

Welcome to this month's NMDC newsletter, a briefing on our activities and developments in the museum sector in the UK and beyond.

NMDC's members are the leaders of the UK's national collections and leading regional museums, operating in over 100 sites across the country.

[www.nationalmuseums.org.uk](http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk)

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## NMDC News

### Tourism Policy Review

NMDC Chair, Mark Jones, has written to Culture Minister Barbara Follett and to Christopher Rodrigues CBE, Chair of VisitBritain, welcoming the Government's renewed focus on tourism and recognition of the contribution that culture makes to UK tourism. Our national museums are both major beneficiaries of income from overseas visitors and drivers of British tourism. As major tourist attractions, museums have a particular role to play in countering seasonality through timing of programming and exhibitions and persuading visitors to lengthen their stay, countering the decline in economic value per visitor.

NMDC is concerned that the UK is at risk of falling behind as a venue for cultural tourism. Figures published by The Art Newspaper show that in 2007, for the third year in a row, visits to London's major exhibitions declined in relation to those in Paris, Tokyo, New York and Washington. NMDC has also raised concerns about the ageing visitor profile and Britain's failure to attract visitors from emerging markets and would like to see government action to attract visitors from these markets, with better use of the museum offer via Visit Britain marketing initiatives to bring in new audiences.

NMDC also calls for improvements in the public realm in which the museums operate including public transport links, particularly to museums outside central London, and the completion of the Exhibition Road project to improve visitor access to the Natural History Museum, Science Museum and V&A.

[www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/tourism\\_policy\\_review.html](http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/tourism_policy_review.html)

### Tourism Facts and Figures

- In 2007-08, 61% of visitors to the British Museum, 45% of visitors to the National Gallery and 40% of visitors to the Natural History Museum were from overseas.
- According to research by the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions, seven out of the top ten leading visitor attractions in the UK are national museums.
- Analysis for the Anholt-GMI Brands Index reveals that museums play a significant role in attracting tourists and in building the British brand.
- In 2007/08 39% of the total visits to the V&A were from overseas. Of these visitors 98% of them rated their overall visit as very good/good.

## National Museum Jobs

NMDC's jobs website has details of over 35 vacancies around the UK, including:

- General Manager, National Museum of Flight, National Museums Scotland
- Head of Business Development, Imperial War Museum North
- Director of Education, Information & Access, The National Gallery
- Assistant Registrar, Science Museum
- Principal Design and Technical Officer, Tyne & Wear Museums

For details of all the vacancies visit: [www.nationalmuseumjobs.org.uk](http://www.nationalmuseumjobs.org.uk)

## Directors in the News

In a lecture to mark 250 years since the British Museum first opened its doors to the public, **Neil MacGregor** described the urgent role of the museum in today's world. He said the museum's role "is to slow down conclusions, to complicate the questions, to make the hasty judgment harder".

[www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/jan/15/british-museum-anniversary](http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/jan/15/british-museum-anniversary)

[www.britishmuseum.org/the\\_museum/museum\\_in\\_london/event\\_archive/250\\_lecture.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/the_museum/museum_in_london/event_archive/250_lecture.aspx)

Writing in *The Observer*, **Dame Lynne Brindley**, Chief Executive of the British Library, argues that the Government's vision of a digital Britain must include the critical public service of preserving digital Britain's collective memory including investment to support the acquisition of digital content, and digitisation of the British Library's "goldmine of content".

[www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2009/jan/25/internet-heritage](http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2009/jan/25/internet-heritage)

[www.bl.uk/news/2009/pressrelease20090121.html](http://www.bl.uk/news/2009/pressrelease20090121.html)

## Current Issues

### Andy Burnham Recommends Contingency Plans for Funding Cuts

In an interview with *The Stage*, Culture Secretary Andy Burnham, hinted that Government funding for 2010-11, could be revised in light of the ongoing recession and a desire to trim public spending. Mr Burnham went on to say that the sector needs to make sensible contingency plans.

Several arts organisations have since written to Mr Burnham seeking reassurance that he will fight to maintain the current level of Government spending.

[www.thestage.co.uk/news/newsstory.php/23041/exclusive-arts-must-prepare-for-2010-funding](http://www.thestage.co.uk/news/newsstory.php/23041/exclusive-arts-must-prepare-for-2010-funding)

[www.thestage.co.uk/news/newsstory.php/23227/arts-need-urgent-reassurance-of-funding-in](http://www.thestage.co.uk/news/newsstory.php/23227/arts-need-urgent-reassurance-of-funding-in)

### BBC Strengthens Commitment to Culture - Partnership Will Put Nation's Paintings Online

The BBC has announced a partnership with the Public Catalogue Foundation to establish a website on [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk), called *Your Paintings*, where the public can view and find information on every oil painting in public ownership. The Public Catalogue Foundation is a registered charity that was launched in 2003. It is 30% of the way through cataloguing the UK's national collection of oil paintings. These paintings should be online by the end of 2010, and the aim is to publish every painting in public ownership by 2012.

