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September 2007

Welcome to this month's NMDC newsletter which contains an update on our activities and the latest news from the museum sector in the UK and beyond. www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

NMDC News

Tyne and Wear Museums Director Joins NMDC

Alec Coles, Director of Tyne and Wear Museums, has joined the National Museum Directors' Conference. Tyne & Wear Museums is one of England's largest regional museum services, running 11 museums and galleries in North East England, as well as leading the North East Regional Museums Hub under the Renaissance in the Regions programme. More information at: www.twmuseums.org.uk
A biography of Alec Coles is available at: www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/members/tyne_wear.html

Combating Illicit Trade - New Clause in Loan Agreements

NMDC is encouraging members to include a new clause in their loan agreements to ensure that they do not lend objects to exhibitions that include items with unsatisfactory provenance. The clause states that the borrowing organisation "has no reasonable cause to believe that any object comprised in the exhibition in which the Objects shall be displayed was stolen, illegally exported or illegally imported from its country of origin" as defined by the 1970 UNESCO Convention on Cultural Property.

The clause has been adopted by: Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum Wales; the British Museum; Imperial War Museum; National Galleries of Scotland; National Gallery; National Media Museum; National Portrait Gallery; National Railway Museum; Science Museum; Sir John Soane's Museum; Tate; and the Victoria & Albert Museum. National Museums Liverpool, the Natural History Museum and the Royal Armouries are in the process of adopting the clause. www.nationalmuseums.org.uk
DCMS due diligence guidelines at: www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/archive_2005/illicit_trade.htm

Members' News

National Museums in Top Ten Free Tourist Attractions

Figures released by VisitBritain show that seven national museums and galleries were in the top ten free tourist attractions in England for 2006. Tate Modern (4.9 million visitors) and the British Museum (4.8m) were in the top three free attractions. Tate Modern, the Natural History Museum (3.7m), the Science Museum (2.4m) and the V&A (2.3m) saw a more than 20% increase in visitors since 2005. Tate Britain (1.6m), the British Library galleries (1.1m) and the National Railway Museum (0.9m) were in the top twenty free visitor attractions. www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/tourism_figures_aug07.html

In Scotland, the National Gallery of Scotland Complex, Edinburgh (0.9 million visitors), the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh (0.8m), the Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow (0.55m) and the National War Museum, Edinburgh (0.4m) were in the top ten free tourist attractions in 2006. www.visitscotland.org/tourism_in_scotland_2006_national.pdf

W5 (0.23 million visitors), the Ulster Museum (0.17m), the Ulster Folk & Transport Museum (0.17m) and the Ulster American Folk Park (0.14m) were in the top ten tourist attractions in Northern Ireland in 2006. The Ulster Museum offers free admission. www.nitb.com/attachment.aspx?ID=677

Increased Academic Access to National Gallery Collection Images and Research

From autumn 2007 digital images of the National Gallery collection will be available free of charge for academic books and journals, where orders are processed and delivered online from the Picture Library. This follows a similar move by the V&A and other museums.

The National Gallery Technical Bulletin, a scholarly journal devoted to the technical study and care of the National Gallery's collection, will be made available online for subscription or purchase from September 2007. www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about/press/2007/technical_bulletin.htm

NMDC Members Awarded DCMS/Wolfson Foundation Grants

Grants from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the Wolfson Foundation totalling £4 million will go to forty-three museums and galleries in England to fund capital projects to improve access to and understanding of our cultural heritage. The following grants were awarded to NMDC members:

- **British Museum:** £100,000 for a new signage system using images of iconic objects in the collection.
- **Imperial War Museum, London:** £80,000 to create a new exhibition space.
- **Museum of London:** £70,000 to create a new exhibit exploring London's history from 1950 to the present.
- **National Gallery:** £100,000 to improve environmental controls in the 16th Century Flemish and Netherlandish Galleries.
- **National Maritime Museum:** £75,000 to build a special Exhibitions Gallery.
- **National Museums Liverpool:** £220,000 to create a Maritime Park to link existing Museums with the future Museum of Liverpool, using technology to bring Liverpool's historic docks and quaysides to life.
- **National Portrait Gallery:** £122,000 to restore the Landing gallery and install a lift to access it.
- **Natural History Museum, Tring:** £87,000 to redevelop and improve access to the Amphibians, Reptiles, Marsupials and Domestic Dogs Gallery.
- **Victoria and Albert Museum:** £300,000 to create a new Buddhist Sculpture in Asia gallery.
- **Wallace Collection:** £75,000 to restore the Small Drawing Room to house 18th century French paintings.

