



## **Museums and Galleries Responding to the Climate and Ecological Crisis**

**Hosted by the Whitworth and NMDC**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

the **Whitworth**

  
**MANCHESTER MUSEUM**

**nmdc** national  
museum  
directors'  
council

## Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March

---

**11:30 Welcome from the Whitworth and NMDC**

---

**11:45 Climate action is not just for COP26, Henry McGhie, Curating Tomorrow**

Climate change is typically mainstream news at the time of COPs, the UN climate change conference, but climate action is not just for COP: it needs everyone and every sector, including museums, everywhere and 365 days a year.

---

**12:30 Engaging the public as active citizens**

Speakers:

- Clare Matterson, Natural History Museum
- Nick Merriman, the Horniman Museum and Gardens
- Francine Hayfron, the Whitworth

Chaired by Jenny Waldman, Art Fund

---

**13:45 Afternoon Tea**

**Carbon Literacy Lounge in the South Gallery**

---

**14:30 Planning to reach net zero**

Speakers:

- Simon Branson, Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios
- Craig Bentley, Science and Industry Museum
- Naomi Garnett, Quaker Tapestry Museum

Chaired by Sara Kassam, V&A

---

**15:30 Discussion session: museums and the road to net zero**

---

**16:30 Break**

---

**16:45 High hopes and expectations - what next for climate action post COP 26, Professor Carly McLachlan, Director, Tyndall Manchester**

Carly will reflect on the current level of climate action compared to the level of change needed and opportunities to collaborate to drive significant transformation.

---

**17:45 Closing Remarks**

---

**18:00 Evening reception in the South Gallery**

---

**19:30 Reception ends**

---

## Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March

---

**09:00** Taking Action on Climate Change & Sustainability at the Australian Museum, Zehra Ahmed & Jenny Newell, Australian Museum

---

**09:30** Cross-sector Strategy for Climate Action, Heath Lowndes and Greg Hilty, Gallery Climate Coalition

GCC co-founders Heath Lowndes (GCC Managing Director) and Greg Hilty (GCC Trustee and Curatorial Director, Lisson Gallery) will be highlighting the need for a cross-sector alignment on environmental action as well as inviting public institutions and museums to participate in the coalition's campaigns, standard setting and resource sharing.

---

**10:00** Coffee break

---

**10:20** Mitigation, adaption and resilience

Speakers:

- Reyahn King, York Museums Trust
- Justin McGuirk, the Design Museum
- Simon Curtis, Manchester Arts Sustainability Team

Chaired by Lisa Ollerhead, Association of Independent Museums

---

**11:35** Discussion session: Accelerated action, Alison Tickell, Julie's Bicycle

---

**12:45** Lunch

Carbon Literacy Lounge in the South Gallery

---

**14:00** Cultivating Climate Leadership: Evolving an Institution to Address Climate Change and Helping Others to Do the Same, Richard Piacentini, Phipps Conservatory, Pittsburgh

---

**14:40** Next steps in climate leadership

Speakers:

- Bridget McKenzie, Climate Museum
- Hilary Jennings, the Happy Museum
- Ben Twist, Creative Carbon Scotland

Chaired by Esme Ward, Manchester Museum

---

**15:30** Afternoon break

---

**15:50** Plenary discussion led by Nick Merriman

---

**16:15** Conference ends

---

## Speakers

---

**Maria Balshaw** is Director of Tate, a role she has held since June 2017. She has overall responsibility for Tate's strategic direction and day-to-day operations. Previously, Maria was Director of the Whitworth, University of Manchester; Director of Manchester City Galleries; and Director of Culture for Manchester City Council. Maria is Chair of the National Museum Directors' Council and is a Trustee of the Clore Leadership Programme and Manchester International Festival's Boards. In 2015, she was awarded a CBE for services to the arts.

- @mbalshaw
- <https://www.tate.org.uk/>

---

**Henry McGhie** has a background as an ecologist, museum curator and manager. He set up Curating Tomorrow in 2019 to support museums and their partners to enhance their contributions to sustainable development agendas, including the SDGs, climate action, biodiversity conservation, Disaster Risk Reduction and human rights. He is a member of the ICOM Sustainability Working Group.

- @Henry\_McGhie
- <https://www.curatingtomorrow.co.uk/>

---

**Jenny Waldman** joined Art Fund as Director in April 2020. She was previously Director of 14-18 NOW, WW1 Centenary Arts Commissions; and Creative Producer of the London 2012 Festival. She has worked across museums, festivals and performing arts, including leading the programming at the Southbank Centre and at Somerset House.

