

For immediate release

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Horniman awarded major grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for Nature + Love project

The Horniman Museum and Gardens has been awarded £5.7m by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, for its transformational Nature + Love project.

Nature + Love – which has at its heart an ambition to celebrate and foster a love of nature, both inside the Horniman and in the Gardens – will redevelop three areas of the south London venue, most notably the historic Natural History Gallery, home to the much-loved Horniman walrus.

In the Natural History Gallery, built in 1901, the fabric of the Grade II listed building will be upgraded to improve accessibility and to future proof the gallery environment for decades to come. The gallery displays will be redesigned to explore human understanding of and impact upon the planet. Adjacent to the gallery will be an Action Zone focused on local wildlife with interactive elements designed for families with young children.

The other Nature + Love locations are two currently under-used areas of the Gardens.

- In the Nature Explorers Adventure Zone, the disused model boating pond will be transformed into a natural play area, inspired by local wildlife and designed to encourage young children’s engagement with and love for nature. Step-free access to the Nature Trail will be introduced for the first time.
- In the Sustainable Gardening Zone, the under-used South Downs area of the Gardens will be transformed into a Winter Garden, with adjacent glasshouses housing a plant nursery and community facilities focused on sustainable gardening, health and wellbeing.

Nick Merriman, Chief Executive and Director of Content at the Horniman Museum and Gardens, says: ‘We want to thank the Heritage Fund for giving our Nature + Love project their approval. Without their support it would not be possible to bring our plans to reality.

Now, thanks to the Heritage Fund, we can look forward to creating three new and exciting destinations for our visitors, and to fostering the next generation's love and care for the natural world.'

The Nature + Love plans have been developed by architects Feilden Fowles working in collaboration with landscape architects J&L Gibbons and with the indoor gallery display being redesigned by exhibition designers Studio MB.

A key aspect of Nature + Love is the focus on environmental measures, in line with the Horniman's [Climate and Ecology Manifesto](#). The Nature Explorers Adventure Zone incorporates rain gardens, to manage rainfall run-off from the slope of the hill. The Sustainable Gardening Zone also features rain gardens, as well as a rainfall capture system which will use gravity to provide watering for plants around the 16.5-acre, Green Flag awarded Gardens. In the Natural History Gallery, the historic showcases will be refitted to better protect exhibits while retaining much of the look and feel of the iconic gallery.

The funding award was agreed at the Heritage Fund's June committee meeting. The Horniman previously received Stage 1 development funding of £475,000 from the Heritage Fund, to develop the Nature + Love plans ahead of making the Stage 2 bid.

Stuart McLeod, Director of England - London & South at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: 'We're thrilled that thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, we have been able to continue to support the Horniman with this once-in-a-generation project. The space will be transformed to inspire the next generation to engage and immerse themselves in learning about natural heritage and our climate. Heritage is a brilliant way to bring people together and projects like these are integral to connect more people with the nature and wildlife around them.'

The Horniman is approaching other funding bodies and inviting individual donors to support Nature + Love, which will cost just over £10m in total. It already has a pledge of £1.4m from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, a substantial grant of £250,000 from the Foyle Foundation and has raised £200,000 so far from Trustees and a number of generous individual donors.

Arts and Heritage Minister Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay said: 'The Horniman is one of our best-loved public museums thanks to its collection of fascinating treasures from around the world.'

'I am delighted that both the Government and The National Lottery Heritage Fund have been able to support this wonderful institution as it encourages children and adults alike to cherish and protect our natural world. I hope that this redevelopment will inspire and be enjoyed by generations to come.'

The Nature + Love redevelopments, which are subject to planning, are due to begin in 2024.

Ends

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Pictured: Horniman Clock Tower. Photographer: Andrew Lee

Notes to Editors:

- **About The National Lottery Heritage Fund.** 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 £46 billion for projects and more than 670,000 grants have been awarded across the UK - the equivalent of more than 240 lottery grants in every UK postcode district. More than £30 million raised each week goes to good causes across the UK.
- **Feilden Fowles** is an award-winning London-based architecture practice, founded in 2009 by Fergus Feilden and Edmund Fowles. Committed to a low-tech approach, the practice delivers socially and environmentally sustainable buildings across a variety of sectors. Feilden Fowles aims to make architecture that is rich in character and distinct in identity, while seeking simple and holistic solutions with an ambition to achieve net zero carbon buildings. Their buildings emerge from legible design concepts which inform the detailing and construction processes. Projects are underpinned by a strategy of longevity over short-termism, using robust yet adaptable structures and simple but beautiful materials. feildenfowles.co.uk
- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** was [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
- The **Horniman Museum and Gardens** is core-funded by the Department for 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.