The current DCMS/Wolfson Foundation Museums & Galleries Improvement Fund has awarded a total of £20 million since it was set up in 2002. www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/Museums_galleries/wolfson.htm

International Slavery Museum Open

The International Slavery Museum in Liverpool - the first museum of its type in the UK - opened on 23 August, UNESCO's International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade. Based in the Merseyside Maritime Museum, it explores historical and contemporary aspects of slavery. The museum addresses the legacies of the slave trade and tells stories of bravery and rebellion amongst enslaved people.

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/

Commenting on the opening of the Museum the Prime Minister said:

"I am delighted to support the International Slavery Museum at the very beginning of what will be an extraordinary journey, building on the successes of 2007 and moving the story of slavery from an often avoided subplot into the mainstream of our cultural and historical understanding."

DCMS awarded a £500,000 capital grant to the International Slavery Museum, in addition to £250,000 annual revenue funding. www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Press_notices/archive_2007/dcms096_07.htm

Website Shows 'Hidden Treasures' of Welsh National Museums

Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales has launched a new website called Rhagor ('More') that will, for the first time, reveal many of the objects in the collections of Wales's seven national museums that are not on display. The website has over a hundred illustrated articles, maps and puzzles and includes items, such as glass models of sea-creatures, meteors and photographs and memories submitted by the public, that are used for research or are too fragile to go on display.

Rhagor will be developed to include further commissioned articles, images, glossaries and other interactive features to make the Museum's collections, research and expertise accessible worldwide. The launch of Rhagor is part of Amgueddfa Cymru's centenary celebrations and can be viewed at:

www.museumwales.ac.uk/rhagor.

Imperial War Museum Project Nominated for National Lottery Award

Somme Theatre, a partnership between the Imperial War Museum, the Old Vic and local groups and schools, has reached the final stages of the National Lottery Awards. The Awards recognise the difference that Lottery-funded projects make to local communities and celebrate the achievements of the people behind them. Public voting has now finished and the winning projects, which will receive £2000 to spend on their project, will be announced on BBC1 on 15 September.

Somme Theatre, which has been nominated for the Best Heritage Project award, aimed to raise awareness of the Battle of the Somme and to educate people about the First World War.

www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/awards

The National Archives Launches Mobile Website

The National Archives has launched a six month trial of a new version of its website, designed for mobile phones and personal digital assistants (PDAs). The mobile website will provide up-to-date news, details of newly released documents, visitor and contact information. The National Archives is inviting feedback on the mobile service to be sent to: mobile@nationalarchives.gov.uk

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/mobile www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/stories/168.htm

The British Museum and the Crisis in Iraqi Cultural Heritage

The British Museum website documents the Museum's work in Iraq. British Museum curators have been to Iraq to assess damage to cultural heritage and attended international conferences on the subject. Four years after coalition troops invaded, the Iraq Museum is closed, some 8000 objects remain unaccounted for and archaeological sites have been looted and damaged. The British Museum trains and supports Iraqi curators and is encouraging those involved to document what is happening to Iraqi cultural heritage.

The Museum aims to inform the public about the current situation and remind visitors of the importance of Iraq's archaeological and historical legacy through gallery talks, lectures and study days. The Museum also provides background information to the media and assists students researching the crisis in Iraq's cultural heritage. www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/the_museum/news_and_debate/debate/iraq_war.aspx

Winners of British Library Competition for Treasures to be Digitised

The British Library, in collaboration with the Society of Chief Librarians, Scottish library authorities and Microsoft, has announced the winners of a competition to highlight treasures in UK libraries. The five winning documents will be digitised, converted into Turning the Pages 2.0 format and exhibited on the British Library website for three years. The winning items include: a 12th century legal work containing the earliest record of the English language; an account of life in 19th century rural Wales; an illuminated missal; volumes describing the visit of the first British envoy to China; and a Women's Institute war record book. Highly commended libraries will receive discounted Turning the Pages 2.0 production and hosting packages. www.bl.uk/news/2007/pressrelease20070905.html

Chasing Freedom: Abolition 200 Conference at the Royal Naval Museum

As part of its contribution to the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade, the Royal Naval Museum has gathered a panel of historians to consider the impact of abolition and the meaning of emancipation in the Atlantic World at the *Chasing Freedom: Abolition 200* conference. The Museum's special exhibition *Chasing Freedom: The Royal Navy and the Suppression of the Transatlantic Slave Trade* has been extended until April 2008.