The BBC has also announced details of collaboration between the British Museum and BBC Radio 4 to support the series *A History Of The World In 100 Objects*. This 100-part series, due to be aired in February 2010, is narrated by Neil MacGregor and will tell the history of the world through objects in the British Museum's collection. The BBC and British Museum are working together to develop a significant online element and a complementary project to the series, which could connect other museums with the BBC across the nations and regions of the UK.

These two partnerships are part of a range of initiatives announced by the BBC as a reaffirmation of its commitment to arts and music. Other measures include the creation of a new Arts Editor role for BBC News to add weight to coverage of arts and culture in its news programming, and the establishment of a BBC arts board to simplify the process of getting arts and music content commissioned. The BBC is also exploring ideas with the Arts Council, which could give the public free online access to a wealth of archive arts content.

[www.bbc.co.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/stories/2009/01\\_january/28/arts.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/stories/2009/01_january/28/arts.shtml)

### UK-China Cultural Exchange Programme Agreement, 2009-2013

A Cultural Exchange Programme Agreement between the UK and China for 2009-2013 was one of three inter-governmental agreements signed during the visit of the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to London last month. The Prime Minister announced a commitment by the British Council and the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) to fund a second phase of the *China-UK Connections through Culture Programme*, until 2012. This programme helps cultural organisations in both countries build and sustain strong relationships with each other.

The Prime Minister also announced that a major exhibition of Turner's work will be held in Beijing in 2009 produced by a partnership between Tate, The British Council and The National Art Museum of China. Tate will be lending 80 paintings from its collection to the exhibition.

[www.number10.gov.uk/Page18213](http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page18213)

[www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2009/17815.htm](http://www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2009/17815.htm)

### Titian's *Diana and Actaeon* Saved for the Nation

The National Galleries of Scotland (NGS) and the National Gallery, London (NGL) have been successful in their campaign to acquire Titian's *Diana and Actaeon*. The acquisition has been made possible with funding from the following sources:

- £7.4m in donations and pledges from individual trusts and the general public, of which £150,000 was donated via The Art Fund
- £12.5m from Scottish Government Special purchase grant
- £2m from The Monument Trust
- £1m from The Art Fund
- £10m from the National Heritage Memorial Fund
- £12.5m from NGL comprising £11.5m from bequests, general donations and investment income from these sources and £1m grant-in-aid
- £4.6m from NGS purchase funds, trust funds and reserves

The painting will be shared by NGS and NGL and will be displayed for five years at each institution in turn. In a statement, the National Gallery said it had received assurances that the rest of the Bridgewater Collection will remain on loan to the National Galleries of Scotland for the next 21 years.

[www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about/press/2008/dianaactaeon\\_secured.htm](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about/press/2008/dianaactaeon_secured.htm)

### Museums at Night 2009

The MLA and Culture 24 are encouraging museums to participate in the annual *Museums at Night* event during 15-17 May. This national campaign for late opening across the UK aims to attract people who do not usually visit by staying open late or creating special events. It will link up with the European wide *La Nuit de Musees*, which takes place on 16 May. To access more information and download the media toolkit, press pack and publicity materials visit the 24 Hour Museum site and follow the *Museums at Night* logo on the homepage.

[www.24hourmuseum.org.uk](http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk)

### Record £686m Private Investment in Culture as Global Recession Threatens Fundraising

The total figure for private investment in culture in the UK reached a record high in 2007/8 according to research by Arts & Business (A&B) rising by 12% (above inflation) from the previous year to £686m. Of this, £124m went to museums. However, investment from business declined, falling 7% from the previous year

- Individual giving up 25% to £382m.
- Business investment down 7% to £163m
- Grants from trusts & foundations up 7% to £141m.

Introducing the findings of the *Arts & Business Private Investment in Culture Survey*, Colin Tweedy, A&B Chief Executive warned that "In this economic climate the challenges facing cultural organisations are immense and the cultural sector cannot remain immune in a global recession..... Our analysis suggests that confidence levels for investing in the arts will begin to pick up post 2013 albeit at a slower pace."

The survey also provided a regional breakdown showing that 70% of private investment in culture went to organisations in London. Private investment accounted for an average of 13% of the total income of those cultural organisations who responded to the survey.

