



Welcome to this month's NMDC newsletter, a briefing on our activities and developments in the museum sector in the UK and beyond.

NMDC's members are the leaders of the UK's national collections and leading regional museums. Our members run museums, libraries and archives in over 100 sites around the UK.

[www.nationalmuseums.org.uk](http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk)

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## New Member of NMDC Team

NMDC is pleased to announce that Katie Turner will be joining the NMDC Secretariat team this month as our Administrative Assistant. Katie will be working Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the NMDC office providing administrative support for all NMDC projects, campaigns and committees. She is also currently studying for an MA in Modern History at the University of London. Katie starts on 9 June.

As part of a review of NMDC staffing, the two existing NMDC staff members have new job titles to reflect their areas of responsibility:

Kate Bellamy - Head of Strategy and Communications  
Suzie Tucker - Projects and Committees Officer

## Directors in the News Sandy Nairne

Sandy Nairne has written a comment piece for *The Guardian* on the relationship between art and sport, the subject of a Museums and Galleries Month debate at the National Portrait Gallery on 15 May. [www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/may/15/olympics2012](http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/may/15/olympics2012)

A summary of each of the Museums and Galleries Month debates can be found at: [www.mgm.org.uk/press/ART57743.html](http://www.mgm.org.uk/press/ART57743.html)

## Lynne Brindley

Lynne Brindley, Chief Executive of the British Library, who was made a Dame of the British Empire in the New Year Honours, received the insignia of her award from HRH The Prince of Wales in an investiture ceremony held at Buckingham Palace on 16 May. [www.bl.uk/news/2008/pressrelease20080522.html](http://www.bl.uk/news/2008/pressrelease20080522.html)

## National Museum Jobs

NMDC's jobs website this month has details of over 35 vacancies in national museums around the UK, including:

- Head of Operations, Ulster Museum;
- Curator of Modern & Contemporary Industry, National Waterfront Museum, Swansea;
- Taxidermist, National Museums Scotland;
- Assistant Curators of Fine Art and Decorative Art, National Museums Liverpool;
- E-Learning Officers, Museum of London.

For details of these vacancies and many more visit [www.nationalmuseumjobs.org.uk](http://www.nationalmuseumjobs.org.uk)

## Forthcoming Meetings

### HR Forum

Fri 6th June, 11am-1pm, English Heritage

### Learning & Access Committee

Thurs 5th June, 1.30-3.30pm, National Army Museum

### Collections Management Working Group

Thurs 19 June, 2-30-4.30pm, Victoria & Albert Museum

### London 2012 Working Group

Fri 27 June, 10am-12noon, Museum of London

### NMDC Meeting

Fri 11 July, 11am, Victoria & Albert Museum

# Current Issues

## Find Your Talent - Ten Pilot Areas for Five Hours of Culture a Week

The ten pilot areas for the Government's £25m *Find Your Talent* programme have been announced. The programme aims to give young people the chance to encounter a range of high-quality cultural experiences for five hours a week, both in and outside of school. The lead organisations chosen as pilots are:

- Bolton Borough Council;
- The Creative Foundation (serving Shepway District and including Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh);
- Customs House (North and South Tyneside);
- Hampshire County Council;
- Leeds Children's Services;
- Leicestershire County Council;
- 'Liverpool City Region' Partnership (serving three Merseyside neighbourhoods);
- North Somerset;
- Telford and Wrekin Council; and
- Tower Hamlets.

The pilots will be starting this Autumn and will trial different ways of offering young people a range of cultural experiences. Different approaches will be used, based on partnerships between schools, local authorities and arts organisations. Creative practitioners will go into schools, and children will have the chance to gain experience outside the classroom.

NMDC members are involved in many of the pilots. The pilot in Liverpool is led by National Museums Liverpool and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, and has been developed in partnership with the leading arts institutions in the city including Tate Liverpool. The Tower Hamlets pilot will be working with the V&A Museum of Childhood and the British Museum among others. Hampshire County Council's programme will include visits to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, home of the Royal Naval Museum, and the Royal Armouries is supporting the Leeds pilot.

