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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

Members' News

DCMS Comprehensive Spending Review Capital Allocations

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has announced capital allocations for its sponsored museums and galleries of £191.4 million over the next three years. The settlement allocates around £108 million to help maintain assets, such as buildings and collections, and the rest to fund new projects.

Allocations include: £22.5 million for the British Museum; £18.2 million for the Natural History Museum; and £13 million for the National Museum of Science and Industry, announced in November when the Prime Minister opened the Launchpad Gallery at the Science Museum, London. Tate Modern will receive a £50 million grant towards its new development to create a new building that will increase the gallery's size by 60%, allowing it to display more of its permanent collection and expand its education programme.

Margaret Hodge, Minister for Culture, Creative Industries & Tourism, said that national museums and galleries are "the envy of the world, setting the highest standards and attracting ever greater numbers of visits." She said: "We are determined to ensure that our national museums continue to thrive as exciting centres of excellence, scholarship and innovation."

The Culture Department will continue to contribute £2 million a year to the DCMS/Wolfson Museum and Galleries Improvement Fund. The Museum of London allocation has been transferred to the Department for Communities and Local Government, as part of the Greater London Authority grant.

www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Press_notices/archive_2007/dcms150_07.htm

Science Museum: www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Press_notices/archive_2007/dcms141_07.htm

Tate Modern: www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Press_notices/archive_2007/dcms148_07.htm

British Library Funding to Rise in Line with Inflation

The British Library has received an index-linked settlement as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review, in line with that of National Museums. The funding settlement will see its grant-in-aid rise from £92.3 million in 2007-08 to £94.8 million in 2008-09, £97.4 million in 2009-10 and £100 million in 2010-11.

The British Library is funded by the DCMS, but is the subject of a joint funding agreement between DCMS and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Press_notices/archive_2007/dcms129_07.htm

New Director of the National Gallery

Dr Nicholas Penny has been appointed Director of the National Gallery, London. Dr Penny was Clore Curator of Renaissance Painting at the National Gallery from 1990 to 2000 and has been at the National Gallery of Art in Washington since 2000, where he is Senior Curator of Sculpture. The National Gallery hopes that Dr Penny will take up his appointment in February 2008.

www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about/press/2007/newdirector.htm

British Library Business and IP Centre to Expand

The London Development Agency, which provided an initial £1million funding to enhance the British Library's Business & Intellectual Property Centre in 2005, has announced £2.4 million to fund the further development of the facility and its services. Since it opened in March 2006, the Centre has provided business information, market research and intellectual property resources to thousands of entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises, and met or exceeded its key performance targets.

www.bl.uk/news/2007/pressrelease20071114.html

Atlantic Worlds Gallery at the National Maritime Museum

The National Maritime Museum opened *Atlantic Worlds*, a new permanent gallery, on 30 November, to mark the bicentenary of the 1807 Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade. The gallery explores the relationship, connections and exchanges between Britain, Africa and the Americas from 1600 to 1850 and looks at the impact and legacy of empire on three continents. It recounts the stories of some of the people involved in the resistance to, and the campaign for the abolition of, the transatlantic slave trade. Paintings, prints, drawings, decorative arts and ethnographic materials are among the 220 objects from the Museum's collections on display in the new gallery.

www.nmm.ac.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.22091

The Vault Opens at the Natural History Museum

The Vault, a new permanent gallery at the Natural History Museum opened on 28 November. The Gallery reveals the stories behind rare gems, crystals and metals from around the world. Highlights include The Aurora collection, a group of 296 naturally coloured diamonds, and the Nakhla, a Martian meteorite that fell to earth in Egypt in 1911. The Vault replaces the meteorites display in the Minerals Gallery. www.nhm.ac.uk/visit-us/galleries/green-zone/vault/index.html?cam=hp-promo

Medal Room Reopens at the Royal Marines Museum

The refurbished Medal Room at the Royal Marines Museum opened on 28 November. The medals, some of which have never been on display, have been cleaned, re-mounted, re-lit and re-grouped. For the first time, visitors have access to information about all 8400 medals in the collection through state-of-the-art touch-screen 'kiosks'.

