



Welcome to this month's NMDC newsletter, which contains information about the Scottish Cultural Commission Report and the London 2012 Olympic Games.

NMDC News

NMDC Meeting

The National Museum Directors' Conference met on 8 April. The new Culture Minister, David Lammy, joined the meeting to meet the Directors and discuss his vision for the future of museums and culture. The Minister espoused his belief in the central role of museums in the establishment of identity in society, particularly in terms of the concept of 'Britishness'. He will be taking forward findings of the 'Understanding the Future' consultation initiated by Estelle Morris

HR Forum

The HR Forum and HR Leadership and Development Sub-Group met at the National Portrait Gallery in June. A representative from the Whitehall & Industry Group (WIG) attended the main meeting to discuss the work of the Group, which works with government organisations and business to build links and networks. The MLA's Chris Fardon and Tom Forrest of FPM attended the Leadership and Development Sub-Group. MLA has commissioned FPM to develop and pilot a model for a leadership skills programme for middle and senior managers in museums and archives. The pilot of the programme is due to begin in November.

Valuing Museums Working Group

The Valuing Museums Working Group met in June. The group is extending the work originally undertaken for the national museums by Tony Travers and Stephen Glaister, to include the major institutions within the UK museums sector. NMDC is working with MLA to extend the methodology to the lead Hub Museums. The Group is also looking into research on the public value of museums and international comparisons.

Cultural Diversity Group

The Cultural Diversity Group's interim report including three general recommendations were approved at the NMDC meeting on 8 April. The Cultural Diversity Group met in June to develop plans to consult more widely on the subsidiary recommendations outlined in the interim report. The report recommended that the development of cultural diversity is overseen by a member of each national museum's senior team. The group also discussed the Mayor's Commission on African and Asian Heritage, which will be launched at the V&A on 18 July.

UK Affairs Committee

The UK Affairs Committee, chaired by David Fleming met at the British Museum on 14 June. The committee provides a forum for representatives of national and regional museums, the MA, MLA and the regional agencies to coordinate work in the sector and explore possibilities for partnership working. The Committee is working with MLA to develop a proposal for the research into partnership working, focusing on evidence of the outcomes from previous or existing collaborations, and examining the needs and opportunities for future development of collaborative programmes.

Joint Advocacy Group

The Joint Advocacy Group met on 24 June. The group provides a forum for representatives from museum groups including the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, the Group of Larger Local Authority Museums, the Association of Independent Museums, The University Museums Group, the Art Fund, the Museums Association and the NMDC, to discuss advocacy in the sector

Current Issues

London to Host 2012 Olympics

Congratulations to the London2012 teams on the success of their bid to host the 2012 Olympics!

London2012 held a seminar, 'Exploring Internationalism', at the University of East London on 22 June to consider the role of intercultural engagement as part of the creative regeneration agenda of London2012. In a keynote address at the seminar Sir Christopher Frayling called on the sector to 'speak loud and clear about the value of culture as cement for communities'. Dr Lindsay Sharp reviewed the international dimensions of many NMSI projects emphasising the international commonality of science and technology debates around subjects such as HIV, GMO and mobile phones. Dr Augustus Casely-Hayford, Africa05 Director and member of the NMDC Cultural Diversity Working Group described a universality that hasn't left London since the establishment of the British Museum as the first universal museum.

The London bid detailed a series of proposals to take forward the cultural agenda in the run-up to the Olympics and beyond which include:

Five Rings Exhibition

NMDC has supported Jude Kelly's team in the development of the Five Rings Exhibition, which is to be a unique museum and gallery partnership between the visual arts, social history and science. Working with international curators the exhibition will offer new interpretations of our shared histories.

The Olympic FriendShip

A Clipper is to be launched on a four-year journey at the end of the Beijing Games in 2008 crewed by artists, scientists, environmentalists and students. In each port the ship will spark a mini cultural and education festival. Schools and organisations from across the UK will prepare by creating a 'cargo of ideas' for the ship, working with artists and cultural organisations.

