

For immediate release

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**Horniman Museum and Gardens is awarded a £475,000 grant by
The National Lottery Heritage Fund to develop its Nature + Love project**

The Horniman Museum and Gardens in Forest Hill, south London, has received initial support* from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to develop its plans for its **Nature + Love** project, it was announced today (20 January 2022).

Made possible by National Lottery players, the **Nature + Love** proposals aim to make the Horniman more inclusive and accessible, and to place environmental sustainability and a commitment to fighting the climate emergency at its heart.

The **Nature + Love** project will enhance visitor experience and open up previously under-used areas by creating three exciting new attractions:

- a Nature Explorers Adventure Zone, introducing a nature-themed play area and children's café, encouraging learning and wellbeing through exploration and play
- a Sustainable Gardening Zone with new plant nursery and sustainable planting displays encouraging improved health and wellbeing
- a redisplayed Natural History Gallery and indoor Nature Explorers Action Zone, exploring human understanding of and impact upon the planet, and supporting people to make changes on a local and personal level.

These will be complemented by a range of nature-focused partnerships and activities to diversify the Horniman's audiences.

Nick Merriman, Chief Executive and Content Director of the Horniman says: 'A love of nature and time spent in natural environments is a value we all share, and which has gained significance through the pandemic. As London's only museum of global nature and culture, the Horniman is in a unique position to engage a wider range of people with heritage and the natural world, and we're incredibly grateful to The National Lottery Heritage Fund for recognising the compelling urgency of our **Nature + Love** project.'

More

'We're especially delighted to be able to announce this new funding as we mark the two-year anniversary of our Climate Manifesto, since **Nature + Love** is a key part of our plans to mitigate against the climate and ecological emergency, and to help shape a positive future for generations to come.'

The Horniman will now begin developing detailed plans to be submitted to The National Lottery Heritage Fund in 2023, with the aim of starting the **Nature + Love** redevelopment in 2024 and completing in early 2026.

Ends

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Pictured: Horniman Museum and Gardens, credit Sophia Spring

Notes to Editors:

- * **National Lottery Heritage Fund** grant applications over £250,000 are assessed in two rounds. Nature + Love has initially been granted round one development funding of £475,000 by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, allowing it to progress with its plans. Detailed proposals are then considered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund at second round, where a final decision is made on the full funding award. Using money raised by the National Lottery, we Inspire, lead and resource the UK's heritage to create positive and lasting change for people and communities, now and in the future. heritagefund.org.uk.
- Follow @HeritageFundUK on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund
- Since The National Lottery began in 1994, National Lottery players have raised over £43 billion for projects and more than 635,000 grants have been awarded across the UK.
- **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
- **Coronavirus impact: Every month the Horniman was closed cost around £150,000 in lost income** from ticket sales, memberships, the shop and café. In recent years, the Horniman has increasingly relied on this vital income to help care for the Gardens, animals and Aquarium residents, to run events and to look after the collections. The support of returning visitors, our supporters and their generous donations are more needed than ever. horniman.ac.uk/support-us/
- 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 – and the subsequent **Climate and Ecological Manifesto**, published in January 2020 – is 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 manifesto commitments and progress so far at horniman.ac.uk/climate.