



Going local in language education: Cities as sites for cross-sectoral connection

Saturday 28 March 2026 at [UCL East](#)

Cities are multilingual, and people learn, switch & blend languages and ways of speaking at home, at work, in community life and across a range of media, in both routine and creative ways. But can we do more in education to cultivate and capitalise on this linguistic energy and expertise? This one-day event brings people together from schools, universities, adult education, community organisations and policy spaces to consider how cities can act as spaces for language development and cross-sector collaboration. Through case studies, structured discussions and cross-sector dialogue, we will look at what it means to organise locally for languages, exploring the principles emerging for locally driven, inclusive and critically informed strategies for language.

10.30	Coffee and registration
11.00- 11.20	Event opening
11.20 – 1.00	Case study presentations covering Modern Languages, Heritage Languages, Vernacular Englishes, ESOL, with speakers confirmed so far: Anke Friedrich, Clare Allison, Jelena Čalić, Steven Fawkes, Andy Green, Ramona Gonczol, Yongcan Liu, Eszter Tarsoly, Becky Winstanley
1.00 – 1.45	Lunch and networking
1.45 – 2.30	Discussion of the morning presentations
2.30 – 3.30	Breakout group discussions: organisational issues and principles emerging from the presentations
3.30 – 3.45	Comfort break and room change
3.45 – 4.45	Panel discussion: Zaina Aljumma, Liz Black, Vicky Gough, Yaron Matras, Sophia Smith-Galer
4.45 – 5.00	Event closing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next steps