*Find Your Talent* is funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Arts Council England, via Creative Partnerships, is responsible for the day to day management of the programme. NMDC is working with the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), which is representing the museums sector in the group of national stakeholders which advises on the programme.

The next step is for each pilot to submit and develop detailed business plans. As part of this process they will be encouraged to draw in other partners, including national museums.

[www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/media\\_releases/5149.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/5149.aspx)

## Lightbox Wins Art Fund Prize

The Art Fund Prize for museums and galleries 2008 has been won by The Lightbox, Woking, Surrey. The Lightbox, which opened in September 2007, has two gallery spaces hosting an ambitious programme of exhibitions which change monthly and include contemporary art by local and nationally famous artists, and loans from major museums and galleries in the UK and overseas. It is also home to Woking's Story, a permanent display which explores the town's history from the 19th century to the present day. Sue MacGregor, Chair of the judging panel described The Lightbox as "novel, brave and full of delights." Among the options The Lightbox is considering for using its £100,000 prize are an art commission and a semi-permanent structure for their canal-side courtyard, extending their exhibition and event space. [www.artfundprize.org.uk/2008/winner.php](http://www.artfundprize.org.uk/2008/winner.php)

## Munira Mirza Appointed as Mayor's Cultural Advisor

Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, has appointed Munira Mirza as his new Director of Policy, Arts, Culture and the Creative Industries. Munira Mirza writes, lectures and broadcasts on issues related to culture, race and identity and is currently on a Cultural Leadership Placement at Tate, developing its training and volunteering strategy.

Ms Mirza previously sat on the Conservative Party's independent taskforce on the arts, chaired by Sir John Tusa, and edited a collection of essays for the think tank Policy Exchange entitled *Culture Vultures: Is UK arts policy damaging the arts?*

[www.london.gov.uk/view\\_press\\_release.jsp?releaseid=16894](http://www.london.gov.uk/view_press_release.jsp?releaseid=16894)

An interview with Munira Mirza was published in [The Evening Standard, 14 May 2008](#).

## Stories of the World Cultural Olympiad Project

Dame Liz Forgan has been appointed as Chair of the Project Board for *Stories of the World*, one of the ten Major Projects for the UK's Cultural Olympiad. The project, led by the MLA in partnership with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), aims to use the collections in the UK's museum, archive and libraries to tell stories of the world and its people, and about the past, present and future relationship between the UK and the world. The programme aims to engage with young people, diverse communities and disabled people to help reinterpret existing collections and develop exhibitions and online resources which will showcase them in exciting and unexpected ways and venues.

Four organisations will begin a key campaign of consultation with young people over the summer: the Horniman Museum, Sheffield Museums and Galleries, Plymouth Museum and Record Office and the Burrell Collection, working with the National Youth Agency. The Project Board will use this work to develop the criteria for selecting which museums, libraries and archives will be project partners. The recruitment for this will run from September to December, with a formal programme launch early in 2009.

[www.mla.gov.uk/news/press\\_releases/LizForgan](http://www.mla.gov.uk/news/press_releases/LizForgan)

## Engaging Places - Bringing the Curriculum to Life

England's major heritage, architecture and built environment organisations, led by English Heritage and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), have joined forces to trial and develop practical support to schools so that children and young people have more opportunities to understand why buildings and places matter.

The *Engaging Places* programme is designed to offer teachers accessible, curriculum-linked ways to unlock the educational potential of their built surroundings. Support available to schools from autumn 2008 includes: an online national database of heritage/built environment curriculum resources, developed by Culture 24; and a co-development network for schools and educators providing practical local support and resources supporting the new curriculum.

The programme will be taken forward by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and English Heritage over the next three years and is funded by DCMS as well as these two lead partners.

[www.culture.gov.uk/3225.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/3225.aspx)

## Nominations for 'Nobel Prize of the Charity World'

The Beacon Fellowship Charitable Trust is seeking nominations for the 2008 Beacon Prize. The Trust is urging people throughout the UK to nominate individuals who have made a significant charitable contribution in giving time, money or skills to a specific cause. Categories for nomination include Leadership, Community Builder, Creative Giving, New Initiatives and Young Philanthropist, and there are additional regional prizes for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The winners will receive £30,000 to donate to the charity of their choice.

