

For immediate release

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Horniman Museum and Gardens announces Climate and Ecology Manifesto

The Horniman Museum and Gardens in south London has today (Thursday 30 January) announced its Climate and Ecology Manifesto, outlining its platform for action and the steps it will take to mitigate against the climate and ecological emergency, and to help shape a positive future for generations to come.

The Horniman's pledges include:

- an ambitious *Nature and Love* project to redisplay its natural history and living collections to highlight climate and ecological issues to a wider audience
- reducing pollution, including the intention to be Greenhouse Gas neutral by 2040
- creating an Environmental Champions Club to inspire and support visitors to make their own changes
- appointing a Climate and Ecological Action Coordinator, a new role dedicated to making the changes happen.

A major element of the Manifesto is the *Nature and Love* project to use the Horniman's collections and outdoor spaces to engage visitors with climate and ecological issues. This will include a redisplay of the Natural History Gallery and Aquarium, as well as creating outdoor zones to encourage nature exploration, highlight sustainable gardening and open up access to the historic Nature Trail.

The announcement of the Manifesto follows the Horniman's declaration of a Climate and Ecological emergency in July last year. The planned actions build on existing work including replacing bottled water and plastic takeaway packaging in the Horniman Café with lower environmental impact products, and raising public awareness through events and exhibition such as the Beat Plastic Pollution pop-up display in the Aquarium, which was shortlisted for the Museums Change Lives Awards in 2019.

Nick Merriman, Chief Executive of the Horniman Museum and Gardens, says: 'We believe the Horniman has a moral and ethical imperative to act now. As a much-loved and trusted institution and the only museum in London in which nature and culture can be viewed together, we feel we have a unique opportunity and responsibility to use our collections, our indoor and outdoor spaces, and our relationship with our visitors, to create a movement for positive environmental change.'

More

The creation of the Environmental Champions Club will be supported by the Horniman's membership of the 2020 Julie's Bicycle Accelerator programme, launched last week (23 January), which aims to advance the sustainable practice of its members.

Plans for the Horniman's *Nature and Love* project will form the basis of a major funding bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund later this year.

Ends

A copy of the Horniman Museum and Gardens Climate and Ecology Manifesto is attached. It can also be viewed online at horniman.ac.uk.

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Notes to Editors:

- **Julie's Bicycle Accelerator Programme** is a strand of work within the Arts Council England Environmental Programme, delivered by Julie's Bicycle, looking at advancing the sustainable practice of a cohort of organisations and consortia through training, mentoring and peer support. It provides the space, resources, time and expertise to support organisations in developing innovative approaches to their environmental practice. The insights and learning from the programme will be circulated with the wider cultural sector, forming a critical part of a roadmap for a shared vision for change. www.juliesbicycle.com
- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to 'bring the world to Forest Hill'. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history, music and an acclaimed aquarium. A new World Gallery of anthropology opened in June 2018 and a new arts space, The Studio, opened in October 2018. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London. horniman.ac.uk
- The Horniman Museum and Gardens is core-funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725. The Horniman Museum and Gardens also receives funding from Arts Council England as one of its National Portfolio Organisations.
- On 29 July 2019 the **Horniman Museum and Gardens declared an ecological and climate emergency**, pledging to place carbon reduction and environmental issues at the heart of its work. The declaration is both a consolidation of existing work and a commitment to renewed ambitions to reduce the Horniman's environmental and pollution footprint, increase biodiversity, and inspire others to do so. Find out more about the Horniman's specific commitments as part of the declaration at horniman.ac.uk.
- **Opening times and admission.** The Horniman Museum is open daily 10am-5.30pm, except 24 - 26 December, when it is closed. The Gardens open at 7.15am Monday to Saturday and 8am on Sunday and Bank Holidays, and close at sunset. Entry to the Museum and Gardens is free but charges apply for the Aquarium, Butterfly House and some special exhibitions and events. Horniman Members and Benefactors go free – horniman.ac.uk/members.
- **Access.** The Museum and the Gardens are both wheelchair and pushchair friendly with accessible toilets. Limited on-site parking is available for Blue Badge holders. horniman.ac.uk/visit/disability-and-access.
- **Travel.** The Horniman is situated at 100 London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ on the South Circular Road (A205). It can be reached easily by train to Forest Hill station (London Overground/Southern, travel time approx.15-20 minutes from east/central London or East Croydon) and by local buses (176, 185, 197, 356, P4).