A presentation providing a snapshot of the 'Investment Landscape' can be downloaded from the Arts & Business website. The full report will be available by the end of February.

[www.aandb.org.uk/render.aspx?siteID=1&navIDs=1,150,1620](http://www.aandb.org.uk/render.aspx?siteID=1&navIDs=1,150,1620)

### Arts & Business outlines cultural priorities

Arts & Business has unveiled a package of measures designed to address the development, learning and best practice needs of cultural organisations throughout the UK. As part of the strategy, Arts & Business has appointed Verity Haines as National Arts Director, to lead on the creation of successful partnerships between the creative industries and the corporate sector.

[www.aandb.org.uk/render.aspx?siteID=1&navIDs=1,184,1617](http://www.aandb.org.uk/render.aspx?siteID=1&navIDs=1,184,1617)

### Philanthropy and the Arts in Northern Ireland

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland has published 'Philanthropy and the Arts', an overview of recent developments in philanthropy with particular reference to philanthropy and the arts in Ireland. The report draws on interviews with ten of Ireland's top 100 high net worth individuals. It also provides an overview of arts philanthropy in the US. The report concludes that it includes:

- Cultural organisations need to create a strong artistic business case in order to attract philanthropic funding.
- Philanthropy is primarily a relationship building exercise between the donor and recipient.
- Donors believe Government has a role to play in encouraging and supporting philanthropic activity.
- There is a need for primary and local statistical evidence to support the value that arts and culture contribute to society and the economy

[www.artscouncil-ni.org/publications/Informational/PhilanthropyReportfinalNov08.pdf](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/publications/Informational/PhilanthropyReportfinalNov08.pdf)

### Kids in Museums Manifesto Launched

The 2009 *Kids in Museums Manifesto* has been launched at the Royal Academy. The manifesto lists 20 ways to encourage a more family friendly visit including "Don't say ssssshush!". It calls for provision of imaginative family learning activities and hands-on exhibits as well as: great toilets, accessible buildings, healthy, good value food, in-expensive shop items that children will treasure, and open space for letting off steam. Museums are invited to show their support for the *Kids in Museums Manifesto* by adding their name to the growing number of places that aspire to be family friendly. The V&A, Tyne and Wear Museums and the Churchill Museum and Cabinet War Rooms are among those that have already signed up. [www.kidsinmuseums.org.uk/our-manifesto/](http://www.kidsinmuseums.org.uk/our-manifesto/)

### National Museum Collections Online

The National Museums Online Learning project, linking the collections of nine national museums, will be launched this month. In a letter to *The Guardian*, David Anderson, Director of Learning and Interpretation at the V&A, highlighted the use of digital technology to open museum collections to anyone, and suggested the cultural sector has become the country's second education sector.

[www.guardian.co.uk/artanddesign/2009/jan/31/art-online](http://www.guardian.co.uk/artanddesign/2009/jan/31/art-online)

### Museum Centre for British History

The MLA has recommended the creation of a Museum Centre for British History, a federated organisation that could draw on the collections in museums, libraries, archives and heritage sites across the UK to capture the story of Britain. Last year the MLA was commissioned by the Government to look at options for a museum of British history, following a proposal from Lord Baker of Dorking. The MLA has consulted a range of leading experts, and a report has now been submitted to the Culture Secretary for consideration. The proposed centre, supported by a very small staff working in existing premises, would co-ordinate research and scholarship, plan thematic programmes, and schedule shows and events in places across the country. Roy Clare, MLA Chief Executive said: "Our consultation has brought us to a conclusion that the most stimulating and cost-effective way of meeting the objective for a museum that interprets Britain's story would be to develop innovative access to the fantastic collections held in existing museums, heritage sites, libraries and archives across Britain."

[www.mla.gov.uk/news/press/releases/2009/museum\\_centre\\_british\\_history](http://www.mla.gov.uk/news/press/releases/2009/museum_centre_british_history)

NMDC members Sandy Nairne, Neil MacGregor and Alec Coles were quoted in *The Independent* agreeing with the MLA's recommendation that building a new museum was not the best option.

[www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/this-britain/pms-plan-for-britishness-museum-consigned-to-history-1520403.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/this-britain/pms-plan-for-britishness-museum-consigned-to-history-1520403.html)

### Clore Leadership Programme

Applications are now open for the 2009/10 Fellowships on the Clore Leadership Programme. The programme is designed to help develop the knowledge, skills, networks and experience of potential leaders across a wide range of cultural activity. Each Fellow will have an individually tailored programme, lasting a year or longer, and starting in September 2009, to include residential courses, mentoring, tuition and a secondment. The closing date for applications is 2 March.