The Beacon Fellowship is a charitable organisation set up to encourage individual contributions to charitable and social causes and to celebrate and showcase best practice in giving. The Office of the Third Sector, part of the Cabinet Office, is one of the principal partners. The Beacon Prize has been described by the Prime Minister as 'the Nobel Prize of the charity world'. Nominations close on 1 July 2008.

[www.beaconfellowship.org.uk/press\\_releases.asp?rel=1135](http://www.beaconfellowship.org.uk/press_releases.asp?rel=1135)

## Stronger Protection for World Heritage Sites

The Department for Communities and Local Government has proposed inclusion of the 17 World Heritage Sites in England in national planning protection. This would extend the protection already given to conservation areas, national parks and areas of outstanding beauty to the World Heritage Sites, including Maritime Greenwich and Liverpool docks. Over half England's World Heritage Sites are not in previously protected conservation areas. The changes would prevent minor development occurring without specific planning permissions. The closing date for the consultation is 22 August.

[www.communities.gov.uk/news/planningandbuilding/821684](http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/planningandbuilding/821684)

## Register of Historic Environment at Risk

English Heritage is creating the first all-encompassing register of England's neglected or decaying historic treasures. The *Heritage at Risk* project, to be launched on 8 July, is based on English Heritage's Buildings at Risk Register for Grade 1 and Grade II\* listed buildings, and extends this to Grade II listed buildings, scheduled monuments, archaeology, battlefields and designated maritime wrecks.

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/server.php?show=ConWebDoc.13844](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server.php?show=ConWebDoc.13844)

## Historic Battlefields Consultation

Historic Scotland has launched a consultation on the Scottish Historic Environment Policy on Battlefields. One of the proposals is the compilation of an Inventory of Historic Battlefields considered to be of national importance.

[www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/about/consultations/currentconsultations.htm](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/about/consultations/currentconsultations.htm)

## Protection of Exhibits on Loan from Abroad for Public Exhibitions

Last month we reported that the Government had published regulations relating to the Courts, Tribunals and Enforcement Act 2007, providing protection for objects that are lent from abroad for temporary public exhibitions in the UK from court orders for seizure or forfeiture. A summary of the requirements of the legislation can now be found online at: [www.culture.gov.uk/what we do/Cultural property/CP Protection of exhibits on loan.htm](http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/Cultural_property/CP_Protection_of_exhibits_on_loan.htm)

## UNESCO International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition - 23 August

Last December the Government confirmed that 23 August - *UNESCO International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition* - will be adopted as the focal date for national commemorations in the years to come. On 16 June, Communities Minister, Parmjit Dhanda and Culture Minister, Margaret Hodge, will be co-chairing a meeting with the port cities and national organisations to discuss arrangements for the national commemoration of 23 August this year and to co-ordinate information on key events to encourage wide participation from all groups across the country. For further details please email [matthew.west@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.west@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

## DCMS Annual Report

DCMS has published its annual report, describing its achievements over the past year. Part 2 includes a summary of progress on key performance targets agreed in the 2004 Spending Review. The targets for increasing participation in culture and sport by young people and priority groups have not yet been met. Part 3 has financial information on DCMS and its sponsored bodies, including a breakdown of expenditure by country and region. [www.culture.gov.uk/5123.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/5123.aspx)

DCMS has also published a directory of the 61 public bodies for which it is responsible. The directory includes a brief summary of the functions of each body, details of Chairs and Chief Executives, and a summary of government funding and total expenditure. [www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/publications/5125.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5125.aspx)

## Margaret Hodge

Margaret Hodge has updated her blog on the DCMS website, in which she describes recent visits to the National Portrait Gallery, National Archives and Imperial War Museum, as well as other cultural events.

