

The Mercury

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Get online to promote your creative urge

An artist's impression of Borthwick Wharf and the restored Paynes Wharf

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A WEBSITE to promote the work of artists in Lewisham and Greenwich has been launched by developers who want to create a new cultural hot spot on Deptford's riverside.

Artists and creative businesses are invited to submit their work to an independent selection panel for inclusion on The Paynes and Borthwick Cultural Showcase.

The project has won a grant of £30,000 from char-

By MANDY LITTLE

ity Arts & Business which encourages commerce to support the arts.

Developer Lane Castle is due to start work on the scheme in Watergate Street soon and complete it in the summer of 2009.

It will include an art gallery in the listed Paynes Wharf and 160 homes, shops and restaurants on the

site of the demolished Borthwick Wharf.

There will be a riverside walk that will allow public access to the area for the first time.

The developers have teamed up with a leading art consultancy, Futurecity, to create the website which is to have the format of an online magazine.

At the launch at the Laban Centre in Creekside on

Wednesday, Lane Castle owner Mark O'Grady said:

"We want to create something really special within the Italianate arches of Paynes Wharf.

"We hope to have a range of cultural events in the gallery. We created the website so we could link up with burgeoning talent in the area."

Mark Davy, from Futurecity, is also working on the project to create the large Angel of the South sculpture in east London.

He said: "This is such a rich area for the arts. It used to be difficult to get developers to see the relevance of art to their projects but there is a growing understanding their inclusion is what makes a place vibrant."

Mr Davy, who had a studio in Deptford as a young painter, said: "I know how hard it can be for an artist to get off the ground and make a living."

He said the showcase would be high profile and promoted in every way possible. Visit www.pandbshowcase.com

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