

“On 24 August 2008, London becomes the host city for the next Olympic Games. On 17 September, the responsibility for staging the Paralympic Games is passed from Beijing to London. The ambition for London 2012 is that they are everyone’s games, not just London’s, and that culture will take its rightful place at the centre of our plans. Baron de Coubertin’s original vision was that “the Olympics are the wedding of sport and art”.

The London 2012 Cultural Olympiad will be a four-year cultural celebration in London and across the UK from late September 2008 until the end of the Games in 2012.

We will use culture and creativity to maximise UK communities’ and young people’s experience of the London 2012 Games, inspiring them to fulfill their potential.

There are already opportunities for voluntary arts organisations to get involved:

The Cultural Olympiad kicks off on 26-28 September and if you have an event which you would like to be part of Open Weekend, please contact your local Creative Programmer via [www.london2012.com/beinspired](http://www.london2012.com/beinspired) in the Culture section.

If you have a project or event which is genuinely inspired by London 2012 and meets the core values and themes [[www.london2012.com/plans/culture/now-to-2012/values-and-themes-of-the-cultural-olympiad.php](http://www.london2012.com/plans/culture/now-to-2012/values-and-themes-of-the-cultural-olympiad.php)] of the Cultural Olympiad, you can put it forward for the Inspire mark [[www.london2012.com/beinspired](http://www.london2012.com/beinspired)]. Once you have read through the criteria, you need to talk to your Creative Programmer who can talk you through the next steps.

We look forward to hearing about your inspiring, surprising, exciting project and event ideas.”