[www.cloreleadership.org](http://www.cloreleadership.org)

### Cultural Participation in Scotland

The Scottish Arts Council has published *Taking Part* research revealing that 32% of the adult population had visited a museum and 27% had visited an art gallery in the last 12 months. The research also shows the significance of higher education, revealing that those who have a degree or other higher education qualification are 10% more likely to attend or participate in arts or culture events than the general population.

[www.scottisharts.org.uk/1/information/publications/1006106.aspx](http://www.scottisharts.org.uk/1/information/publications/1006106.aspx)

### Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge

A new *Learning Outside the Classroom* Quality Badge has been launched. The Quality Badge scheme aims to help schools, families and local authorities to identify organisations that provide high quality learning experiences and manage safety effectively. [www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk](http://www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk)

GEM (the Group for Education in Museums) is delivering free one day training events in all nine English regions in February and March to support museums wishing to be awarded the Quality Badge. [www.gem.org.uk](http://www.gem.org.uk)

### Launch of Engaging Places

Engaging Places is a new online teaching resource which aims to help schools teach by using the buildings and places around them, including museums. The website is funded by the Government and managed by English Heritage and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE). It has been designed to support the new secondary curriculum for Key Stage 3 and enables teachers to access quality learning resources, case studies and a nationwide directory of organisations and venues.

[www.engagingplaces.org.uk](http://www.engagingplaces.org.uk)

## Darwin's home and workplace nominated for World Heritage Site status

Darwin's Landscape Laboratory, situated in the London Borough of Bromley, has been chosen as the UK's 2009 nomination to become a World Heritage Site. Darwin's Landscape Laboratory comprises Charles Darwin's house, experimental garden and the seven kilometres of countryside immediately around his property. It was used for Darwin's important scientific investigations for forty years after his round-the-world voyage on HMS Beagle in the 1830s. It was here that Darwin developed and demonstrated his theory of evolution by natural selection through the study of plants and animals in natural settings and under human management.

[www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/media\\_releases/5789.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/5789.aspx)

## MLA publishes Guidance on Child Safety

The MLA in partnership with the NSPCC has published guidance to support museums, libraries and archives to safeguard the children who use their services. The guidance provides practical information on the relevant legislation; steps to follow when "starting from scratch"; developing policies and procedures; conveying key messages to staff; and sources of further information and help.

[www.mla.gov.uk/what/publications/-/media/Files/pdf/2008/Safeguarding\\_v5.ashx](http://www.mla.gov.uk/what/publications/-/media/Files/pdf/2008/Safeguarding_v5.ashx)

## CyMAL Action Plan 2008-11 Published

The CyMAL: Museums Archives and Libraries Wales Action Plan 2008-2011 is now available online. This Action Plan identifies the strategic priority of supporting 21st century museum, archive and library services which meet the objectives of the One Wales Agreement.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/cultureandsport/museumsararchiveslibraries/cymal/publications/2841101/?lang=en>

## Crossing Borders - Connecting Cultures EU Funding for International Partnerships

The target countries for international partnership projects in Strand 1.3 of the EU Culture programme have been announced. They are: Armenia, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Moldova, occupied Palestinian Territory and Tunisia. The Culture Programme provides funding to enable cultural organisations across Europe to collaborate on cultural and artistic projects. Strand 1.3 promotes collaboration with countries outside Europe and the focus is on different countries each year. The deadline for applications is 1 May.

[www.culturefund.eu/#summary](http://www.culturefund.eu/#summary)

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/culture/guide/strand\\_1\\_3/funding\\_en.htm](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/culture/guide/strand_1_3/funding_en.htm)

## Trustee Appointments

The Trustees of **Tate** have elected **Lord Browne of Madingley** as their Chair with immediate effect. He has been a Tate Trustee since August 2007. Lord Browne, a passionate supporter of the arts, was Group Chief Executive of British Petroleum from 1995-2007, and was previously a Trustee of the British Museum (1995-2005).

[www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2009/17767.htm](http://www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2009/17767.htm)

Linda Fabiani, Scotland's Minister for Culture, has reappointed **Michael Kirwan** and **Sir John Ward** to the Board of Trustees of **National Museums Scotland**.

[www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/01/23121029](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/01/23121029)

## MLA Board

DCMS is inviting applications for two members of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. They are seeking people with a range of skills and experience to increase the strength of the 'new MLA' board, in particular those with experience and understanding of higher education, local government and local renewal, regional regeneration or the business world. Two further board vacancies will be advertised in the summer.