The Museum received a Heritage Lottery Fund grant and support from charitable trusts and individuals to fund the work. www.royalmarinesmuseum.co.uk/

Airborne Assault Duxford

Airborne Assault Duxford, a new visitor attraction at Imperial War Museum Duxford, is planned to open in autumn 2008. In the first phase, the Airborne Forces Museum collections will move from Aldershot to a dedicated facility at Duxford, where they will be presented through multi-media and interactive displays. *ParaData*, a digital archive accessible through terminals and online, will provide an interactive history of British Airborne Forces and an illustrated A to Z of operations from 1940.

The physical archive, stores and office of the Airborne Forces Museum will be re-housed separately at Duxford. www.airborneassault-duxford.com/home/html/index.html

New Research into British Collections Highlighted at the National Gallery

The National Inventory Research Project, initiated by the National Gallery, the University of Glasgow and Birkbeck, University of London, aims to address the decline in collection research in UK museums and the lack of publicly accessible information about collections. The Project, which gathers and presents information about Britain's public art collections, started research into European paintings 1200-1900 in 2004. It has now launched an online database of nearly 8,000 paintings from over 200 UK museums and galleries and an exhibition *Discoveries: New Research into British Collections* at the National Gallery, which highlights some of the stories uncovered by the research.

vads.ahds.ac.uk/collections/nirp.html www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about/press/2007/discoveries.htm

National Army Museum Campaign to Save Portrait of General James Wolfe

The National Army Museum has launched an appeal to raise funds to buy a portrait of General James Wolfe, an 18th century military hero and victor of the Battle of Quebec - which resulted in the transfer of Canada to the British crown. The Museum has until April 2008 to raise £300,000 to buy the portrait and prevent it being exported. Pledges of over £100,000 have already been secured.

The export of the portrait was temporarily stopped by the MLA Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest, following its sale at auction.

www.national-army-museum.ac.uk/pages/wolfe.shtml

National Portrait Gallery Appeal to Buy Portrait of John Fletcher

The National Portrait Gallery is hoping to raise funds to purchase the only known portrait from the life of Jacobean playwright John Fletcher (1579-1625), which it says "would be a wonderful addition to the National Portrait Gallery's collection of Elizabethan and Jacobean writers."

The Gallery has until 20 January 2008 to raise £218,000 to acquire the portrait, a substantially reduced price following tax remission. The Art Fund has announced a £50,000 grant to help buy the painting.

www.npg.org.uk/johnfletcher

NMDC Members Recognised at Visit London Awards 2007

The Victoria and Albert Museum was named Visitor Attraction of the Year 2007 at the Visit London Tourism awards and the National Maritime Museum won the Sustainable Tourism Award. Silver in the Marketing/PR Campaign of the Year category went to the National Portrait Gallery and the Museum of London was awarded Bronze in the Best Celebration of Cultural Diversity 2007 category, for its exhibition *Belonging: voices of London's refugees*. www.innovision.eu/visitolondonawards/winners.html

St Fagans Receives Sandford Award for Education

St Fagans: National History Museum, one of Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales' seven museums, has been awarded the Sandford prize in recognition of its educational services, facilities and outstanding contribution to heritage education. The annual awards, presented by the Heritage Education Trust and valid for five years, recognise the provision of quality education in and about historic sites across the UK. www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/news/?article_id=392

Wallace Collection Wins Award for Catalogue

The Wallace Collection has won the 2007 Art Newspaper/AXA prize for best exhibition catalogue for *Xanto: Pottery Painter, Poet, Man of the Italian Renaissance* by John Mallet, produced to accompany the exhibition held earlier this year. It was chosen by the judges for its "sheer intellectual ambition".

The Real Thing: Contemporary Art from China to accompany the Tate Liverpool exhibition won second prize and a catalogue produced by the British Museum was joint third. www.theartnewspaper.com

Royal Naval Museum Seeks New Trustees

The Royal Naval Museum is seeking three people to join its Board of Trustees from April 2008. Requests for application forms and further details can be made to: julian.thomas@royalnavalmuseum.org by **12 December**. Completed applications should be returned by **Friday 11 January 2008**.