The London Olympics Institute

The London Olympics Institute will be established after the games to encompass elite and community sport, culture, the environment, sports science, health and research. The Institute is intended to create cultural excellence by offering a new creative hub situated at the heart of East and South East London, providing a stimulating and forward-thinking environment for London's cultural and creative communities.

World Cultural Festival

As athletes come to the Games, every competing nation will be invited to bring their own culture to London and the UK and help stage a World Cultural Festival. Over 200 national pavilions will be created, with arts, film, food, languages and customs of every culture, which would be represented and beamed back across the planet via a network of global organisations, internet and wireless technology.

World Festival of Youth Culture

In 2012 the World Festival of Youth Culture would be staged along the waterways, bridges and streets of the revitalised Lower Lea Valley in East London. The festival would focus on every aspect of youth culture, sport and the next generation's ownership of world ideas. To commemorate this, the host boroughs would create the East Bank, a designated hub for cutting edge youth activity, as a legacy of the Olympic Games.
Artists Taking the Lead

To download a copy of the London Bid, including the Chapter 'Olympism and Culture' go to:
www.london2012.com/en/bid/

Scottish Cultural Commission Report

The Scottish Cultural Commission has delivered its final report on cultural provision in Scotland. Scottish Culture Minister Patricia Fergusson welcomed the report's completion and promised a Parliamentary debate on the way forward for Scotland's culture, following the summer recess. The report contains 124 recommendations, which include the introduction of two limited companies with charitable status, Culture Scotland to oversee cultural policy and Culture Fund to oversee funding. The Government would retain a share in the companies and the culture ministers would be represented on the boards, but administration would be devolved. Other recommendations include:

- A strategy to tackle the funding gap and lever a further £100m each year into culture in Scotland (1% of the Scottish Executive's annual budget).
- Four cultural rights for citizens of Scotland to:
 - fulfil their creative potential
 - take part in cultural life
 - an enriching communal life in a satisfying environment
 - participate in designing and implementing cultural policy.
- The establishment of a Board of National Institutions with Collections
- A Culture Bill by 2007 (29 recommendations require legislation)
- Courses in Scottish HE and FE relating to art, music, the performing arts and writing as well as the creative, scientific or technical industries should include a module on intellectual property
- That the Scottish Executive promotes to the UK Government improved measures to encourage private donations to cultural causes
- That Learning and Teaching Scotland and the National Archives of Scotland pilot a programme to produce an e-archive album and individual workspaces on the internet for each child
- The introduction of a national approach to the evaluation of museums as a means of developing policy and recognising achievement
- The introduction of a national approach to the development of curatorial talent
- The development of a process for recognising collections of particular significance with investment in a national on-line portal capable of displaying these collections and information about the museums and galleries housing them.

To download the report go to: www.culturalcommission.org.uk

Consultation on the code of practice on the care of human remains in museums

Following wider consultation by DCMS in 2004 on the report of the working party on the care of historic human remains, a draft code of practice has been produced, drawing on expertise in collections management, research, ethics and the legal framework for the retention and repatriation of human remains. To download a copy go to:

www.mla.gov.uk/action/can/00can.asp#remains

Collections for the Future

The Museums Association has published their report on collections following an 18-month consultation. Speaking at the launch, the report Chair, Jane Glaister said that the publication addressed the problem of 'too much unused stuff', which will lead museums into a decline. Mark Taylor, MA Director, said the report's aim was for 'sustained change in the culture of the museums sector'.

www.museumsassociation.org

MLA Commission Skills Sets Research

MLA and South West Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (SWMLAC) have jointly commissioned tfpl (www.tfpl.com) to identify the staff skills and knowledge needed to deliver MLA's modernising programmes - Renaissance in the Regions, Framework for the Future, the Archives Development Plan and Inspiring Learning for All. The project will focus on the generic skills common to museums, libraries and archives.

A second stage of the project, to be completed by September, will be to develop and test a Training Needs Analysis toolkit. If successful, a web based Training Needs Analysis will be made available for use by institutions in other regions.