Chasing Freedom: Abolition 200 Conference Royal Naval Museum Saturday 6 October 2007

For further details visit: www.royalnavalmuseum.org/learning_adult_conferences_Chasingfreedom.htm

£11.7 million Lottery Funding for Open Air Laboratories

The Open Air Laboratories (OPAL), a network of sixteen partners including the Natural History Museum, The Open University, Imperial College and nine regional universities, has been awarded national lottery funding to help communities explore, study and protect their local environment. Over the next five years, OPAL will provide training, tools and support to help communities record the plants, animals and fungi in their local environments. Information collected by OPAL will be shared on an interactive website and will help build a picture of the biodiversity of local areas.

OPAL will be launched to the public in Spring 2008. www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/news/2007/august/news_12274.html

RAF Museum Cosford Receives Sandford Award

The RAF Museum Cosford has received a Sandford Award for Heritage Education. The Awards are made annually by the Heritage Education Trust, to recognise quality and excellence in educational services and facilities. The Museum offers a range of programmes and resource material to support the National Curriculum, including opportunities for students to meet and hear the experiences of veterans of World War II. www.rafmuseum.org.uk/cosford/news/article.cfm?news_id=129

HELMAND: The Soldiers' Story

This exhibition at the National Army Museum has been built and written by soldiers of 16 Air Assault Brigade to give the public an insight into their experiences in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. *HELMAND: The Soldiers' Story* was suggested by the soldiers, who have contributed accounts of their experiences, diaries, letters, emails and personal objects relating to the tour.

www.national-army-museum.ac.uk/press

Current Issues

UK Government Draft Legislative Programme

The Government has published its Draft Legislative Programme for the next session of Parliament, outlining the bills that it plans to introduce in 2007-08. These include a Heritage Protection Bill from DCMS, which will be published in draft for pre-legislative scrutiny, and the Unclaimed Assets Bill, which allows unclaimed funds in the banking industry to be reinvested in society.

The Cabinet Office website invites comments on the programme and Bills included in the proposals. [Cabinet Office: Draft Legislation Programme](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/draft-legislation-programme)

DCMS Study of Voluntary Arts Activity in England

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is commissioning a new study with Arts Council England to research voluntary arts activity in England.

The study will provide a national picture of the sector and explore what prompts people to take part, barriers to participation and the impact voluntary arts groups can have in their communities. The research will look at the contribution made by Adult and Community Learning to public engagement with the arts and at participation opportunities offered by the voluntary arts sector, with the aim of supporting increased engagement. The research is due to be published in May 2008.

www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Press_notices/archive_2007/national_study_voluntary_arts_dcms102_07.htm

Minister Urges Arts to Look for New Sources of Income

In an interview with *The Stage*, Culture Minister Margaret Hodge warned that, while she and Secretary of State James Purnell were fighting hard for a 'fair deal' in the Comprehensive Spending Review, the arts must explore new avenues to supplement traditional sources of income. She said that she was investigating how culture could link with regeneration and education initiatives to gain access to funds from outside the DCMS. The Minister said that DCMS would look at how private patronage for the arts could be increased and that she wanted to investigate how the cultural offering in schools could be improved. www.thestage.co.uk/news/newsstory.php/17579/arts-must-be-placed-at-heart-of

She touched on working with regeneration and tourism in a speech at the launch of Heritage Open Days: www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Minister_Speeches/margaret_hodge/MHspeech_heritageopenday07_launch.htm

Welsh Coalition and Commitment to Culture

Welsh First Minister Rhodri Morgan announced a new Cabinet following the formal coalition agreement between Labour and Plaid Cymru in July. Rhodri Glyn Thomas, a member of Plaid Cymru, is Minister for Heritage. His portfolio includes tourism, for the first time, Cadw, arts, sports and the Welsh Language. Carwyn Jones, who was Culture Minister, is Counsel General and Leader of the House. Former Culture Minister Alun Pugh lost his seat in the Welsh Assembly elections.

new.wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetm/?lang=en

The new Welsh Assembly's coalition agreement *One Wales* states "We will ensure that opportunities to enjoy Wales' rich cultural and sporting activities are available to all, with continued free access to museums and galleries". The Museums Association and others in the sector have expressed concern that this appears to roll out the Assembly's commitment to free entry to include local authority and independent organisations. www.museumsassociation.org/14174&_IXPOS=manews1.1

The document also includes pledges to implement the recommendations of the Stephens Review into the development of the arts in Wales and a statutory obligation on local authorities "to promote culture and encourage partnership to deliver high-quality cultural experiences for their communities".