[www.culture.gov.uk/working\\_with\\_us/public\\_appointments/5796.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/working_with_us/public_appointments/5796.aspx)

# In Parliament

## Museum Placements for Parliamentarians

Shadow Arts Minister, Ed Vaizey MP, will be doing a placement at the Arts Council as part of a new initiative to promote mutual understanding between Parliament and the creative industries. The Industry and Parliament Trust has launched the Cultural and Creative Industries Fellowship programme, aimed at giving parliamentarians the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the creative industries. The British Library, the British Museum, the Tate and regional museums, galleries and archives are among the organisations which will be hosting some of the bespoke 18 day placements. The programme, which was launched by Lord Puttnam last month, is open to all Members of Parliament, UK Members of the European Parliament, Peers and senior Parliamentary officers.

[www.ipt.org.uk/Fellowships/CCIFellowships/](http://www.ipt.org.uk/Fellowships/CCIFellowships/)

## Holocaust (Stolen Art) Restitution Bill

Andrew Dismore MP, supported by nine other MPs, has presented a Private Members Bill to provide for the transfer from public museum and gallery collections of arts, artefacts and other objects stolen between 1933 and 1945 by or on behalf of the Nazi regime, its members and sympathisers; to provide for the return of such artefacts and objects to the lawful owners, their heirs and successors; and for connected purposes. The Bill will have a Second Reading debate on Friday 15 May. <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/holocauststolenartrestitution.html>

## MPs Seeks Amendment to British Museum Act

Mr Dismore, supported by seven other MPs, has also presented a Private Members Bill to amend the British Museum Act 1963 to permit the transfer of British Museum artefacts; to confer powers on the Secretary of State to require the transfer of artefacts in specified circumstances; and for connected purposes. The Bill is due to have its Second Reading debate on 20 March.

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/britishmuseumact1963amendment.html>

## Museums Policy in Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Assembly debated and approved the Report of the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure (7/08/09R) on its inquiry into the development of a museums policy for Northern Ireland. The Committee recommended that a museums policy for Northern Ireland should be developed, with a first draft within six months. The Committee also recommended that a strategic body is in place, whether the Northern Ireland Museums Council or a successor body, to co-ordinate the development of museums on geographical and thematic lines, so that Northern Ireland has a comprehensive provision of museums.

[www.theyworkforyou.com/ni/?id=2009-01-12.4.1](http://www.theyworkforyou.com/ni/?id=2009-01-12.4.1) and [www.theyworkforyou.com/ni/?id=2009-01-12.9.1](http://www.theyworkforyou.com/ni/?id=2009-01-12.9.1)

Report of the Culture Committee: [www.niassembly.gov.uk/culture/2007mandate/reports/report07\\_08\\_09r.htm](http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/culture/2007mandate/reports/report07_08_09r.htm)

## Fall in English Heritage Education Visits

In response to a parliamentary question, DCMS has published the number of free educational visits to English Heritage properties in each region from 1997-8 to 2007-8. The total number of free educational visits to all EH properties has fallen by 16.5% over the period, with the greatest drop in the North East, down 47%.

[www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090127/text/90127w0020.htm#09012764002235](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090127/text/90127w0020.htm#09012764002235)

# International Issues

## President Obama's Cultural Policies

This month's edition of *The Art Newspaper* includes detailed discussion of the potential arts policies of the Obama administration. During the election campaign, President Obama proposed increased investment in arts education, expansion of public/private partnerships between schools and arts organisations, the creation of an "Artist Corps" to work in low-income schools and communities; increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and the promotion of cultural diplomacy. Tax changes to reverse Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthy are also expected to have an impact on philanthropic donations to arts organisations in the US.

To mark the inauguration of President Obama, the MLA has drawn attention to his enthusiastic support for public libraries. In a speech at a library conference in Chicago in 2005, Obama described libraries as an enormous force for good. He said "The library represents a window to a larger world, the place where we've always come to discover big ideas and profound concepts that help move ... the human story forward."

[www.theartnewspaper.com/article.asp?id=16896](http://www.theartnewspaper.com/article.asp?id=16896) and

[www.theartnewspaper.com/article.asp?id=16776](http://www.theartnewspaper.com/article.asp?id=16776)

[www.mla.gov.uk/news/comment/obama\\_libraries](http://www.mla.gov.uk/news/comment/obama_libraries)

## US Economic Recovery Plan Proposes Arts Funding Boost

The \$825 billion economic recovery package proposed by congressional Democrats included a \$50m supplement for the National Endowment for the Arts to distribute directly to nonprofit arts organisations. Funds for the NEA have declined to \$145 million in fiscal year 2009 from \$176 million in 1992.