For further information contact:

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AHRC to fund 'Academic Analogues'

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) has announced plans to enable a small number of organisations outside the higher education sector to apply for recognition as Academic Analogues, eligible to apply directly for AHRC research funding. Academic Analogues are UK-based organisations that are 'not-for-profit' and are not funded by the UK Higher Education Funding Councils, but have a significant existing independent research capability. The AHRC anticipates that most or all of the first academic analogues that it recognises will be major national museums, galleries, libraries and archives, and that initially around ten organisations will meet the specified requirements. Applications must be received by the AHRC before 5pm on 2 September 2005.

Details of the rationale for establishing a small number of Academic Analogues, the requirements and scope of Academic Analogue status and the procedure for organisations to apply for such status can be found at:

www.ahrc.ac.uk/ahrc/website/images/4_96139.pdf.

engage launch en-quire

engage have launched a website for their new **en-quire** programme. **en-quire** is an 18 month action-research programme funded by DCMS and DfES, and delivered by engage with ACE and the MLA as part of their Strategic Community Programme. New collaborations between teachers, artists, university researchers and gallery educators have been set up by enquire to offer exciting learning experiences for pupils - and to research the special benefits of working with the visual arts and galleries, in the context of MLA's *Inspiring Learning* framework, identifying key learning outcomes. en-quire has run initial 'bench-marking' focus group discussions where young people identified benefits from participating in gallery education projects. Visit the site at www.en-quire.org for further details.

The Pleasures and Pressures of Income Generation Conference

The latest issues and trends in funding and income generation are to be tackled in a Campaign for Museums' conference at English Heritage, Savill Row on 14 September. The conference is supported by DCMS, National Audit Office and the Association for Cultural Enterprise. Please register your interest by emailing Ylva French at Ylva@campaignformuseums.org.uk. www.campaignformuseums.org.uk

Roots & Wings Awards 2005

The Roots and Wings Awards, managed by Curiosity & Imagination, (www.curiosityandimagination.org.uk) the national network for children's hands-on learning took place on Wednesday 15th June.

The Roots and Wings Awards are based on the idea that heritage is an integral part of children's development with their local surroundings and communities and in turn their place in the wider world. In its second year the scheme celebrated seven inspiring projects spanning the country. Award winning entries included a role-play blitz experience (Coventry Arts and Heritage) and a short film project inspired by African artefacts (Whitworth Art Gallery and Manchester Museum).

All the projects entered for the award demonstrated the positive ways in which children are developing a stronger awareness of their surroundings.

New Clore Fellows

The Clore Leadership Programme announced 27 new Fellows for 2005/6 on 15 June. The new fellows include Augustus Casely-Hayford, Programme Director for Africa 05 and member of the NMDC Cultural Diversity Working Group, Shirley Collier, Deputy Director of Collections for the Imperial War Museum and Jo Hedley, Curator of Pictures pre-1800 at the Wallace Collection.

For further information about this year's fellows and the Clore Leadership Programme go to: www.cloreleadership.org

Britain as the world's creative hub

In a keynote speech to the ippr (www.ippr.org.uk), Creative Industries Minister James Purnell has launched a major debate on how Britain can become the world's creative hub.

To start the debate Purnell announced a study into setting up a music council, a stock take on film policy, an intellectual property project and a review of creativity in schools to examine how schools can further support creativity.

For further information and to view the speech go to: www.culture.gov.uk/global/press_notices/archive_2005

New Chairs of Honours Committees

The Government has announced the names of the new Chairs of the honours committees. The appointments have been made through open competition to improve transparency and accountability in the honours system following recommendations in a review of the honours system by Sir Hayden Phillip and the Public Administration Select Committee. The new chairs include Lord Rothschild, OM, GBE for Arts and Media, Lord Newton of Braintree, OBE for Community, Voluntary and Local Services, Dame Alexandra Burslem, DBE for Education and Lord May of Oxford, OM, AC for Science and Technology.

