



Arts Council England
Corporate Plan
2015-18



Artform appendices:
Museums

Our museums are some of the best in the world, with their extraordinarily rich and varied collections that are our shared inheritance and accessible to all. They have a strong engagement with audiences and communities, and in particular with children and young people.

However, museums also have a high fixed-cost base and many are dependent upon local authorities for support. Over the next three years, key priorities will be ensuring that museums are central in conversations with local authorities, that their collections are valued and celebrated, and that they are animated through close partnerships with the arts. Underpinning this will be core national support around museum standards, development and collections.

Goal 1: Excellence is thriving and celebrated in the arts, museums and libraries

We will:

- support Major partner museums, national museums and Museum development services to be leaders and enablers of the wider museum sector
- use our investment and convening power to develop wide-ranging partnerships between museums and higher education institutions
- cultivate a symbiotic relationship between museums and the wider arts' sector

- conclude a successful pilot for the Designation scheme and re-launch the programme in spring 2015
- use the cultural property functions to enable exceptional collections to enter public ownership

Goal 2: Everyone has the opportunity to experience and be inspired by the arts, museums and libraries

We will:

- enable touring and lending between national and regional museums through the Museum resilience fund and other strategic funds
- deliver the Government indemnity scheme to enable a wide range of exhibitions and loans activity in venues across the country that would not otherwise be possible

Goal 3: The arts, museums and libraries are resilient and environmentally sustainable

We will:

- support museums to develop strategic approaches in areas that contribute to their resilience such as commercial, workforce development and advocacy

- renew our commitment to accreditation and invest in its development
- work closely with other sector funding bodies and membership organisations, coordinating our approach to resilience, including workforce development and advocacy
- manage improved and aligned data capture and analysis to support museum development and effective advocacy
- agree a sector protocol for collections at risk, for example through financially motivated disposal

Goal 4: The leadership and the workforce in the arts, museums and libraries are diverse and appropriately skilled

We will:

- work with Major partner museums and national museums to facilitate support networks and partnerships, including subject-specialist networks
- encourage the development of a more diverse museums workforce
- develop an enterprising leadership for museums through Major partner museums and Museum resilience fund investment

Goal 5: Every child and young person has the opportunity to experience the richness of the arts, museums and libraries

We will:

- continue the Museums and schools programme, as well as develop sustainable models for working with children and young people
- pilot the role of museums as Bridge organisations in the North East
- launch a refreshed Arts Award programme for museums