[www.nytimes.com/2009/01/26/arts/26nea.html?\\_r=3](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/26/arts/26nea.html?_r=3)

## President Sarkozy Announces Free Access to Museums for Young People

The French President, Nicholas Sarkozy has given a speech outlining his wishes for the cultural world. In it he announced the introduction of free access to museums and monuments of the State for all young people under 26 and their teachers beginning in April. Stressing that artistic and cultural education is a priority, he said hoped that partnerships would be signed between all schools and cultural organisations. President Sarkozy also announced plans to create a Museum of the History of France and to establish a council for the arts, which he will chair.

[www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/actualites/conferen/albanel/disvoeuxpr09.html](http://www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/actualites/conferen/albanel/disvoeuxpr09.html)

## Louvre Endowment

Bloomberg reports that eighteen banks, including UBS AG and JPMorgan Chase & Co., are competing to run the Louvre's new endowment fund. The museum is starting an endowment next month with the €175m it received to set up an outpost of the museum in Abu Dhabi.

[www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601088&sid=ae6mP.p22144&refer=muse](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601088&sid=ae6mP.p22144&refer=muse)

## Economic Crisis Prompts Sale of Museum Collections in United States

The National Academy Museum in New York has been expelled from the American Association of Museum Directors (AAMD) for selling two important paintings to raise about \$13.5m to fund operating costs. The AAMD said the Academy had breached one of the most basic and important of AAMD's principles by treating its collection as a financial asset. The AAMD specifies that works can only be deaccessioned to provide funds to acquire works of art and enhance a museum's collection. In a move which has attracted criticism from some in the arts world, the AAMD has also called on its 180 members to suspend any loans of works of art to and any collaboration on exhibitions with the Academy. [www.aamd.org/newsroom/documents/2008AAMDStatementonNAM\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.aamd.org/newsroom/documents/2008AAMDStatementonNAM_FINAL.pdf)

Meanwhile, Brandeis University in Massachusetts has announced that it will be closing the Rose Art Museum and putting the entire collection up for public sale. In a statement, the University's Board of Trustees said the move was part of "a campus-wide effort to preserve the university's educational mission in the face of the historic economic recession and financial crisis and would not alter the university's commitment to the arts and the teaching of the arts." The collection which includes works by Warhol, de Kooning, and Magritte is estimated to be worth \$350m. *The Boston Globe* reports that donors and supporters of the Museum are exploring whether they can block the closure or secure the public display of works they have donated. The American Association of Museums has urged the university to allow another museum to take over the stewardship of the collection.

[www.brandeis.edu/now/2009/january/rosedecision.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/now/2009/january/rosedecision.html) and [www.aam-us.org/pressreleases.cfm?mode=list&id=153](http://www.aam-us.org/pressreleases.cfm?mode=list&id=153)

## Job Cuts at LA Museum of Contemporary Arts

The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (MOCA) has announced that it is reducing staff by 20% and cutting operating expenses to achieve an annual saving of approximately \$4.4 million. Nine of the 35 trustees have also stepped down in the past two months. The Museum narrowly avoided financial ruin late last year after years of deficit funding when it accepted a \$30m bailout deal from billionaire philanthropist Eli Broad. Trustees also agreed to donate \$20m themselves. Jeremy Strick, Director of the Museum, resigned in December. The California Attorney General's office has been looking into the museum's finances after news reports that the institution had used restricted funds to cover general operating expenses.

[www.moca.org/pressroom/index.php](http://www.moca.org/pressroom/index.php)

## Budget Cuts At Smithsonian

*The Washington Post* reports that the newly installed Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution has implemented a hiring freeze and eliminated salary increases and bonuses for one class of its highest-paid employees. G. Wayne Clough has also asked several departments to reduce their current-year budgets by up to 8%. The Smithsonian's endowment dropped 25% last year.

[www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/26/AR2009012602328.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/26/AR2009012602328.html)

## The Prado in Google Earth

The Prado in Madrid and search engine Google have unveiled the first use of Google Earth technology to navigate reproductions of the museum's masterpieces. Google Earth now enables users to get close enough to examine a painter's brushstrokes or the craquelure on the varnish of a painting. The images of these works are about 14,000 million pixels, 1,400 times more detailed than the image a 10 megapixel digital camera would take. Fourteen paintings are currently on view inside a 3D reproduction of the museum.

[www.google.com/intl/en/landing/prado/](http://www.google.com/intl/en/landing/prado/)

## New Scientific Method to Date Photographs

Scientists at the Getty Conservation Institute in Los Angeles have developed a new method for provenancing and authentication of a majority of 20th century photographs. Using spectrometry analysis, the researchers have been able to identify the hidden chemical signatures associated with different photographic processes. The scientists found that photographic papers produced by different manufacturers at different times contain distinct concentrations of barium and strontium.