Details of the honours system can be found at:
www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ceremonial/

Queen's Birthday Honours List

The Queen's birthday honours list included the following awards to individuals in the cultural sector:

C.B.E.

MCDONNELL, David Croft, D.L., lately Chair, National Museums of Liverpool. For services to Museums and Galleries.

O.B.E.

Ms Jane Glaister, Director, Arts, Heritage and Leisure, Bradford Metropolitan District Council. For services to Museums.

M.B.E.

Clive, Sue, Mrs., Freelance Gallery Educationalist. For services to Museums and Galleries.

Chapman, Susan Jennifer, Mrs., Personal Assistant to the Permanent Secretary, Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

D.C.B.

Street, Susan Ruth, Mrs., Permanent Secretary, Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

To view the full list go to: www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page7632.asp

Extended Schools Prospectus

DfES have published 'Extended Schools: Access to Opportunities and Services for All'. In the prospectus visits to museums are included in a core menu of extended services to be accessible to children through schools by 2010.

For further information and to download the prospectus go to:
www.teachernet.gov.uk/extendedschools

Lammy Welcomes African Curators

On 21 June David Lammy welcomed three young Sierra Leonean museums workers as they arrived in the UK for an exchange including a month's training at the National Railway Museum and Hull City Museums.

The training is to prepare them to take over the running of the newly opened Sierra Leone National Railway Museum in Freetown. The exchange has been funded by DCMS as part of the Government's Africa Initiative.

For further information go to:
www.culture.gov.uk/global/press_notices/archive_2005/dcms085_05.htm

Museums Copyright Group Wider Group Meeting

The Museums Copyright Group (MCG) held their wider group meeting on 21 June at the National Maritime Museum. Issues discussed included IP Policies for Museums, MDA and copyright, and a DACS update. The National Portrait Gallery's Bernard Horrocks gave an update on the WATCH (Writers, Artists and their Copyright Holders) project. WATCH is searchable online database of copyright holders for artists or writers for collections that are held in whole or in part in libraries and archives in the USA and UK. The NPG has recently contributed 800 records to the database, which can be accessed at www.watch-file.com.

For further information about the Museum Copyright Group, including information on how to join, go to: www.museumscopyright.org.uk

DCMS Business Plan 2005

The DCMS Business Plan 2005 has outlined targets for the future, which include publication of the results of the 'Understanding the Future' consultation by Autumn 2005 and achievement of the SR2002 project target of increasing visitors to the national museums from underrepresented groups by 8%. The Plan also states that by the end of 2005 DCMS will decide on the best way to develop with the Arts Council England, MLA and others a quality 'kitemark' for cultural organisations and artists working in education. To download the full plan go

to: www.culture.gov.uk/global/publications/archive_2005/business_plan_2005.htm

Members' News

'Living Museum' to commemorate WWII

A 'Living Museum' was staged in St. James's park as one of a number of events to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War Two. Exhibits included highlights from many of the Nation's major wartime collections. IWM brought Their Past Your Future (www.theirpastyourfuture.org.uk) to the Living Museum as part of the touring programme. Visitors were invited to write down their experiences of the 2nd world war on sheets of coloured paper, which were displayed in the exhibition tent. At the National Army Museum's exhibition tent veterans were asked to record the route of their wartime journeys on a map of the world. For further information about this, and other commemorative events, visit the MoD website at: <http://news.mod.uk>

Scotland Visual Arts Education Awards 2005

Winners of the engage Scotland Visual Arts Education Awards 2005 were announced at a ceremony held at the National Galleries of Scotland on 30 June. Backed by the Scottish Executive's National Programme for Improving Mental Health and Well-Being, the Awards were presented to eleven projects demonstrating exceptional and creative ways in which artists, members of the community and arts educators work together to promote positive well being and to challenge stigma and discrimination surrounding those suffering from mental ill health. From young people in the capital tackling issues of underage drinking by educating local alcohol retailers to a Clackmannan self help group of unemployed adults suffering from mental ill health experiencing international critical acclaim for creating a 'model for good practice', the winning projects received national recognition and a share of the £10,000 prize for investment in further work