<http://ministers.culture.gov.uk/margarethodgediary/>

## Creative Choices - Careers Portal

Creative and Cultural Skills (CCSkills), the Sector Skills Council has launched a new web portal, *Creative Choices*. *Creative Choices* is the first online service to provide the tools, knowledge and networks to support individuals and businesses to get in, and get on, in the creative industries and cultural sector. *Creative Choices* was funded by a £2.5 million grant from the Treasury in 2006, part of a 5-year £22 million Cultural Leadership Programme (2006-2011), jointly delivered by the Arts Council England, Creative & Cultural Skills and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. The BETA version was launched on 22nd April and the full industry launch will be in September. [www.creative-choices.co.uk](http://www.creative-choices.co.uk)

## Cultural Workplace Survey

The Cultural Leadership Programme is inviting participation in an online survey to investigate leadership in the creative and cultural sectors, career paths and training. To take part go to: [www.culturalworkplacesurvey.org.uk/](http://www.culturalworkplacesurvey.org.uk/)

## MLA Corporate Plan

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council has published its Corporate Plan setting out its aspirations for the sector and giving an overview of the substantial change programme to create the 'new MLA'. MLA has identified three strategic themes: learning and skills; communities; and excellence. During 2008/9, MLA will significantly reduce staff numbers and take the first step towards their target of transferring two-thirds of their operations to Birmingham. In the autumn, there will be a review of the governance of the MLA Council to ensure that it meets the changing needs of the organisation. [www.mla.gov.uk/resources/assets//C/corporate plan 2008 13176.pdf](http://www.mla.gov.uk/resources/assets//C/corporate_plan_2008_13176.pdf)

## Museums at Night

Museums across Europe stayed open late on Saturday 17 May as part of the *Museums at Night* celebrations. In the UK, the Late Show in Newcastle led the field in terms of scope and participation - an estimated 11,000 took part in the city-wide celebrations. The French Ministry of Culture reported that nearly 1.5m visitors participated in the *Nuit de Musées* in France on 17 May. A total of 2200 museums across Europe participated in the event.

The next *Nuit de Musées* will be Saturday 16 May 2009. [www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/actualites/communiq/alban/el/bilandm08.htm](http://www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/actualites/communiq/alban/el/bilandm08.htm)

A summary of events in the UK can be found on the Museums & Galleries Month website at: [www.mgm.org.uk/press/ART57334.html](http://www.mgm.org.uk/press/ART57334.html)

## Microsoft Curtails Book Digitisation Initiatives

Microsoft has announced that it is ending the *Live Search Books* and *Live Search Academic* projects, and winding down their digitisation initiatives, including library scanning. Microsoft also confirmed that they are removing their contractual restrictions placed on the digitised library content and making the scanning equipment available to their digitisation partners and libraries to continue digitisation programmes.

In partnership with Microsoft, The British Library has digitised 40,000 out-of-copyright 19th century items from its collections. Approximately 75,000 pages are being scanned daily by the digitisation studios at the British Library. A further 40,000 out-of-copyright books will be scanned, as agreed in the Library's contract with Microsoft. The British Library's intention is that the material will be made available on the Library's catalogue after the completion of a pilot, which is currently providing access from the St Pancras Reading Rooms to over 1,100 books.

[www.bl.uk/news/2008/pressrelease20080528.html](http://www.bl.uk/news/2008/pressrelease20080528.html)

## Who Do We Think We Are? 23-28 June

*Who Do We Think We Are* (WDWTWA) is a new initiative funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, designed to help primary and secondary pupils explore identity, diversity and citizenship at local, national and global scales. WDWTWA supports lessons in citizenship, geography, history and religious education, as well as the wider curriculum. WDWTWA will culminate in a week-long series of events and activities in this month exploring four themes: school and community; relationships, belonging and faith; history and settlement; and 'Britishness', national identity/values and the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. To get involved visit:

[www.wdwtwa.org.uk](http://www.wdwtwa.org.uk)

## Crime Cash to Fund Culture Scheme

Scotland's Culture Minister, Linda Fabiani, and Justice Secretary, Kenny MacAskill, have announced that £600,000 seized from convicted criminals will go to the *Cash Back for Communities Arts and Business Match Fund* to support increased cultural activities for vulnerable youngsters. The project, a partnership with Arts and Business Scotland, is the first culture scheme supported by the Proceeds of Crime Act.