[www.getty.edu/news/press/authenticating\\_photographs.html](http://www.getty.edu/news/press/authenticating_photographs.html)

# National Museums' News Round Up

## National Museums Partnerships

Six paintings from the **National Portrait Gallery**, which have not been displayed for over a decade, will shortly go on long-term loan to venues in the North East and South West of England as part of the pilot for the Museum Association's Effective Collections scheme. The project, including conservation and transport costs, is funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and is one of a number of pilot programmes set up through the Effective Collections scheme to assess how small grants can be provided to facilitate loans and encourage museums to review objects not currently on display. [www.museumsassociation.org/17764&IXPOS=manews1.1](http://www.museumsassociation.org/17764&IXPOS=manews1.1)

The tour of **ARTIST ROOMS** has been launched, bringing one of the largest acquisitions of post-war and contemporary art to audiences across Britain. ARTISTS ROOMS were created by the dealer and collector, Anthony d'Offay, and acquired for the nation by **Tate** and **National Galleries of Scotland** in February 2008. This is the first time a national collection has been shared and shown simultaneously across the UK. Throughout 2009, 18 museums and galleries across the UK will be showing over 30 ARTIST ROOMS. The Art Fund is giving £250,000 per year to help Tate and National Galleries of Scotland to work with regional partners in 2009 and more thereafter. The tour is also supported by the Scottish Government. [www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2009/17730.htm](http://www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2009/17730.htm)

The **British Museum's** Partnership UK Scheme has launched a major touring exhibition on Chinese history and culture, starting at Bristol's City Museum & Art Gallery. *China: Journey to the East* is the largest UK loan of Chinese material the British Museum has yet undertaken. The exhibition will visit The Herbert, Coventry, Willis Museum, Basingstoke, Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Manchester Museum and York Art Gallery. Each venue will display part of its own Chinese collection alongside the loan material from the British Museum. There is also a programme of events at each venue and a free exhibition resource pack for teachers. [www.britishmuseum.org/the\\_museum/news\\_and\\_press\\_releases/press\\_releases/2009/journey\\_to\\_the\\_east.asp](http://www.britishmuseum.org/the_museum/news_and_press_releases/press_releases/2009/journey_to_the_east.asp)

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The **Royal Armouries Museum** has appointed Janice Murray, currently Head of Cultural Planning at the National Railway Museum in York, as its interim Chief Executive. Ms Murray, who joined the NRM six years ago as Deputy Head of Museum, has been seconded to the Royal Armouries for four days a week, pending the appointment of a full-time Chief Executive. Her appointment follows the resignation in October of Paul Evans, the former Chief Executive. Search and selection consultancy NRG has been asked to select candidates for chief executive.

The Royal Armouries in Leeds has also reported a 33% increase in visitor figures over the past four months, compared to same period last year. [www.royalarmouries.org/what-we-do/press/interim-chief-executive-appointed](http://www.royalarmouries.org/what-we-do/press/interim-chief-executive-appointed)

The **British Museum** has opened the Michael Cohen Gallery, a new Ancient Egyptian gallery centred round the painted tomb-chapel of Nebamun, who died around 1350 BC. The fragile wall-paintings, which have been on public display for 170 years, have been meticulously conserved and are re-displayed together for the first time in a setting designed to recreate their original aesthetic impact and to evoke their original position in a small intimate chapel. The gallery is supported by the R & S Cohen Foundation.

[www.britishmuseum.org/the\\_museum/news\\_and\\_press\\_releases/press\\_releases/2008/nebamun\\_gallery.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/the_museum/news_and_press_releases/press_releases/2008/nebamun_gallery.aspx)

The **Royal Air Force Museum** has reported a 21% rise in visitors in 2008 compared to the previous year. The National Cold War Exhibition at the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford has received a record 665,690 visitors since its opening. A major refurbishment of the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford's 'flying experience' for schools "Let's Fly" opened on 30 January. The classroom has been transformed into a mini airport, with conveyor belt and security gate, enabling children to participate in the entire holiday flight experience from Check In through to Passport Control before actually boarding onto an aeroplane, using genuine aircraft seating and fuselage to mimic a jumbo jet. The RAF Museum has also begun a programme of improvements to its London site, beginning with a major refurbishment of the restaurant which is being funded and managed by Digby Trout.

