

For immediate release

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Horniman is the best visitor attraction, say Lewisham residents

The Horniman Museum and Gardens in Forest Hill has won 'Best Visitor Attraction' in the Mayor of Lewisham Business Awards, voted for by Lewisham residents.

The accolade was awarded at a ceremony at Catford Library last night (9 November 2022), with Mayor Damien Egan presenting the award to Victoria Pinnington, one of the Horniman's directors.

The Mayor of Lewisham Business Awards are a yearly opportunity to celebrate fantastic local businesses and the outstanding contribution they make to the borough. The Awards received more than 2,000 nominations this year, and over 5,000 public votes were received for the shortlisted organisations across 14 categories.

The Horniman faced stiff competition to win Best Visitor Attraction – the other shortlisted attractions were Catford Mews, Fox and Firkin, Millwall Football Club and Community Trust, and The Migration Museum.

Victoria Pinnington, Director of Communications and Income Generation for the Horniman Museum and Gardens, says: 'We're delighted to be Lewisham's Best Visitor Attraction, made all the more special because it's voted for by the residents of our wonderful borough. Thank you to Mayor Damien Egan and his team for shining a spotlight on the rich cultural life of Lewisham, and thank you to everyone who voted for the Horniman.'

This award adds to a bumper year of accolades for the Horniman, including:

- Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022, in July
- two Green Flag Awards in September for its Gardens and Nature Trail
- and Best Heritage Garden of the Year 2022 in the London in Bloom Awards in October.

Ends

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Pictured: Victoria Pinnington (fifth from left) of the Horniman Museum and Gardens with Damien Egan (centre) and the other Mayor of Lewisham Business Award winners, credit London Borough of Lewisham.

Notes to Editors:

- [The Mayor of Lewisham Business Awards](#) are a yearly opportunity to celebrate our fantastic local businesses and the outstanding contribution they make to the borough. The Mayor of Lewisham Business awards received more than 2,000 nominations for this year's awards, showing just how important businesses are to the local community. The public vote ended on Friday 21 October.
- **Lewisham is the Mayor's London Borough of Culture 2022.** Introduced by the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan in 2017, the London Borough of Culture award is a competition that sees London's 32 boroughs bid for more than £1m of funding to stage a programme of cultural events and initiatives. The award brings Londoners together, putting culture at the heart of local communities and shining a light on the character and diversity of London's boroughs. wearelewisham.com
- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** has won [Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022](#), the world's largest museum prize.
- **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, alongside a World Gallery of anthropology and a flexible arts and exhibition space, The Studio. 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.
- 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.