



**THE RIMBAUD
AND VERLAINE
FOUNDATION**

Rock for Rimbaud Manifesto

Raise money for the arts – Because the Night

1. *Rock for Rimbaud* is designed to draw on the great enthusiasm which some famous rock musicians have for Rimbaud to curate a fund-raising concert featuring both them and a lot of new artists. Mobilising Rock fans and building support over a period of 2 or more years to a point at which it is possible to hold a full-blown Rock concert capable of raising significant amounts for the R&V Foundation and its work promoting the arts and arts education. It will connect an innovative crowd-funding campaign with exciting live music and cultural experiences;

New communities of support for the arts – A New England

2. Bringing people together voluntarily to support something 'cultural' which they regard as important, it will use Rock music connections to create a new community of support for poetry and the arts. It will transform fans' love for music and the arts into an exercise in active citizenship, and something that produces the skills and the civility needed to relate positively to other people;

Use social media to create a new appetite for the arts – Up the Junction

3. Using social media to create the appetite, resources and audience for Rock for Rimbaud and in particular building support for live music experiences culminating in a Rock concert designed to raise significant amounts of money for the arts. Mobilising young volunteers and mounting a campaign of sufficient persuasiveness to attract everything required to make it happen: star performers, funding, venue, audience, volunteer event manager, roadies – everything!

Create opportunities for new artists – Pump it up

4. Creating opportunities for new and up-and-coming artists (mostly of a Punk or LGBT-friendly Punk ethos), reconnecting musicians with a radical and activist role, and providing them with a platform and connecting them with a wider audience, promoting noise, energy, tolerance and diversity;

Social engagement with disadvantaged communities - Rock the Kasbah

5. Supporting the creation of a 'poetry house at No 8 Royal College Street in Camden, the 5 storey regency house formerly occupied by the poets Arthur Rimbaud and Paul Verlaine, and the subject of a legacy gift in favour of the charity. Use this to transform the property into a home for small arts organisations and an important resource for schools and disadvantaged communities in areas in Camden and Islington close to the property which are currently identified as so-called 'cold spots' for engagement with the arts;

Call for a new politics of digital activism - Sing If You're Glad to be Gay

6. Based on the idea of the 'poetry house' as a digital hub, the network allows R&V to combine a strong local footprint in a deprived area of inner London with thinking globally about the role of the arts in society, including their role in education and social capital building. Championing the role of the arts in creating a new politics and the desire to use the internet as a spur to new forms of digital activism, we shall use inspiration from these two disruptive French poets to open up a whole world of the arts to new audiences;

Dynamic new approach to arts funding - God Save the Queen

7. Developing a new and dynamic model for both participation in the arts, and its funding. Redesigning an arts organisation as a values-led community, sustained through rich content online and through active dialogue on social media. Using the house as a symbol to unlock a much wider range of arts and educational activities in multiple locations, and as the basis for a new digital hub, presenting rich content to fans of poetry and the arts all over the world, and promoting new engagement with the arts;

Encourage positive international exchange - Should I Stay or Should I Go

8. Supporting the role of the arts in encouraging positive relationships and exchanges between different nations and communities, and using Kindred Spirits, a European Poetry House Network created by the R&V Foundation, and including 10 partners in 6 countries, to encourage international exchange and diversity.

Champion the social importance of the arts - We Will Rock You

9. Challenging the prevailing compartmentalisation of culture and politics and (by raising money for a small arts organisation dedicated to poetry and the arts) sending a powerful message about the political and economic importance of culture to a properly functioning society. Culture not as a luxury extra, as icing on the cake which we can only afford in periods of 'economic growth', but culture as something vital for society at all times, and central to the whole social contract underpinning it;

Change the world as we know it - 2,4,6,8 Motorway

10. Making Rock for Rimbaud a 'game-changer', dramatically enhancing the opportunities for small arts organisations to mobilise resources, and demonstrating that support for culture can be both political with a small 'p' and economic. To make Rock for Rimbaud a total 'experience' for its supporters, opening the door to all sorts of artistic and cultural experiences, to political engagement, and promoting social inclusion and tolerance and international friendship.