



The former Southwark Town Hall at Peckham Road is being transformed by specialist student accommodation developer Alumno. In addition to the 55 purpose built rooms to house students studying in the borough, there will also be the new theatre, a café/gallery space and affordable artists' studios.

Theatre Peckham, which is to the rear of the Town Hall on Havill Street, will be replaced by a larger, state of the art modern theatre. The theatre team are now at their temporary home Canada Water Culture Space, where their show "10 in a Bed" will be performed in July, as will their Christmas show. Throughout the summer Theatre Peckham will also be holding lots of activities in Peckham Library. All details can be found on their website [theatrepeckham.co.uk](http://theatrepeckham.co.uk)

The new theatre building will be an amazing modern space dedicated to offering affordable performing arts classes for ages 5 to 18 year olds. There will be a larger auditorium, rehearsal space, two new studios, box office, new visitor facilities, offices and a spacious entrance foyer. The amenity space in front of the theatre will be completely re-modelled to create an inspiring public square, which will also provide a new entrance to the neighbouring residential estate. Theatre Peckham's chief executive Teresa Early said "We have been watching the disappearance of our old theatre with sadness, but also with mounting excitement as work goes on towards the new building. It won't wait!"

Local student residents and the passing public will be able to gather in the proposed café gallery planned for the ground floor level of the former Town Hall building. The café gallery will be run by local arts and community organisation Hotel Elephant. "This will provide us with a longer-term home, so we can develop our aim of connecting with the local community and providing a platform for local artists," says Hotel Elephant's Reuben Powell. "This development will help us meet our goals to enrich the cultural life of Southwark." For current events see their website [hotelelephant.co.uk](http://hotelelephant.co.uk)



To create new links to the local community, artists' studios are planned for the ground and lower ground floor levels of the Town Hall for use by students and local artists. They will feature easy access from the street, high ceilings and lots of floor space. SPACE studios will run the studios, information on their current availability can be found at [spacestudios.org.uk](http://spacestudios.org.uk)

Alumno's managing director David Campbell said "Alumno are delighted to be working with a number of local and exciting creative partners to make the former Town Hall a new cultural hub for both student residents and the wider local community. Over recent years Alumno has played an important role in the creation of new development in this area of Camberwell, which in turn has reinterpreted the area and established it as a stimulating and welcoming environment for students, artists and locals alike. Alumno views the town hall development as a significant and important milestone in the company's history and to be a part of this new chapter in Southwark is an honour."



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