- @Jkwaldman
- <https://www.artfund.org/>

---

**Clare Matterson** is the Executive Director of Engagement for the Natural History Museum with responsibility for public programmes, commercial, communication and international activities. For many years she led Wellcome's cultural work, was co-founder of Wellcome Collection and established the STEM Learning Centre. She is a member of the UKRI Natural Environment Research Council.

- @CEMatterson
- <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/>

---

**Nick Merriman** - Since becoming CEO of the Horniman in May 2018, Nick has focused its mission, as London's only museum where nature and culture can be seen side by side, on connecting us all 'with global cultures and the natural environment, encouraging us to shape a positive future for the world we all share'. The Horniman declared a Climate Emergency in July 2020 and followed this up with a Manifesto and Action Plan in January 2021.

- @nickmerriman01
- <https://www.horniman.ac.uk/>

---

**Francine Hayfron** is the Cultural Park Keeper at The Whitworth. Before joining The Whitworth in 2014, Francine has worked in the arts & wellbeing charitable sector working with organisations that use artistic mediums including horticulture, to help people that are experiencing emotional difficulties and those that feel isolated or excluded from their communities due to a decline in their mental health. Here she learnt, first hand, how engaging with the outdoors can have an impact and help to improve a person's mental wellbeing and this passion has driven the creation of the gallery's Natural and Cultural Health Service programme. As the Cultural Park Keeper, Francine develops exciting activities and partnerships with a focus on the great outdoors and natural world in an urban context, bringing nature and culture together.

- @WhitworthCPK
  - <https://www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk/>
-

---

**Sara Kassam** works across the V&A to embed sustainability expertise and catalyse systemic change in operations and behaviours. She is also the Climate Change Trustee for the Museums Association. Sara has worked in sustainability at different levels from strategic planning to practical implementation, in the higher education, local government and charity sectors. She loves connecting people and ideas to make positive change happen.

- @Sara\_Kassam
- <https://www.vam.ac.uk/>

---

**Naomi Garnett** became General Manager of the Quaker Tapestry Museum at the beginning of 2022. Naomi oversees the strategic development as well as the day-to-day running of the museum. Prior to this, she worked at the National Justice Museum in Nottingham for over 8 years as the Learning Manager.

- @NaomiGarnett
- <https://www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk/>

---

**Craig Bentley** is Director of Estate Operations for the Science Museum Group and is responsible for the sustainable management and maintenance of a large, diverse and public museum estate. As strategic lead for the decarbonisation of the group's property, he is an advocate of sustainable practice within the FM industry.

- <https://www.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/>

---

**Simon Branson** has experience delivering award-winning and sustainable public buildings to provide sustainable, flexible and modern facilities for their users. He is passionate about the value of design and environmental and socially sustainable solutions, and is currently working on a netzero carbon theatre and Nursery. Prior to FCBS Simon was an associate at MUMA and worked on the Whitworth Art gallery and the medieval and renaissance galleries at the V&A, both pioneering in their approach to sustainable gallery design.

- <https://fcbstudios.com/>

---

**Professor Carly McLachlan** is the Director of Tyndall Manchester - an interdisciplinary team working on policy relevant research on climate change based within the School of Engineering at the University of Manchester. Carly is also Associate Director of the ESRC Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformation. Her research interests focus on how stakeholders, including publics, engage with energy and sustainability issues and how 'evidence' is used within this. Her previous research projects, have covered a range of topics including: setting carbon budgets and targets for cities, community energy, stakeholder assessment of carbon capture and storage, tidal energy and future food systems. Her current research is primarily focused on how cities can drive climate action and she works closely with Greater Manchester Combined Authority on a number of projects from establishing the Energy Innovation Agency to co-developing a co-benefits decision support toolkit. She has also recently been part of the team that produced a Super-Low Carbon Roadmap for the live music sector, working with the band Massive Attack.

- @carlymclachlan
- <https://tyndall.ac.uk/>

---

**Zehra Ahmed** is the Sustainability and Accessibility Projects Coordinator at the Australian Museum (AM). Zehra leads strategic projects including the Sustainability Action Plan and the Accessibility and Inclusion Action Plan (AIAP) and has enabled the AM to become Climate Active (carbon neutral). Implementing energy upgrades and waste management best practice has established the AM as an innovative leader in these fields.

- <https://australian.museum/>
-

---

**Dr Jenny Newell** is manager of Climate Change Projects, Australian Museum. She works to advance understanding and engagement in climate change. With a focus on the Pacific and Australia, she has held curatorial roles in London, Canberra, New York and Sydney. She continues to explore the potentials for positive human-nature relationships through community collaborations, publications and exhibitions.