[www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/05/14143627](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/05/14143627)

## Culture, Media and Sport Grant Making

The National Audit Office has published *Making Grants Efficiently in the Culture, Media and Sport Sector*, a value for money report on the administration of grants by four DCMS-sponsored bodies. Nine principal grant-making bodies, sponsored by DCMS, make awards of around £1.8bn a year, and the cost of administering these grants, and of related activities is approximately £200m. The report, which focuses on the Big Lottery Fund, English Heritage, Arts Council England and Sport England, concludes that there is scope for grant making bodies to learn from each other to increase cost-efficiency.

[www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao\\_reports/07-08/0708339es.pdf](http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/07-08/0708339es.pdf)

## Peer Review and Self-Assessment for Arts Organisations

In an interview with *The Guardian*, Alan Davey, Chief Executive of Arts Council England has described plans for a new performance measurement system for arts organisations based on self-assessment and peer review. The changes were recommended by the McMasters Review. The Arts Council will be consulting on the changes shortly.

<http://arts.guardian.co.uk/art/news/story/0,,2279595,00.html>

## Trustee Appointments

The Prime Minister has made the following appointments:

- **Professor David Drewry** and **Dr Derek Langslow** to the board of the **Natural History Museum**. Professor Drewry is Vice-Chancellor of Hull University and published extensively on earth sciences and climate change. Dr Langslow was previously Chief Executive of English Nature and has worked as a research scientist and lecture and Cambridge and Edinburgh Universities.
- Sir John Ritblat reappointed as a Trustee of the Wallace Collection for a further 3 years. Sir John is also the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

The Board of the Natural History Museum has also co-opted Professor Sir Roy Anderson to serve a 4 year term. He is currently Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at Imperial College, and will be Rector of Imperial College from July 2008. [www.nhm.ac.uk](http://www.nhm.ac.uk)

## Public Procurement Rules

The legal firm, Farrer & Co, have published a briefing note on the consequences of breaching EU public procurement rules, following two recent legal decisions. These decisions underline the importance of getting the bidding and evaluation process right from the outset. [www.farrer.co.uk/Default.aspx?sID=17&clD=1017&ctlD=11](http://www.farrer.co.uk/Default.aspx?sID=17&clD=1017&ctlD=11)

## Collections Trust to Deliver Digital Services to the Cultural Sector

The Collections Trust has taken responsibility for DiSCS-UK, an online service providing support to culture-sector practitioners when planning, commissioning and procuring digital services. DiSCS-UK was developed by Museums, Libraries and Archives North East with EU funding. The service emphasises the importance of cultural organisations working in partnership with technology providers to deliver world-class services for their users. It includes an interactive Supplier Selector toolkit, and a unique training and assessment programme for technology providers wishing to work with cultural collections. [www.discs-uk.info](http://www.discs-uk.info)

## A New Standard for Collections Management

The Collections Trust and BSI British Standards have entered into partnership to create a new Publicly Available Specification (PAS) for the management of cultural collections. Due for launch in September 2008, the new standard will provide a sector-wide definition of Collections Management to inform the next generation of products and services to practitioners. [www.bsigroup.com/PAS197](http://www.bsigroup.com/PAS197)

## Heritage and Cultural Tourism Business Forum

VisitBritain is holding a Business Forum at the RSA in London on 8th July to help organisations promote themselves and develop imaginative packages and services for the growing heritage and cultural tourism markets. The Forum will include practical workshops, and the opportunity to find out about the latest market research, and will explain how VisitBritain is marketing this sector now and in the coming years. For more information and to book a place go to [www.tourismnetwork.org/visitbritain.htm](http://www.tourismnetwork.org/visitbritain.htm)

## New Role for Chris Smith

Lord Smith of Finsbury, formerly Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, and Director of the Clore Leadership Programme, has been appointed as the new Chair of the Environment Agency. [www.defra.gov.uk/news/2008/080508d.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2008/080508d.htm)

