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30 April 2014  
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# BLOUIN ARTINFO

Artist Collective Wins £40,000 Award to Engage East London



Myvillages artist collective. The group's leader, Kathrin Böhm, on the far right

Artist collective Myvillages has won the Create Art Award 2014, which aims to engage with communities in east London boroughs.

The group, led by artist Kathrin Böhm, have been awarded £40,000 for their proposal *Company: Movements, Deals and Drinks*.

Böhm told ARTINFO UK: "it's amazing to have won. The award moves this project from being a small community based action to something more widely known."

The project is based on a tradition from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century which saw more than 200,000 east Londoners, usually women and children, would travel to Kent for temporary seasonal work harvesting crops. The tradition came to an end in 1950s.

Myvillages now wants to resurrect this tradition. The group will set up a community garden on a neglected piece on land in Dagenham. This will include a landscaped hops garden, an apple orchard, a production space, and a shop that will be open to all.

In September, the group will organise a “hopping” trip so that residents of all ages, including the young and the elderly, can visit the Kent farms where their families worked in the past.

The Create Art Award was set up for artists to develop projects that actively involve people in east London.

It is an initiative of Create London, an east London-based organisation that produces socially engaged art projects. Last year’s winner was contemporary artist Marcus Coates.