[www.rafmuseum.org.uk/news\\_events.cfm](http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/news_events.cfm)

**National Roman Legion Museum**, part of Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales, has been awarded the Investors in People status of a high standard. According to Investors in People the museum has demonstrated 'world class practice.' [www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/news/?article\\_id=492](http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/news/?article_id=492)

The **National Railway Museum** (NRM) has launched an SOS "Steam Our Scotsman" appeal to secure £250,000 to complete the restoration of the Flying Scotsman steam engine. The NRM rescued Flying Scotsman for the nation in 2004. Since then the locomotive has undergone a huge amount of work in order to be fully functional and back on the rails. However, due to the cost of rising copper and the poor condition of the boiler the restoration has cost a great deal more than anticipated. The campaign is asking the people to sponsor particular parts of the engine from a £25 bolt to a £100,000 outer firebox. [www.nrm.org.uk/flyingscotsman/sos.asp](http://www.nrm.org.uk/flyingscotsman/sos.asp)

The **Laing Art Gallery** has been awarded a grant of £250,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, towards the development of a new display showcasing the work of some of the region's most important artists. Additional funding has been provided by DCMS and the Wolfson Foundation and the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The new display is scheduled to open in 2010. [www.twmuseums.org.uk/news/heritage-lottery-fund-grant-awarded-to-laing-art-gallery/](http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/news/heritage-lottery-fund-grant-awarded-to-laing-art-gallery/)

The **V&A Museum of Childhood** has been awarded £244,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to preserve and open up the archives of four toy major manufacturers. The 3.5 year project, will include digitisation of 20% of the toy archives collection, a six month exhibition, a teacher's resource on the history of the British Toy industry and an outreach programme with the University of Middlesex and 90 primary-school children on the history of toy-making. [www.hlf.org.uk/English/MediaCentre/Archive/Toy+archives+to+be+saved.htm](http://www.hlf.org.uk/English/MediaCentre/Archive/Toy+archives+to+be+saved.htm)

Scientists at the **Natural History Museum** have discovered that birds survived the mass extinction that wiped out the dinosaurs because of their larger brains. Analysis of computer tomography (CT) scans of fossilised bird skulls shows they had a more developed, larger brain than previously thought. A larger and more complex brain may have given them a competitive advantage over the other more ancient birds and pterosaurs, helping them to better adapt when the environment changed after the mass extinction event. [www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/news/2009/january/extinction-survivors-were-bird-brains.html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/news/2009/january/extinction-survivors-were-bird-brains.html)

A man has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment for theft from the **British Library**. Farhad Hakimzadeh pleaded guilty to ten counts of theft and asked for a further 20 charges to be taken into account. He stole leaves, plates and maps from the Library's 16th, 17th and 18th century collections relating to West European engagement with Mesopotamia, Persia and the Mogul empire. The successful prosecution follows a thorough and detailed investigation by Library staff and the Metropolitan Police. This has led to the recovery of some of the items stolen by Hakimzadeh, and civil proceedings are now underway to recover further items and to seek financial compensation. [www.bl.uk/news/2009/pressrelease20090116.html](http://www.bl.uk/news/2009/pressrelease20090116.html)

**Glasgow Museums** has announced that Glasgow City Council has engaged a legal firm to assist it in trawling the world for breach of copyright of Salvador Dali's *Christ of St John on the Cross*, one of most important art works in the Museums' collection. The first letters to those already identified as being in breach of copyright have been sent, and responses are awaited. The Council is looking to recoup lost revenue, while protecting further revenue with licensing agreements. [www.glasgowmuseums.com/venue/showNews.cfm?venueid=4&itemid=744](http://www.glasgowmuseums.com/venue/showNews.cfm?venueid=4&itemid=744)

The **National Library of Scotland** is taking ownership and management of the Agency for the Legal Deposit Libraries, currently run administratively by the University of Cambridge. The five legal deposit libraries intend to integrate the Agency processes even more closely with their own operations. The move will mean that in future legal deposit material will be received in Edinburgh rather than in London where it will be processed and sent on to the libraries. [www.legaldeposit.org.uk](http://www.legaldeposit.org.uk)

**Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery** now has a profile on the social networking site, Facebook. [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=34806457974](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=34806457974)

**Contact details for the NMDC Secretariat:**

Kate Bellamy, Head of Strategy and Communications	<a href="mailto:k.bellamy@vam.ac.uk">k.bellamy@vam.ac.uk</a>	Tel: 020 7942 2817
Suzie Tucker, Projects and Committees Officer	<a href="mailto:s.tucker@vam.ac.uk">s.tucker@vam.ac.uk</a>	Tel: 020 7942 2818
<a href="http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk">www.nationalmuseums.org.uk</a>		

If you have any comments on the NMDC Newsletter or would like to contribute to a future edition, please email Emily Candler, at [news@nationalmuseums.org.uk](mailto:news@nationalmuseums.org.uk)