## In Parliament

### Protection of Cultural Property in Armed Conflict

The Heritage Protection Bill has been included in *Preparing Britain for the Future*, the draft legislative programme for 2008/9 set out by the Prime Minister last month. The Heritage Protection Bill will now include measures that previously appeared in the Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill. The Bill would implement the Hague Convention, introducing a legal regime to protect cultural property in the event of armed conflict, including making it an offence to attack designated cultural property. [www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm73/7372/7372.pdf](http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm73/7372/7372.pdf)

### Welsh Assembly Oral Questions

In the Welsh Assembly on 30 April, Culture Minister, Rhodri Glyn Thomas answered questions about cultural organisations directly funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and drew attention to the Sharing Treasures scheme which facilitates collection loans throughout Wales. He also faced questions about his priorities with regard to promoting cultural life in communities. [www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=83578&ds=5/2008#a2](http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=83578&ds=5/2008#a2)

## International Issues

### Government Funding for Pushkin Redevelopment

The Russian government has agreed to allocate 4.2bn rubles (£90m) to restore the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow. According to Russian news agency, RIA Novosti, Dmitry Medvedev made the announcement two days before becoming Russian President at a meeting of the museum's board of which he was then Chair. The museum will be turned into a major complex with two exhibition centres, a library, a modern 600-seat concert hall, offices and underground parking lot all linked by underground passages to accommodate cafes and souvenir stores. Its total area is planned to increase fourfold. The museum is due to close next year and reopen in 2012 in time to celebrate its centenary. <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20080505/106632241.html>

## Dubai Universal Museum Project

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Prime Minister and Vice President of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has announced the launch of the *Universal Museum* project, intended to bring together leading collections by globally-recognized museums in Dubai. The Dubai Culture and Arts Authority (DCAA) will work with leading global architects, other universal museums and leading international museum partners as well as local developers to design and build the *Universal Museum* in Dubai. Partners will be invited to participate from among the world's most prominent institutions.

Three German Museums: the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin (National Museums in Berlin, SMB); Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden (Dresden State Art Collections, SKD); and the Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen (Bavarian State Painting Collections, BSTGS) in Munich, have announced that they are will be establishing a physical presence at the *Universal Museum*. The partnership will be based in a temporary pavilion, to be designed by Rem Koolhaas, a venue for exhibition and performing arts. The partnership will produce a series of alternating exhibitions, scholarly projects and education programmes. The three German museums will also be involved in the conceptual development of a more traditional museum complex in Dubai.

[www.smb.museum/smb/news/details.php?lang=en&objID=19909&typeID=12](http://www.smb.museum/smb/news/details.php?lang=en&objID=19909&typeID=12)

## New Downtown Building for Whitney Museum

The Whitney Museum of American Art has unveiled detailed plans to create second site in New York, with the construction of a new building designed by Renzo Piano in the Meatpacking District of Manhattan. The six-floor, 185,000 sq ft building will include approximately 50,000 sq ft of galleries (the galleries at the Whitney's Madison Avenue building are 32,000 sq ft in total). Approximately 15,000 sq ft of rooftop galleries at various levels of the building will provide space for outdoor exhibitions. The Whitney has launched a \$680m fundraising campaign to pay for the new building and bolster the Museum's endowment. Construction is expected to begin in Spring 2009, with the building opening in late 2012.

[www.whitney.org/www/information/press/dbp501.pdf](http://www.whitney.org/www/information/press/dbp501.pdf)

## Getty Cuts Jobs to Increase Arts Budget

The J Paul Getty Trust is implementing plans to cut administration costs to provide a 25% increase in funding for the Getty's core art programmes. A spokesperson told the *Los Angeles Times* that the Trust plans to cut 114 jobs and some programmes to focus on the core mission of the visual arts. 63% of the savings will come from operational activities such as maintenance, security and IT. Most of the personnel reductions have been through freezing positions and not filling vacancies. Fewer than 40 people have been laid off. Positions most effected are staff assistants, maintenance, communications and management, not curators. Chief Executive, James Wood said, "This is to ensure that we have flexible funds to devote to both building our collections in the museum, the research institute and the library and undertake targeted strategic initiatives where we feel we can really make a difference."

