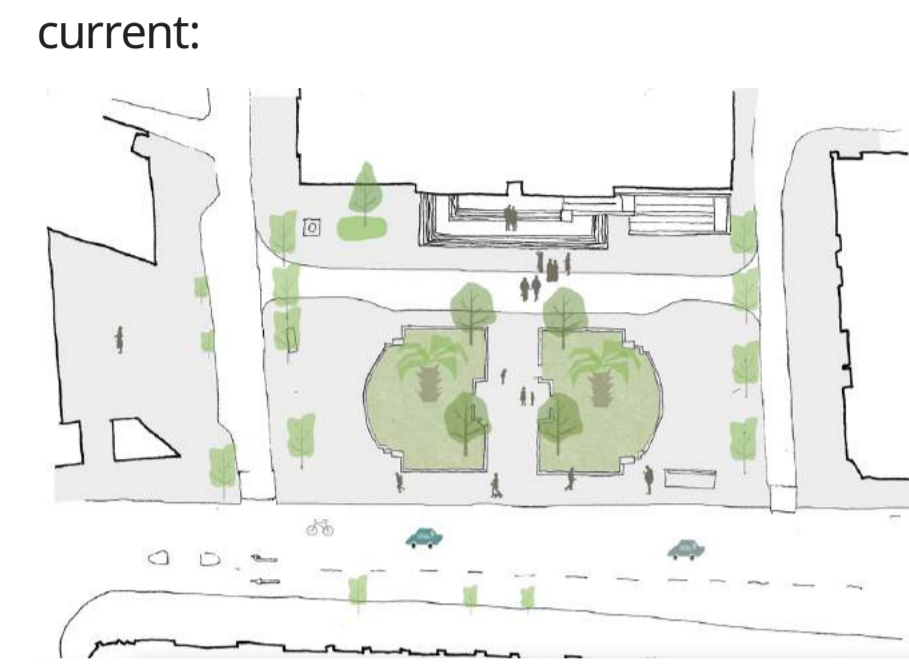
Hackney Town Hall Square Design Principles:

1. **Take care of what we have:** Maintaining and preserving existing features.
2. **Improve the trees and landscape:** Enhancing green spaces with climate-resilient plants.
3. **Make it glow, and welcome the pedestrian:** Improving lighting and highlighting architecture.
4. **Somewhere for everyone to feel they belong.** Creating comfortable seating areas and making it easier to host events and gatherings.
5. **A different pace:** Improving pedestrian and cyclist spaces, reducing vehicular traffic.
6. **Making space for children:** Creating playful landscapes for informal play.

The Future of the Town Hall Square

Our initial design ideas and what they might look like in practice.

What do you think?



1a
Maintaining and preserving existing features and repairing the Art Deco Lamps.



1b
Cleaning the existing features, such as Town Hall Steps.



2
Improving existing and adding new trees, and enhancing existing and new green spaces with climate resilient and biodiversity friendly planting.



3a
Making it glow by improving existing lighting and adding new atmospheric lighting.



3b
Making it glow and welcome the pedestrian by lighting up the architecture around.



4a
Creating comfortable seating areas to make the square feel like it's somewhere everyone feels they belong.



4b
Making it easier to host larger events and gatherings.



5a
Unified paving material from library to theatre and shared surfaces across Wilton Way and Reading Lane to improve spaces for pedestrians and cyclists, reducing vehicular traffic.



5b
Extension of the square into Mare Street.



6
Making space for children in the city by providing play elements in the square.