For further information about the awards contact Wendy Grannon at wendygrannon@yahoo.co.uk

Diamonds at the Natural History Museum

NHM's Diamonds exhibition opened in July. The exhibition, which will run until 26 February 2006, is the largest diamond exhibition ever staged. For further information go to: www.nhm.ac.uk/diamonds

National Archives experiences highest online hits

In June The National Archives at Kew launched a new online database detailing the 18,000 people who fought in the Battle of Trafalgar. On its first day of going live, the Trafalgar Ancestors database generated 57,360 visits – 33% higher than the daily average of visitors to The National Archives website. Anyone can search and access the data on Trafalgar Ancestors for free and discover whether their ancestors fought in the Battle of Trafalgar.

The launch of the database coincided with one of The National Archives' other Sea Britain 2005 activities, the opening of an exhibition at its museum in Kew – Captains, Pirates and Castaways: Battles and Voyages of Nelson, Cook and Bligh.

The exhibition, which is free to enter, runs until 19 November and visitors can see a number of artefacts relating to Nelson, Cook and Bligh.

Alison Webster, Head of Online Department at The National Archives said, 'The launch of the Trafalgar Ancestors online exhibition generated a high volume of interest in The National Archives website. In fact we hit an all time high in record terms. The peak number of visit sessions was 33% higher and page views was 137 % higher than we experienced during the Who Do you Think You Are? BBC series in November 2004.' To view the Trafalgar site go to: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/trafalgarancestors

Nelson & Napoleon

The National Maritime Museum's Nelson & Napoleon exhibition was launched in July. The exhibition, which is open until November, commemorates the 200th anniversary of Nelson's victory and death at the Battle of Trafalgar. Nelson and Napoleon is part of SeaBritain2005, a series of festivals and events in 2005 and beyond which celebrate the ways in which the sea touches our lives.

For further information about Nelson & Napoleon go to: www.nmm.ac.uk
For information about other SeaBritain2005 events go to: www.seabritain2005.com

Parliamentary Report

Lords debate the value of Museums

There was a Lords debate last month on the subject of 'Museums'. The debate was initiated by Viscount Eccles who was prompted to raise a discussion of the value of museums following the publication of DCMS's consultation paper 'Understanding the Future: Museums and 21st Century Life: The Value of Museums'.

Viscount Eccles raised a concern that the government was not placing sufficient emphasis on the importance of enjoyment in museums, concentrating instead on the notion that museums must be 'good for us'. Lord Faulkner of Worcester addressed the debate, praising the role of museums such as the National Museums of Science and Industry in spanning the worlds of arts and science, 'particularly in terms of government interests such as the DTI science and innovation strategy through to regeneration, sustainable transport and overseas initiatives'. To view a transcript of the debate go to:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld199900/ldhansrd/pdvn/lds05/text/50609-13_head013

National Lottery Bill 2nd Reading

The National Lottery Bill received its 2nd Reading in the House of Commons on 14 June.

Lottery Minister, Richard Caborn, said in his opening speech:

"The Big Lottery Fund is at the heart of the reforms I am presenting to the House. The Fund will also be a centre of Lottery excellence, developing cutting edge ways of involving the public in decisions about grants and programmes. It will also save up to £16m a year in administration costs.'

For further information from DCMS go to:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/national_lottery/lottery_bill/default.htm

To view the bill and explanatory notes go to:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmbills/006/2006006.htm>

Forthcoming Meetings

National Museum Directors' Conference

Friday, 1 July, 11am, Imperial War Museum

Valuing Museums sub group

Tuesday, 19 July, 9am, Imperial War Museum

Marketing Group

Monday, 11 July, 2pm, Museum of London

PR Group Meeting

Friday, 29 July, 11.30am, National Archives, Kew

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If you have any comments on the NMDC Newsletter or would like to contribute to a future edition, please contact Claire Henry

