In February 2015, Chocolate Films launches an exciting new local project, Nine Elms Past & Present. This multimedia programme will engage with elderly Battersea residents to uncover the social history of families affected by the decommissioning of industry in the area.

Spearheaded by Chocolate Films Young Ambassadors, a group of 10 young documentary filmmakers aged 15 – 24, the focus will be on unearthing a fuller picture of family life in Battersea in the 70’s & 80’s paying particular attention to record memories of local working class people. Over this year long programme, young people will be trained in filmmaking, archive handling and collection.

The culmination of the programme will be a new website, two short documentaries inspired by the memories of elderly residents and a new oral history for public use, to be exhibited at Wandsworth Museum.

The programme’s recruitment has already kicked off. We are currently looking for young people to get involved with our Young Ambassadors in shaping the project. These young people will also have the opportunity to gain a vinspired award and Bronze Arts Award.

We officially launch the project with a public screening of The Optimists of Nine Elms in Spring 2015. This largely forgotten film starring Peter Sellers sheds light on the plight of the working class in Nine Elms who aspire for a better life in the new residential development across the river. We will offer an introduction to the programme at this event so that the public find out more about how they can get involved. The film’s director, Anthony Simmons will be our guest for a Q&A.

We will be hosting an oral histories open day in May 2015. This will be a drop in pop-up event where the public will be invited to come along with old photos and memorabilia. We
will collect their eclectic range of stories and memories from the local community which will be included in the new oral history archive and will be used to inspire ideas for the short documentaries the young people create.

Together Battersea’s residents will share stories, inspire a pollination of ideas between generations and stimulate memories to shape the content of final exhibition and our digital outputs.

This project is funded by Heritage Lottery Fund.

This information is embargoed and is for partnership and recruitment purposes only.

For more information about the project, please contact:

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**About Chocolate Films**
Chocolate Films is a Brixton based film production company specialising in documentary film production and learning programmes. Set up 12 years ago, by award winning Directors Mark Currie and Rachel Wang, Chocolate Films has a team on 10 filmmakers providing full production services to charities, museums, galleries and heritage organisations, as well as cinema documentaries.

We are passionate about telling human stories and we endeavour to make films that can actively assist people to change the world for the better, either through direct campaigning or awareness-raising.

Engaging with over 2500 young people per year our learning and outreach programmes use digital media in innovative ways, inspiring young people to voice their opinions and reach their full potential. All of our workshops are structured appropriately to create a supportive working environment to enable the young people to reach their full potential.