Further information at: www.royalnavalmuseum.org/about_vacancies.htm

National Museums Liverpool Online Advent Calendar

National Museums Liverpool has launched an online advent calendar featuring images of Christmas events and artefacts from the Museums' collections. www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/online/advent/

Current Issues

Launch of Legacy Trust UK

Legacy Trust UK, a new £40 million fund, has been launched to "support a wide range of innovative cultural and sporting activities for all, which celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and which will leave a lasting legacy in communities throughout the UK". It will support cultural, educational, healthy, sporting and other charitable activities.

The Trust will distribute funds under the themes: Sport & Wellbeing; Knowledge & Learning; and Arts & Culture, and is committed to achieving UK wide coverage and reaching diverse communities. The Trust plans to support a small number of national programmes, including the UK School Games, the Big Arts Week and the World Festival of Youth Culture, and it will work closely with the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG).

More details about the grants and how to apply will be available later this month. www.legacytrustuk.org

Conservative Arts Taskforce Report

The Conservative Arts Taskforce, an independent group led by Sir John Tusa, has published its findings in a report *A New Landscape for the Arts*. The report makes a number of recommendations, including:

- Direct grant funding from the Department of Culture for national arts organisations that are regularly funded by Arts Council England, on the same basis as National Museums.
- Amending the designation of certain arts Non Departmental Public Bodies, such as the major National Museums, so that they can operate with greater independence.
- Extending the three-year funding cycle for arts organisations to a five-year period.
- Simplifying tax incentives for giving and introducing more generous tax incentives for philanthropy and life-time gifts, to help increase the amount of private giving to the arts.
- Increasing National Heritage Memorial Fund funding from £10m in 2008 to £50 million annually.
- Moving sport to create a Department of Culture.

The Conservatives will consider the report's findings, which will inform the party's manifesto and arts strategy. Jeremy Hunt, Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, said that the Conservative Party would not support removing sport from the DCMS. www.artstaskforce.co.uk/upload/FullReport.pdf

Creative Scotland Bill

Scottish Minister for Culture Linda Fabiani has set out the Scottish Government's plans to establish Creative Scotland to the Scottish Parliament. She said that Creative Scotland would "cultivate and support the best of Scottish arts and creativity". The Minister said that she believed that government "should not arbitrate on artistic decisions", that Creative Scotland would "have a licence from the Government to take risks" and that Scottish Ministers are committed to widening access and participation in culture in Scotland.

The Creative Scotland Bill will be introduced early next year. The Chair and joint board of the Scottish Arts Council and Scottish Screen are developing a plan and infrastructure for Creative Scotland, which will be a Non Departmental Public Body, accountable to Scottish Ministers. The overall budget for culture and Gaelic in Scotland will increase by 16% over the spending review period.

www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2007/11/07145934

Wales Heritage Budget

On 7 November Welsh Heritage Minister, Rhodri Glyn Thomas unveiled an additional £36 million over the next three years to support One Wales commitments in the Heritage portfolio.

He said: "Creating an environment where Wales' creative potential can develop and flourish is a key priority for this portfolio. We will be working with our partners on the Arts Strategy Board to implement the recommendations of the Stephens Report and a £4.5 million merit pot will be available over the next three years to reward the very best of our companies". The Arts Strategy Board was set up in response to the recommendation in the 2006 Stephens Report to establish a forum to ensure a joined-up approach to the development of arts policy and strategy in Wales.

The minister added that there are still "significant pressures on the budget and tough decisions will continue to have to be made between competing priorities." new.wales.gov.uk/news/presreleasearchive/1783533/?lang=en

Progress Report on DCMS International Strategy

The DCMS has published a progress report on its International Strategy, which was published in October 2006. The report highlights progress in DCMS Priority Activities: excellence, opportunity, the economy, diversity and sustainability. [DCMS International Strategy Progress Report 2007](#)

Summary of Heritage Protection Consultation Responses

The DCMS has published a summary of responses to its consultation on the White Paper *Heritage Protection for the 21st Century*, which closed on 1 June 2007. Approximately 340 responses were received from stakeholders and members of the public.

www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/archive_2007/hp21century_consresponsesnov07.htm

Spoilation Advisory Panel Ruling on Courtauld Institute Rubens Paintings

The Spoilation Advisory Panel has published a Report which concludes that Franz Koenigs, a Dutch art collector, lost possession of three paintings by Sir Peter Paul Rubens, now in the Courtauld Institute of Art, because of business/economic reasons and not because of the actions of the Nazis.

