

**Zaha Hadid Foundation**  
**Press Release**  
**6 September 2023**

## **THE ZAHA HADID FOUNDATION HELPS EXPAND OPEN CITY'S ACCELERATE PROGRAMME IN LONDON AND BIRMINGHAM**

The Zaha Hadid Foundation (ZHF) announced today its sponsorship of Open City's Accelerate 2023/4 programme. Accelerate is one of the longest running widening-access programmes in architecture and offers free design, education, and mentoring schemes for young people with an interest in the built environment. The Foundation's financial support contributes to the expansion of Accelerate in London and its pioneering launch into Birmingham.

This year ZHF joins Open City's existing partnerships with the Architectural Association, The Bartlett School of Architecture (University College London), Central Saint Martins (University of the Arts London), and Kingston University to sponsor its Accelerate programme in London. The year-long course provides skills, workshops, and mentoring to 90 students aged 16 to 18 from under-represented groups. Jane Pavitt, Head of Research and Learning at ZHF, said: 'We are delighted to partner with Open City, as sector leaders in enhancing educational opportunities for young people from diverse backgrounds. Part of the Foundation's mission, as defined by Zaha Hadid herself, is to advance the engagement of students with architecture, and we are excited by the opportunity to work with Open City to achieve this aim'.

ZHF will also support The Accelerate Studios programme in London, with six in-school studios and one off-site day focused on the work of Zaha Hadid for students in years 10 to 12. Sirraaj Mitha, Director of Accelerate, said: 'Zaha Hadid continues to inspire those from global majority backgrounds to explore the built environment, and this partnership reinforces her legacy of providing a new generation of young people with inspiration and encouragement to explore a future in building design'. Paul Greenhalgh, Director of ZHF, said 'In many respects, it is why Zaha created her Foundation: to bring architecture and society together'.

ZHF will likewise bolster Accelerate's Birmingham Pilot Scheme launch, with two Accelerate Studios at Birmingham City University and eight in-school workshops to inspire new ideas for students and teachers across the city. Sarah Phillips, Head of Education and Empowerment at Open City, said that the strong partnership between ZHF and Open City: 'is a fitting legacy to the outstanding architect [Zaha Hadid's] own ambitions... we are delighted that it will be used to extend Open City's work into Birmingham for the first time, as well as in London schools at a time when creative education is in dire need of greater recognition'.

In addition, ZHF will fund the development of the Accelerate Alumni group, which delivers training for alumni to develop in-school workshops and inspire the next generation. The Foundation hosted the 2023 reunion at its site at Bowling Green Lane in London and will become the 'home' of the alumni group to host subsequent training, and advisory and reunion meetings.

In partnership with





## **Press Enquiries**

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## **About the Zaha Hadid Foundation**

The Zaha Hadid Foundation (ZHF) was founded in 2013 by the globally renowned architect, designer, and artist Zaha Hadid. The Foundation was re-launched and became fully active in 2022. It is housed in two buildings in London, in Zaha's former office at 10 Bowling Green Lane, Clerkenwell, and at Shad Thames, on the south bank of the river.

The founding purpose of ZHF is to preserve, study, and exhibit the full range of Zaha's work. As well as managing its collection and archive of c.15,000 works, ZHF curates exhibitions related to Zaha's work and artistic outlook, promotes learning through public talks, events, and publications, and supports research at all levels including through grants, bursaries, and fellowships.

## **About Open City**

Open City is a charity dedicated to making architecture and neighbourhoods more open, accessible, and equitable. Its mission is to empower communities to learn about, experience, and have a role in shaping places where they live.

Open City collaborates with people from diverse communities to widen access to spaces, built heritage, neighbourhoods, knowledge, and careers that they are often excluded from. It does this by creating educational and cultural programmes discussing, celebrating, and opening historic and contemporary buildings and landscapes to the public.

Its work focuses on learning programmes for children and young people, tours, events and publications, its Open House Festivals and Worldwide Festivals Network, and organisational collaborations with culture, heritage, and architectural charities to build effective cross-sector digital tools, share resources, reach new audiences, and amplify social impact.