- @ClimateJen
- <https://australian.museum/>

---

**Greg Hilty** joined Lisson Gallery as Curatorial Director in 2008, following many years as an independent curator and in directorial positions at a number of notable London galleries and organisations. From 1990, Hilty was a Senior Curator at the Hayward Gallery where, through major exhibitions such as 'Doubletake' (1992) and 'Material Culture' (1997) he focused on innovative presentations of contemporary artists. He was Director of Arts for London Arts, and Director of Visual Arts and Literature for the Arts Council England's London office from 1999–2004. In 2005, he founded the Plus Equals agency with the University of the Arts London to initiate artistic initiatives across creative industries. At Lisson Gallery, Hilty has oversight of the global curatorial programme of its five exhibition spaces in London, New York and Shanghai, as well as advising on important external projects and working closely with significant gallery artists including Ai Weiwei and Anish Kapoor.

- <https://www.lissongallery.com/>

---

**Heath Lowndes** is Managing Director of Gallery Climate Coalition (GCC), which he has run since its launch in October 2020. GCC is an international charity and membership organisation set up to provide sector-specific resources and guidelines on environmental sustainability. He is also a co-founder of PACT (Partners on Arts and Climate Targets), a global collective established to set standards and align targets amongst organisations working at the intersection of culture and climate action.

- <https://galleryclimatecoalition.org/>

---

**Lisa Ollerhead** is the Director of the Association of Independent Museums, a membership organisation representing over a thousand independent museums and heritage organisations across the UK. AIM supports members to prosper through programmes, publishing resources, and grant funding focusing on governance, effective operations, and tackling inequalities. Prior to joining AIM in June 2021 Lisa was Head of Museums Policy at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport for nearly five years, where she worked on major museums initiatives including the Mendoza Review and was a policy lead on the Museum Estates and Development Fund and Culture Recovery Fund."

- @ljollerhead
- <https://aim-museums.co.uk/>

---

**Reyahn King** is Chief Executive of York Museums Trust and an experienced leader who brings people together to develop new visions for culture. Reyahn is a Board member of Culture Perth and Kinross, on the steering group for the British Art Network and led the development of York's Culture Strategy as former Chair of York Cultural Leaders Group.

- @reyahn2
- <https://www.yorkmuseumstrust.org.uk/>

---

**Justin McGuirk** is the Chief Curator of the Design Museum and the Director of Future Observatory, a new national programme supporting design research in achieving the UK's environmental goals. In a diverse career, he has edited magazines, been a newspaper critic, founded a digital publishing house and been awarded the Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale for his curating. He was also the founding Head of the Design Curating and Writing MA at Design Academy Eindhoven. He has lectured at universities and conferences around the world, and his writing has appeared in the New Yorker, the Guardian, e-flux and numerous art and design journals. He is the author or editor of several books, including *Radical Cities* (Verso, 2014).

- @justinmcguirk
- <https://designmuseum.org/>

---

**Simon Curtis** convenes GMAST, an award-winning network of over 50 cultural organisations working collectively to address the climate and ecological crisis across Greater Manchester. He represents culture at a city level as part of Manchester Climate Change Partnership – the board which oversees Manchester's Climate Change Agency and the development of city strategy and policy. He has recently been leading the URBACT Transfer Network C-Change – Arts and Culture Leading Climate Action in Cities recognising the impact of collaborative, collective working through a multi-year pan-European project.

- <https://www.g-mast.org/>

---

**Richard Piacentini** - since 1994, Richard has led the green transformation of Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens operations, programs and facilities including construction of some of the greenest buildings in the world. This work he initiated is based on regenerative thinking and recognizing the vital connections between people, plants, health and planet.

- <https://www.phipps.conservatory.org/>

---

**Alison Tickell** established Julie's Bicycle in 2007 as a non-profit company helping the music industry reduce its environmental impacts and develop new thinking in tune with global environmental challenges. JB has since extended its remit to the full performing and visual arts communities, heritage and wider creative and cultural policy communities. JB is acknowledged as a leading organization bridging sustainability with the arts and culture.

- @JB\_Alison
- <https://juliesbicycle.com/>

---

**Bridget McKenzie** is a researcher and creative curator in culture, learning and environment. After 14 years in roles such as Education Officer for Tate and Head of Learning at the British Library, she founded Flow Associates in 2006, who supported the evolution of Flow India. In 2019, Bridget founded Climate Museum UK, an experimental museum which stirs and collects the emerging response to the Earth crisis. She is an advisor for Culture Unstained and co-founder of Culture Declares Emergency. She presents and publishes internationally on possibilities of Regenerative Culture.

