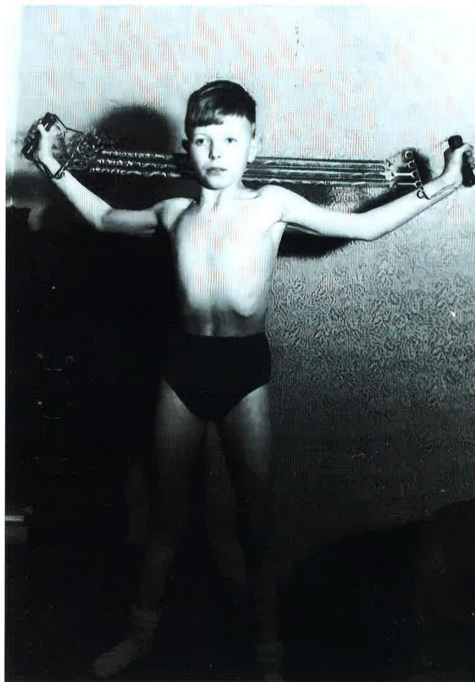


HERITAGE *of* LONDON
TRUST

DAVID BOWIE'S CHILDHOOD HOME

To be restored for the public



Young David Jones at Plaistow Grove - Credit David Bowie Estate

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London, Thursday 8th January 2026 – [Heritage of London Trust](#) has today announced the landmark acquisition of the family home of David Robert Jones - the modest south London terrace where the boy became David Bowie. Located at 4 Plaistow Grove in Bromley, the property served as Bowie's creative sanctuary from ages 8 to 20 (1955–1967). The property marks the site where Bowie's musical journey began; it was here that he wrote his formative songs and regularly returned in the following years, as he wrote his breakthrough smash hit *Space Oddity*, which rocketed him to pop fame.

The heritage project, due for completion in late 2027, will restore the "two up, two down" railway workers' cottage to its original early 1960s appearance. Working alongside curator Geoffrey Marsh (co-curator of the Victoria and Albert museum's *David Bowie Is* exhibition - the definitive Bowie exhibition which was displayed globally) and utilising a never-before-seen archive, the restoration will recreate the interior layout exactly as it was when Bowie's father commuted to work at charity Dr Barnado's and his mother worked as a waitress. This immersive experience will center on Bowie's 9 ft x 10 ft bedroom - the specific site where his "trailblazing spirit" was forged.

The project transcends simple bricks and mortar; it is a living continuation of Bowie's legacy of "free creative experimentation." Inspired by his 1969 Beckenham Arts Lab, which offered opportunities "for everybody," the site will host creative and skills workshops for young people. Through the Trust's *Proud Places* and *Proud Prospects* programmes, the house will act as a "solid foundation for the next generation," teaching confidence and communication skills in the arts. A major £500,000 grant from the Jones Day Foundation, a charitable foundation funded by attorneys and staff of the Jones Day law firm, has already been secured to anchor the restoration, with a public fundraising campaign launching this month.

The house is near the Edwardian 'Bowie bandstand' – where the young musician performed in 1969 – which was restored by Bromley Council and Heritage of London Trust in 2024.

Geoffrey Marsh said: "It was in this small house, particularly in his tiny bedroom, that Bowie evolved from an ordinary suburban schoolboy to the beginnings of an extraordinary international stardom – as he said 'I spent so much time in my bedroom. It really was my entire world. I had

books up there, my music up there, my record player. Going from my world upstairs out onto the street, I had to pass through this no-man's-land of the living room.”

Dr Nicola Stacey, Director of Heritage of London Trust, said: “David Bowie was a proud Londoner. Even though his career took him all over the world, he always remembered where he came from and the community that supported him as he grew up. It’s wonderful to have this opportunity to tell his story and inspire a new generation of young people and it’s really important for the heritage of London to preserve this site. We are thrilled to have already secured a major grant of £500,000 from the Jones Day Foundation towards the project, and hope that people everywhere will want to be involved.”

