

For immediate release

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Horniman wins Learning Programme of the Year

A 650% increase in secondary school learners has seen the Horniman Museum and Gardens' Secondary School Programme win Learning Programme of the Year in the Museum + Heritage Awards 2024.

The award was announced last night (Wednesday 15 May), with the south London venue beating stiff competition from both national and local museums based in Northern Ireland, Norwich and London.

In partnership with local schools and teachers, the Formal Learning team at the Horniman Museum and Gardens co-developed a range of curriculum-linked workshops and targeted, tailored offers, responding to schools' needs. The team also introduced co-production projects in collaboration with student artists, outreach, object loans, and an expanded careers offer. A new pricing model, dedicated secondary school bursary and free ticket scheme allowed the Horniman to improve access for pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium grants.

The result was an incredible 650% increase in secondary school learners compared to pre-pandemic levels, with the percentage of non-school visits to the Museum by children aged 12-15 also doubling since the programme was introduced.

The redesign of the Secondary School Programme also addressed other Horniman objectives such as:

- the climate emergency and colonial legacies, in the content of learning sessions
- broadening access to the museum's offer both through pricing and through creative approaches to engagement
- and working to diversify the Museum workforce, through an expanded careers and work experience offer.

The Museum + Heritage Awards judges said: ‘This winning programme, which is user-led, has had transformative results with impressive engagement and all on a very small budget.’

Lucy Maycock, Formal Learning Manager at the Horniman Museum and Gardens, says: ‘We are absolutely delighted to have won this award, which is as much for the incredible schools, teachers and students that we have partnered with over the last few years, as for the Horniman. It has been such a privilege for us to learn from our partners, and to build programmes in partnership.’

The other organisations shortlisted for Learning Programme of the Year were:

- Brunel Museum – Mud, Flood and Fire
- National Museums NI – Museum on the Move
- Real World Science partners and the Natural History Museum – Explore: Urban Nature, UK-wide Learning Programme
- Sainsbury Centre – Art And...

Ends

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Pictured (l-r): The Horniman’s Lucy Maycock and Eleanor Hamblen accept the Learning Programme of the Year Award from Ella Al-Shamahi, at the Museums + Heritage Awards 2024. Credit: Hayley Bray.

Notes to Editors:

- The Natural History Gallery closed for redevelopment from Monday 4 March 2024 as part of our [Nature + Love](#) project. The gallery will reopen in 2026.
- **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 a World Gallery of anthropology, music, an acclaimed aquarium, The Studio – a flexible arts and exhibition space, and a natural history gallery (closed until 2026 for redevelopment as part of [Nature + Love](#)). 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** relies on income from ticket sales, memberships, the shop and the Café to help care for the Gardens, animals and Aquarium residents, to run events and to look after the collections. The support of our visitors and donors is hugely appreciated. horniman.ac.uk/support-us

- 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.