One Wales can be read at: images.icnetwork.co.uk/docs/icWales/712C7161-B97B-1FFF-DC292029BEB06DA3.pdf

Priorities for New Scottish Government

In a statement to the Scottish Parliament on 5 September, First Minister Alex Salmond set out the priorities for his Government, which are contained in *Principles and Priorities: The Government's Programme for Scotland*. The Creative Scotland bill is one of 11 bills the Government proposes to introduce in the coming year. www.scottishexecutive.gov.uk/News/Releases/2007/09/05141912

Report on Responses to Consultation on Draft Culture (Scotland) Bill

The Scottish Executive has published a report of responses to its consultation on the draft Culture Bill. Respondents supported establishing Creative Scotland, a merger of Scottish Screen and the Scottish Arts Council, though many wanted clarification of its remit. There was a "strong view" that the arms length principle should be upheld. Respondents were in favour of National Collections remaining separate centres of excellence and largely agreed that the powers and functions proposed for the Collections were correct.

The guiding principles for proposed local cultural planning and entitlements attracted support, but respondents thought that new resources would be required to support implementation and delivery. Respondents commented that the draft Bill "failed to capitalise on the vision which they believed had inspired it". The report can be read at: www.scottishexecutive.gov.uk/Publications/2007/08/16120452/0

Call for Entries for the Art Fund Prize 2008

The £100,000 Art Fund Prize for museums and galleries (formerly the Gulbenkian Prize) aims to recognize and stimulate originality and excellence in museums and galleries in the UK, and increase public appreciation and enjoyment of all they have to offer. Accredited museums and galleries in the UK are invited to submit entries for the Art Fund Prize 2008.

The closing date for entries is: **Friday 2 November 2007**. Details at: www.artfundprize.org.uk

National Trust Strategy

The National Trust has published its strategy for 2010 and beyond. *Our future - join in* describes the Trust's ambitions to mobilise its members, deepen relationships with its supporters and promote closer engagement with those who join, visit or care about the Trust's work. The Strategy focuses on issues which The Trust believes resonate with its visitors and supporters and the wider needs of society:

- *Cultural heritage*: fostering an appreciation of our history, culture and places;
- *The natural world*: encouraging wildlife and habitats to flourish and sustainable land management;
- *Climate change*: reducing the Trust's environmental footprint and encouraging greener living; and
- *Local food*: inspiring people to eat local and seasonal food and promoting local food suppliers.

For the Strategy visit: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-national-trust-strategy.pdf

DCMS Board Appointments

Dame Liz Forgan and Darra Singh OBE have been appointed by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport as non-executive board members from 1 September 2007, for two years.

Dame Liz Forgan is chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund. She was formerly managing director of BBC Radio and is the chair of the Scott Trust and a board member of the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama. Darra Singh OBE is currently chief executive of the London Borough of Ealing. He chaired the Commission on Integration and Cohesion which reported its findings in June 2007.

www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Press_notices/archive_2007/dcms091_07.htm

Reminder of Gift Aid Consultation Deadline: 30 September

HM Treasury is currently consulting on Gift Aid, focusing on reducing the administrative costs and burdens to charities. The deadline for responses is **30 September**. Further information at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_spending_reporting/charity_third_sector_finance/psr_charity_thirdsector_giftaid.cfm

Proposed Changes to Museums Association Code of Ethics

The Museums Association (MA) has published the final version of the proposed changes to its code of ethics relating to disposal, following consultation with MA members and the wider sector.