George Underwood, artist, musician and David Bowie's lifelong friend, said: “We spent so much time together, listening to and playing music. I’ve heard a lot of people say David’s music saved them or changed their life. It’s amazing that he could do that and even more amazing that it all started here, from such small beginnings, in this house. We were dreamers, and look what he became.”

Caitlin Moran, journalist, broadcaster and author said: “The most exciting place for any fan to visit is their hero's teenage bedroom - because that's the cocoon where they built themselves. All the world-changing started there. The chance for us all to walk through a newly-opened door, and see the suburban launch-pad from which David Bowie almost literally took off into space is beyond thrilling.”

Greg Harris, President of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame & Museum said: “David Bowie is one of the most significant artists of all time and 2026 is the 30th anniversary of his induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, music's highest honor. Thank you to the Heritage of London Trust and the Jones Day Foundation for supporting the restoration of his childhood home in London – once completed it will provide context for the genesis of Bowie’s creativity and vision and inspire new generations to follow their dreams.”

Chris Kelly, President of the Jones Day Foundation said: “ For the last five years, the Jones Day Foundation has been thrilled to support Heritage of London Trust’s Proud Places program, which has involved over 10,000 young Londoners in their local heritage and inspired in them pride in their history and surroundings. The Bowie House project is special because it combines music

and heritage in London and will help to preserve the legacy of one of the legends of rock and roll. The Foundation has also been a supporter of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame for decades now. We are looking forward to exploring ways we can assist these two wonderful organisations to work in partnership together."

Fundraising for the project will begin in January 2026 and the project is planned to open at the end of 2027. <https://bowieshouse.org/>



Geoffrey Marsh, George Underwood and Nicola Stacey outside 4 Plaistow Grove.



Closeup of the exterior of 4 Plaistow Grove.



Young David Jones at Plaistow Grove - Credit David Bowie Estate

Notes for Editors

About [Heritage of London Trust](#):

Heritage of London Trust is an independent charity founded in 1980 by the Greater London Council dedicated to rescuing historic buildings and monuments across London. Focusing on heritage at risk, they work with local authorities to restore sites for public benefit, engaging local communities in the history on their doorstep.

About the [Proud Places Programme](#):

Proud Places is a London-wide engagement programme inspiring young people with the world around them. Through heritage projects, Proud Places introduces children aged 11 and upwards to the stories behind their local area and opportunities to learn craft skills.

The programme aims to develop young people's pride and curiosity about where they live. Proud Places has worked with 10,000 young people since its launch in October 2020.

About the [Proud Prospects Programme](#):

Young people develop their presentation and communication skills as part of the Proud Prospects programme, as they advocate for their chosen restoration project. The programme, in partnership with corporate firms, aims to broaden horizons and support young people's transition from school to the wider world.

About the Jones Day Foundation:

The Jones Day Foundation is a non-profit organisation established in 1987 and funded by the attorneys and staff of the Jones Day law firm. The Foundation provides grants to support efforts to promote the rule of law, improve the lives of those in poverty, foster innovation in academics, medicine and the arts and provide support and comfort to people suffering from natural and other disasters around the world.

- **Who:** Heritage of London Trust (Charity) in collaboration with Curator Geoffrey Marsh.
- **What:** Acquisition and restoration of David Bowie's childhood home (4 Plaistow Grove, Bromley).

- **When:** Acquisition announced 8th Jan 2026; Restoration completion scheduled for late 2027.
- **Where:** 4 Plaistow Grove, Bromley, South London, UK.
- **Legacy Impact:** Educational workshops, *Proud Places* and *Proud Prospects* programmes, and preservation of the site where *David Bowie* grew up.
- **Major Funding:** £500,000 grant from the Jones Day Foundation.
- **Donation Link:** <https://bowieshouse.org/>
- **Press Assets:** [HERE](#)

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