[www.latimes.com/entertainment/news/arts/la-et-getty14-2008may14,0,384165.story](http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/news/arts/la-et-getty14-2008may14,0,384165.story)

## Munch Paintings Return to Public Display

Munch's paintings *Scream* and *Madonna* have gone back on display at the Munch Museum, Oslo, nearly four years after they were stolen. The paintings are displayed with an exhibition documenting the conservation of the paintings, which had suffered serious damage when they were recovered in August 2006. New evaluation of the *Scream* has led to a new dating of the painting: the Museum now estimates that it was created in 1910, rather than 1893. [www.munch.museum.no/exhibitions.aspx?id=142](http://www.munch.museum.no/exhibitions.aspx?id=142)

## EU Work Plan for Culture 2008-2010

EU Culture Ministers agreed the *Work Plan for Culture 2008-2010* at a meeting of the Education, Youth and Culture Council in Brussels on 21-22 May. This includes further work on mobility of collections and on the mobility of cultural workers, a study on the contribution of culture to creativity, policies aimed at promoting synergies between culture and education and the launch of the prototype for the European digital library - a multilingual access point to the collections of Europe's museums, libraries and archives.

[www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/educ/100547.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/educ/100547.pdf)

## CultureWatchEurope

At its Plenary Session on 5-6 May 2008, the Steering Committee for Culture approved the Council of Europe's cultural governance observatory function: *CultureWatchEurope* (working title). This will be an information and exchange platform for culture and cultural and natural heritage. It will consolidate and link a number of existing services and tools which, together, will provide a systematic means to monitor developments, recognise trends, and practise exchange. *CultureWatchEurope* will become operational in the second half of 2008.

[www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/policies/cwe/default\\_EN.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/policies/cwe/default_EN.asp)

# National Museums' News Round Up

## Museum and Heritage Awards for Excellence

Several NMDC members were winners of the Museum and Heritage Awards for Excellence announced on 8 May.

- Temporary or Touring Exhibition: British Museum's *The First Emperor: China's Terracotta Army*, with the National Army Museum's *Helmand: The Soldiers' Story* highly commended.
- International Award: National Museums Liverpool, *Make the Link, Break the Chain*.
- Education Initiative: Museum of London's HLF Social Inclusion programme.
- Marketing Campaign: National Galleries of Scotland, *Andy Warhol*, with Museum of London and National Portrait Gallery both highly commended.
- Museums & Heritage Magazine Readers' Award: V&A Museum of Childhood.
- Launchpad at the Science Museum was highly commended in the Classic Award category, which was won by Manx National Heritage's *The Story of Mann*.

[www.museumsandheritage.com/?location\\_id=16](http://www.museumsandheritage.com/?location_id=16)

**Tate Liverpool**, in partnership with the Creative & Cultural Skills Council (CCSkills) and the Liverpool Arts & Regeneration Consortium, including **National Museums Liverpool**, have launched Creative Apprenticeships Liverpool. This is part of the national Creative Apprenticeships scheme for 16-24 year olds devised by CCSkills. In September, ten young people from Merseyside will become the first Creative Apprentices in the region receiving paid, on-the-job training while working inside some of Liverpool's most successful arts organisations. The programme is funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and other partners.

[www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2008/15256.htm](http://www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2008/15256.htm)

The **National Galleries of Scotland** has won three of the prestigious Roses Advertising Awards for their *Campbells Soup Can Columns* installation at the Royal Scottish Academy Building during the exhibition *Andy Warhol: A Celebration of Life and Death*. The installation won two Gold awards in the Best Unusual Size or Special Build and Best Ambient Media/Stunt categories, and also collected the coveted Grand Prix prize. It is the first time in the history of the awards that the Grand Prix has been won by an in-house team.

[www.nationalgalleries.org/aboutus/news/1:171/](http://www.nationalgalleries.org/aboutus/news/1:171/)

**Museum of London** archaeologists are working on the site of the London 2012 VeloPark. The area is being investigated because it is the site of a Knights Templar water mill built between 1185 and 1278. A cobbled street thought to be over 150 years old has been uncovered, and archaeologists will dig up the cobbles so they can be reused by parkland designers elsewhere in the Olympic Park.