In the revised version, museums must conduct 'extensive prior consultation with sector bodies' in addition to meeting existing criteria for financially motivated disposal. A new paragraph states that money raised as a result of disposal through sale must be ring-fenced 'solely and directly for the benefit of the museum's collection'. A vote on the changes will take place at the MA conference in October.

www.museumsassociation.org/14301&_IXSESSION=r05qiOEa7Re&_IXPOS=manews1.2

Invitation to Apply for *Their Past Your Future 2* Funding

The Museums Libraries Archives (MLA) Partnership is extending the successful Big Lottery funded *Their Past Your Future* programme, which aimed to raise awareness of the Second World War. In this second phase (2007-10) MLA will manage an annual funding programme, offering grants of £500-£10,000 to museums, libraries and archives in England, to develop programmes, workshops, exhibitions and events to promote understanding of the impact of conflict. The grants will focus on work with children and young people and inter-generational learning.

The closing date for applications for the first year of the programme is **19 October 2007**.

Details are available at: www.mla.gov.uk/website/aboutus/grants

Leading Archives and Museums 2007-08

Following the success of the Leading Archives and Museums programme last year, the MLA has announced two further professional development programmes in 2007-08: the *Future Leaders Programme* for aspiring leaders will take place in the Midlands on 4-6 December 2007 and 6-7 February 2008 (2 Modules) and the *Senior Managers Programme*, for mid-career managers, will take place in the South of England on 27-28 November 2007, 29 January 2008 and 27-28 February 2008 (3 modules). There will be an additional Senior Managers Programme in early 2008.

Details at: www.fpmonline.co.uk/LAM.htm or www.mla.gov.uk/website/policy/leadership/leadership

Leadership Development Days

The Cultural Leadership Programme has launched a new series of Leadership Development Days intended to support and enhance the leadership potential of black, Asian and ethnic minority people, disabled people and people working in micro-businesses in the cultural and creative industries. A series of one-day workshops across the UK, from October 2007 to March 2008, aims to inspire, challenge and provide creative leadership support for those about to take on leadership roles.

The Cultural Leadership Programme is also offering 10 days of LDDplus, for those who have previously attended a Leadership Development Day or who have been in middle or senior management or leadership roles for a while. To find out more visit www.LeadershipDevelopmentDays.org.uk

Museums Association to Develop Workforce Action Plan

The MA is working with Creative and Cultural Skills (CCS), the sector skills council for the creative industries, to produce an action plan to address workforce issues in the cultural heritage sector, such as: narrow entry routes to the sector, lack of diversity, matching training to skills needs, management, leadership and continuing professional development. The plan will draw on initiatives such as the MA's *Diversify* scheme, the MLA's *Leading Museums and Archives* programme and Icon's bursary scheme and will incorporate CCS projects such as Creative Apprenticeships and the Cultural Leadership Programme.

The MA plans to consult the sector in early 2008 and the plan is due to be published in summer 2008.

For more information see www.museumsassociation.org/14343&_IXPOS=manews1.1

New Crafts Council Award for Curators

The Crafts Council Spark Plug Curator Award scheme offers an annual £5,000 award to enable UK curators to research and develop innovative exhibition projects that engage with contemporary craft. A minimum of four Crafts Council Spark Plug Curator Awards will be available each year.

The closing date for applications for project work beginning in 2008 is: **20th October 2007**.

Further information at: www.craftscouncil.org.uk/Exhib/sparkplug/index.asp

Third Sector Review Report

The report of the joint Cabinet Office and Treasury review into the future role of the third sector in social and economic regeneration sets the framework for government to work with the sector over the next ten years. The report announces new commitments to boost the sector and its partnership with government and sets out £515m funding over the next three years. The government will invest £117m in v, the youth volunteering organisation, and commits to developing the skills of the third sector workforce. A summary and links to the document can be found at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_spending_reporting/charity_third_sector_finance/psr_charity_thirdsector_consultationindex.cfm

Towards a Healthy Ecology of Arts and Culture

This report from Mission Models Money argues that despite a 'golden ten years' for arts and cultural organisations, they need to adapt to evolving technologies and the different ways the public engage with and participate in the arts and culture, or risk finding themselves marginalised. The report outlines three main challenges: responding to rapidly accelerating changes in the wider environment; building skills and knowledge base; and re-aligning finance, funding and organisation development structures.

www.missionmodelsmoney.org.uk/render.aspx?siteID=1&navIDs=712,713

Museums Association Study of Long Loan and Disposal

The MA's study of long loan and disposal activity in UK museums indicates that museums are willing to work towards greater access to stored collections, with 84% of respondents saying they are keen to loan more items. However, only 25% make long loans at present, citing security and environmental reservations and museum capacity as inhibitors. Most loans-in come from private owners.