- @bridgetmck
- <https://climatemuseumuk.org/>

---

**Esme Ward** is Director of Manchester Museum, at the University of Manchester, Sustainability Lead for the Manchester Cultural Leaders Group and Co-Chair of the University Museums Group. Esme is passionate about the role museums can and should play to inspire ecological thinking, cooperation and action. Manchester Museum declared a Climate Emergency in 2020, is the world's first Carbon Literate Museum and has received funding from Arts Council for an ambitious two-year partnership project 'Roots and Branches' which aims to accelerate the museum sector's ability to respond to the climate crisis.

- @ward\_esme
- <https://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/>

---

**Hilary Jennings** is part time Director of the Happy Museum Project. In addition to her work with Happy Museum Hilary works freelance across the arts and cultural sectors with a focus on sustainability, leadership and facilitation. She has worked as an Associate of the Clore Leadership Programme and Extend Leadership Programme and is a steering group member of the Co-Creating Change Network. She is Co-Chair of the Transition Network which supports an international grassroots movement of communities focused on sustainability and local resilience.

- @hilaryjennings
- <https://happymuseumproject.org/>

---

**Ben Twist** - As Director of Creative Carbon Scotland since 2011, combining 25 years' experience as a theatre director with an MSc in Carbon Management and a doctorate in influencing complex systems to bring about greater sustainability, Ben has developed CCS into a leader in both technical support for cultural organisations in carbon management and developing culture's influencing role in addressing climate change.

- @ben\_ccs
- @CCScotland
- <https://www.creativecarbonscotland.com/>



## Carbon Literacy Lounge, the South Gallery

You are warmly invited to pause, reflect, learn and share your experiences with others in the Carbon Literacy Lounge.

---

## Carbon Literacy Hub

Meet the team from Museum Development North West (MDNW) & The Carbon Literacy Project. Find out more about 'Roots & Branches', an environmentally-driven partnership project, and register your interest in the Carbon Literacy for Museums Toolkit. Or, simply take some time out and browse our bookcase of green books.

---

## Green Tree

Visit the Green Tree and let us know: "What are you hungry to know more about?" This is your opportunity to imagine a better future and consider important questions. The Tree will grow with thoughts and ideas throughout the conference.

---

## Curious Collections

Meet a Curator and Curatorial Assistants to discover a glimpse into Manchester Museum's Entomology & Botany collections, which includes wonderful plants from all over the world and a variety of insects, spiders, centipedes, millipedes and crustaceans.

---

## The Workshop

Meet a Senior Technician from Manchester Museum to learn about the satisfaction and intricacies of recycling and repurposing. You'll also hear about the Museocycle project by Museum Development North West, which is combating waste across the sector.

---

## Pop-up Shop

Manchester Museum's pop-up shop includes books, games, toys, gifts and other products, all of which are inspired by the museum's extraordinary collections and created by sustainable and diverse local makers.

---

## Audio Stations

Pause, reflect and enjoy three poignant pieces of audio: *Wild Chorus*, *Planet-People-Power* and podcast *Nature's Rights – Who Cares?*

---

## Films

Take a moment to sit back and watch inspiring films: *Voicing Silence*, *Sonic Rewild - A Lockdown Film*, *Planet-People-Power* and videos from *The Carbon Literacy Project's Museum Sector Day at COP26*.

---

## **Tours**

Enjoy some fresh air in the gardens and meet some of the wonderful volunteers and staff from the Whitworth. Or wander the galleries to learn more about the collection and exhibits.

Monday 7th

*Speaker Francine Hayfron* - Cultural Park Keeper at the Whitworth

*Curator Spotlights* on Gallery floors

Meet in Gallery 3 to join curatorial tours of the galleries and study centre.

Monday 7th

2-2.30pm and 4.30-4.45pm.

Tuesday 8th

1.15-2pm and 3.30-3.45pm.

Tuesday 8th

*Art Garden* – Lunchtime

Hear from GROW participants about volunteering at the Whitworth in the outdoor spaces and community garden.

---

## **Matchmaking Board**

This is a chance to meet and share knowledge with other people in the sector. Match your name and organisation to an area of work and we'll connect you after the conference.

---

## **Carbon Literacy Hub**

Meet the team from Museum Development North West (MDNW) & The Carbon Literacy Project. Find out more about 'Roots & Branches', an environmentally-driven partnership project, and register your interest in the Carbon Literacy for Museums Toolkit. Or, simply take some time out and browse our bookcase of green books.

The Carbon Literacy Project is a globally unique education project based in Manchester that seeks to provide a day's worth of learning about climate change and carbon emissions to every citizen. So far over 26,000 people have pledged to take over 52,000 carbon reducing actions as a result of their Carbon Literacy training.