[www.london2012.com/news/archive/2008-05/victorian-cobbled-street-discovered-on-olympic-park.php](http://www.london2012.com/news/archive/2008-05/victorian-cobbled-street-discovered-on-olympic-park.php)

**The National Gallery** has announced a major new three-year partnership with Credit Suisse, the first of its kind for the Gallery. Credit Suisse will sponsor a landmark Sainsbury Wing exhibition each year for the next three years. The bank will also sponsor the Gallery's late-night opening programme, which is attended by over 170,000 visitors per annum. The National Gallery will work with Credit Suisse to provide special educational projects for schools and community organisations already supported by the bank.

[www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about/press/2008/creditsuisse.htm](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about/press/2008/creditsuisse.htm)

**Tyne and Wear Museums** have launched a new podcast. *CultureCast* is an audio arts magazine with features on exhibitions, interviews with artists, insights behind the scenes at the museums and a guide to what's on across all twelve of Tyne & Wear Museums' venues. [www.twmuseums.org.uk/podcasts/](http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/podcasts/)

**The Laing Art Gallery** is hosting a speed dating event on 19 June, giving guests the chance to view their current exhibition *Love*. *Love* is a National Gallery touring exhibition looking at artists' depiction of love over the centuries. Visitors to the Laing Art Gallery are also being invited to contribute to a new artwork by Yoko Ono, by adding a photograph of someone they love or a message to a loved one to a canvas.

[www.twmuseums.org.uk/news/index.php](http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/news/index.php)



**The Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology** has opened refurbished galleries on its second floor, housing a redisplay of the museum's collection of 19th-century Western Art. The renovation of the Western Art galleries is a phased process and will be completed in time for the opening of the Ashmolean's new building in Autumn 2009. The next phase of the work involves a number of first-floor galleries, including a new cross-cultural look for the 18th-century collection. [www.ashmolean.org/news/news/index.php?id=77](http://www.ashmolean.org/news/news/index.php?id=77)

The Arts and Humanities Research Council is funding research comparing the **National Library of Scotland's** collection of 19th-century correspondence with the content of family blogs and social-networking websites. [www.nls.uk/news/index.html](http://www.nls.uk/news/index.html)

The **British Library** has announced an agreement with publishers John Wiley & Sons, Taylor & Francis Group and Future Science Group to make a further 1,500 journals available for immediate download. Over 7,000 journal titles are now available at <http://direct.bl.uk>

**Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum** was Scotland's busiest visitor attraction last year, with 2.23m visitors. The **Gallery of Modern Art** in Glasgow had its busiest ever year with nearly 600,000 visits in the year to 31 March 2008. [www.glasgowmuseums.com/news.cfm](http://www.glasgowmuseums.com/news.cfm)

**The National Archives** has released the findings of their investigation into 29 forged documents, which were found to have been inserted into 12 files relating to the Second World War, between 2000-2005. [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/stories/195.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/stories/195.htm)

The **Royal Navy Submarine Museum** now has a page on the social-networking site *Facebook*. It lists current exhibitions and events, and gives users the chance to interact with the museum by providing feedback and commenting on photographs and objects in the collection. [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=39503735295](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=39503735295)

**St Fagans: National History Museum**, part of National Museum Wales, has decided to offer two apprenticeships in carpentry and masonry in order to ensure the continuation of traditional skills in Wales. The Museum's Senior Carpenter, Ray Smith, is retiring soon. The Museum is working with ConstructionSkills to recruit the new members of staff. [www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/news/?article\\_id=431](http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/news/?article_id=431)

The **Royal Air Force Museum** has hosted the launch of a Haynes Owners' Manual for the Lancaster bomber. The Haynes team followed the restoration of a Lancaster as it underwent deep servicing. [www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london/news/index.cfm](http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london/news/index.cfm)

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If you have any comments on the NMDC Newsletter or would like to contribute to a future edition, please email the Editor, Emily Candler, at [news@nationalmuseums.org.uk](mailto:news@nationalmuseums.org.uk)