The report also finds that 75% of museums surveyed would like to dispose of items in their collections, although only 62% have previously carried out disposals. [To download the full report click here \(word\)](#)

Survey on Open Content Licences

The Eduserv Foundation is funding a study into the use of Creative Archive, Creative Commons and similar open content licences by cultural heritage organisations in the UK. The survey will be conducted through to the middle of September and a report will be made available later this year.

For more information, and to respond to the survey, visit: www.eduserv.org.uk/foundation/studies/cc2007

PRISM Grants Awarded for Scientific and Technological Heritage

In the past year, thirty-two grants totalling £237,000 have been awarded to help museums to acquire and conserve items of scientific or industrial importance. Managed by the MLA, the Preservation of Industrial and Scientific Material (PRISM) Grant Fund awards up to £250,000 each year to museums and heritage organisations in England and Wales. Objects that received funding in 2006/07 include: fluorite gemstones; the last UK steam herring drifter in the UK; a 19th century diving suit and a World War II glider.

The report on 2006/2007 PRISM awards is at: www.mla.gov.uk/website/aboutus/grants/PRISM_Grant_Fund

MDA Launches Intellectual Property Manifesto for Museums

MDA has announced the publication of an Intellectual Property (IP) Manifesto for collections, which aims to highlight the relationship between IP issues and best practice in the management of museum collections. It sets out MDA's priorities for delivering services, including the development of standards, training courses and new resources; lobbying for changes in legislation; and working in partnership with Government and other stakeholders in the cultural heritage sector.

The Intellectual Property Manifesto is available at: www.collectionslink.org.uk/get_to_grips_with_copyright

Vernon Systems join MDA Partners Scheme

Vernon Systems Ltd, supplier of Vernon CMS which is used in heritage sites across the world, has joined the MDA Partners Scheme, which validates commercial collections management systems against the SPECTRUM standard. www.mda.org.uk/pr070817.htm

The Guardian Family Friendly Museum Award 2007

The Guardian has launched its Family Friendly Museum Award 2007. To nominate a museum or gallery send an account of why it offers the best family-friendly experience - in writing, on a video, or other method - to: Guardian Family-Friendly Museum Award, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. or email: kids.in.museums@guardian.co.uk

Impact of Flooding in West Midlands

MLA West Midlands is gathering information on the impact of the recent floods, particularly in Worcestershire, Shropshire and Herefordshire, to help inform future responses to emergency situations. More details on the problems faced by museums and a list of available resources can be found on their website at: www.mlawestmidlands.org.uk/priorities/collections/resources/index.asp?id=1318,753,55,766

International Issues

European Cultural Forum, 26/27 September 2007, Lisbon

On 26-27 September the Portuguese Presidency will host a Cultural Forum in Lisbon to offer sector stakeholders an opportunity to address Culture Ministers on their views on the Cultural Agenda. This will be an opportunity to test new models of participation in cultural policy making in Europe and it is hoped that it will be the first of a regular gathering of European cultural representatives.

Further information at: culturalforum.pt/site/introduction

EU Funding Calls

The 2008 Calls for the EU Culture Programme 2007-2013 have been published. Guidelines, tips sheets to aid potential applicants and links to official application forms are available at www.culturefund.eu.

The first deadlines for this call begin 1 October and continue into November 2007 and include:

Strand 1.1 - Multiannual projects (3-5 years, minimum 6 partners) - 31 October

Strand 1.2.1 - Co-operation projects (1-2 years, minimum 3 partners) - 31 October

Strand 1.3 - Co-operation with China or India - 1 October

Council of Europe Publication: The Function of Culture in Building Citizenship

A new publication from the Council of Europe, *Recondita Armonia - a reflection of the function of culture in building citizenship capacity*, explores how cultural participation relates to democracy, whether culture can foster active citizenship and how culture can help address the challenges of growing diversity and enhance social cohesion and inclusion.

The publication can be ordered from Council of Europe Publishing publishing@coe.int

or on line via book.coe.int/EN/ficheouvrage.php?PAGEID=39&lang=EN&theme_catalogue=100114

Canadian Senate Committee Requests Museum to Resolve Text Row

The Canadian Senate Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs has published a report in which it "respectfully suggests" that the Canadian War Museum, Ottawa takes the lead in resolving a disagreement with veterans' groups over the wording of a panel about the 1945 firebombing of Dresden "in a manner that eliminates the sense of insult felt by aircrew veterans and removes potential for further misinterpretation by the public".

