



January 2008

IMAX underpasses are in the limelight

Shoppers and theatre-goers visiting the South Bank across winter will discover that one of the main pedestrian routes in the area has been transformed, thanks to an exciting lighting scheme which enlivens the underpasses beneath the BFI IMAX and improves pedestrian safety.

The new public lighting scheme uses Philips' state-of-the-art LEDs to create spectacular colour moods which completely transform the previously unwelcoming labyrinth of corridors which links Waterloo Station directly to the area's cinemas, theatres and arts venues. The light sources are the first to combine the brightness of conventional lighting with long life and energy efficient LEDs.

The lighting is the final phase of a two-year, £500k programme of work which has also included wall resurfacing and redecoration with anti-graffiti paint. Funded by Transport for London, Lambeth Council and South Bank Employers' Group, the project aims to improve pedestrian access and safety for visitors, employees and residents alike. Local landowners have also been closely involved in this project, ensuring that it is coordinated with other public realm improvements.

Commenting on the improvements Kate Hoey MP, Joint Chairman of the South Bank Partnership, said: "The completion of this project is literally, a shining example of what can be achieved for the local community through partnership working. Lambeth Council, Transport for London and South Bank Employers' Group have shown that there is another way of doing things, and that it works. But there is much more to be done. Local stakeholders have signed up to a range of projects in

the South Bank Partnership's Manifesto for Action – now is the time to get on and deliver it.”

Commenting on the launch, Councillor Lib Peck, Lambeth Cabinet member for Environment and Culture said, “We are proud of this project which improves the South Bank, an area which is recognised by Lambeth Council as playing a significant role in the success of the borough as a whole. We also value our partnership with South Bank Employers' Group and look forward to working with them on more public realm projects.”

David Brown, Managing Director of Surface Transport at Transport for London said: “The Mayor of London wants the Capital to be a world-class walking friendly city by 2015. The improvements at the IMAX underpasses are part of Transport for London's three year, £126 million investment programme to improve conditions for people who want to walk in London.”

Val Shawcross, London Assembly Member for Lambeth and Southwark said: “This is a fantastic and imaginative scheme that will boost the local economy and make people visiting South Bank feel safer. The scheme certainly adds to London's image as a fun and funky city.”

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For more information

Rachel Trayner, 020 72026918, rachel.trayner@southbanklondon.com

Notes to Editors

About the lights

- The lighting has an LED module which is controlled via a Dedicated Dynamic Sequencesor which enables specifically designed sequences of coloured lighting to be created in order to create different moods for different seasons, calendar events or times of the day.
- For further information on the lights please contact: Philips Lighting Solutions
- Barbara Neate – Media Relations Manager
barbara.neate@philips.com
01483 293 071

About South Bank Employers' Group

- South Bank Employers' Group is an association of the major organisations in the South Bank, Waterloo and Blackfriars with a long term commitment to improving the experience of the area for employees, visitors and residents.
- Members of South Bank Employers' Group include: British Film Institute, Coin Street Community Builders, Ernst & Young, Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital Trust, IBM UK Ltd, ITV, King's College London, London Development Agency, London South Bank University, National Theatre, Network Rail, P&O Developments, Shell, Southbank Centre, The London Eye Company.