Following the report, a new chair has been appointed to the Board of the Canadian War Museum, the Chief Executive resigned and the Globe and Mail reports that the Museum is negotiating a revised text with veterans. www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/cwme.asp

Senate Committee report: www.parl.gc.ca/39/1/paribus/commbus/senate/com-e/defe-e/rep-e/rep16jun07-e.htm
www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20070829.wwarmuseum29/BNSStory/Entertainment/home

New Standard for Facilities and Risk Management

The American Association of Museums (AAM) has published *AAM Standards for U.S. Museums Regarding Facilities and Risk Management*, which outlines the basic responsibilities of any museum in caring for people, collections, buildings and grounds. It describes desirable outcomes that a museum can achieve using methods appropriate to its mission and resources.

Museums can assess their performance against the standard and use it to identify areas for improvement and resources required to support planning, training and implementation of emergency preparedness. www.aam-us.org/aboutmuseums/standards/index.cfm

Israel Museum Publishes Database of Spoliated Art

The Israel Museum has published an internet database of more than 1,000 works of art looted during the period 1933-1945, to allow owners and their heirs to identify and reclaim property. The works include paintings, prints, drawings and judaica recovered by the Allies in postwar Europe and subsequently transferred to Israel. www.imj.org.il/Imagine/irso/index.asp

Malevich Heirs Can Sue Amsterdam

The Art Newspaper reports that a US federal court has ruled that the heirs of Russian painter Kazimir Malevich can sue the city of Amsterdam to recover 14 works of art. Malevich left the works for safekeeping in Berlin in the 1920s and returned to the Soviet Union. In 1956, years after Malevich's death, the paintings were loaned to the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam. Ownership was transferred to the city in 1958.

Following the demise of the Soviet Union, Malevich's heirs sought redress from the city of Amsterdam but were unsuccessful. They filed suit in the United States where the works were on loan. The City of Amsterdam cited its sovereign immunity as a defence, but the US Judge denied Amsterdam's motion to dismiss the lawsuit, ruling that the city's acquisition of the Malevich paintings "was not the type of sovereign act that receives protection." www.theartnewspaper.com

Opposition to Relocation of the Barnes Foundation

The Art Newspaper reports that opponents of a plan to move The Barnes Foundation's art collection from its suburban gallery have petitioned the courts to review a 2004 decision to allow the relocation.

The Barnes Collection, which includes works by Cezanne, Matisse, Renoir and other artists, won court permission to deviate from Dr Albert Barnes' will, which instructs that his paintings "remain in exactly the places they are". The Foundation's trustees argued that moving to a new site in central Philadelphia would attract a wider audience and greater philanthropic support. The Barnes Foundation has raised more than \$150 million to support the move and is reviewing architects' proposals for a new building on the Philadelphia site.

In an attempt to persuade the Foundation not to move, local authorities have recently proposed issuing \$50 million in low interest bonds to help improve the Barnes' finances and changing local zoning to allow increased visits to the Foundation.

www.theartnewspaper.com www.barnesfoundation.org
www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/08/27/arts/NA-A-E-ART-US-Barnes-Foundation.php

The Art of Observation

The Art of Observation programme, which develops observation skills using works of art, was initiated by The Frick Collection in 2000 to enhance the observation, perception, and communication skills of medical students. It has since been adapted for the New York City Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is now being offered to anybody wishing to increase their observation skills.

The Frick Collection, New York 1-2 October 2007

continuingeducation.tc.columbia.edu/default.aspx?pageid=134&PK=1317

Forthcoming NMDC Meetings

HR Forum

Friday 7 September, 11 am, National Trust, Swindon

Executive Committee

Friday 14 September, 11 am, V&A

UK Affairs Committee

Wednesday 10 October, 2pm, Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle

Marketing Group

Wednesday 17 October, 2pm, National Maritime Museum

NMDC Meeting

Friday 16 November, 11 am, V&A

If you have any comments on the NMDC Newsletter or would like to contribute to a future edition, please email the Editor, Zoë Nasatyr, at news@nationalmuseums.org.uk

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