Franz Koenigs gave the paintings to the Lisser and Rosenkranz Bank in 1935 as collateral for a loan. In 1940 the bank went into liquidation. It called in the loan against the paintings and Franz Koenigs chose not to discharge it. The Bank then sold the paintings as it was entitled to do under the loan agreement.

The Panel's ruling has been endorsed by the Government and welcomed by the Courtauld Institute.

www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/archive_2007/reportsapnov2007_HC63.htm

Forecasts Show Changing Mix of Overseas Visitors by 2012

Visit London has released forecasts showing how the mix of visitors to London will change by 2012 if current trends continue. They show that the US is expected to remain London's number one market between now and 2012. France and Germany, currently ranked 2 and 3, remain unchanged while Poland, which is currently ranked 9, will rise to 5th.

The Japanese market is predicted to fall from ranking 16 to 27. Last year, for the first time, Indian visitors to the capital outspent Japanese visitors, spending £152 million compared to £134 million spent by Japanese visitors. China could rise in ranking from 37 to 18 by 2012 and Turkey is forecast to rise from 31 to 13. corporate.visitlondon.com/press_centre/press_releases/071109_changing_overseas_visitors.html

Museums & Heritage Awards for Excellence 2008

2008 marks the 5th anniversary of the Museums & Heritage Awards for Excellence, which celebrate the best that the museum and heritage sector has to offer. The deadline for entries is **Friday 22 February 2008**. Entry criteria and further information at: www.museumsandheritage.com/?location_id=19

Museums and Apprenticeships

The Creative & Cultural Skills Creative Apprenticeship Programme, part-funded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives (MLA) Partnership, will develop a number of work based, nationally accredited apprenticeships, including one in Cultural & Heritage Venue Operations.

Museums are being invited to act as the lead employer in their region to champion museum involvement in creative apprenticeships, which will launch in September 2008. Non-lead museums are also encouraged to recruit apprentices. For further information please visit:

www.mla.gov.uk/website/news/press_releases/museum_apprenticeships

This is in line with a government investment programme in skills and learning for young people and adults, which includes over £1 billion in Government funding to increase apprenticeships from 250,000 today to more than 400,000 by 2010-11. For the first time, funding will also be targeted at apprenticeships for adults aged over 25. www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2007_0213

Heritage Counts 2007

Heritage Counts 2007, the annual survey of the state of the historic environment prepared by English Heritage, reveals that many more skilled crafts people and professionals are needed to tackle the challenges faced by England's historic environment.

Simon Thurley, Chief Executive of English Heritage, said: "The message from this year's Heritage Counts on skills is clear. There are a lot of really positive things happening on the ground, but the sector could, and indeed must, do a lot better." He announced new commitments from English Heritage to tackle the skills shortage, including a three-year graduate heritage training programme. www.heritagecounts.org.uk

Smith Institute Discussion on Heritage Published

The New Statesman has published the transcript of a round table discussion on Britain's heritage convened by The Smith Institute on 11 September to consider how cultural value is and should be allocated, how to engage the public and how to increase funding from public and private sectors. Contributors included: Culture Minister Margaret Hodge; Lord Sandy Bruce Lockhart, Chairman of English Heritage; Liz Forgan, Chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund; David Barrie, Director of The Art Fund; and Mark Jones, Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum. www.newstatesman.com/pdf/heritage2007.htm

24 Hour Museum Becomes Culture24

The organisation that publishes www.24hourmuseum.org.uk and www.show.me.uk has changed its name to Culture24, to reflect its work with arts, heritage, archives and libraries, as well as museums. For now there is no change to the websites, but they will be rebuilt, renamed and relaunched in spring 2008, on a new technical platform which will provide a unified infrastructure for creating, managing and sharing information. The new websites will be delivered in partnership with MDA, with support from MLA, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, ACE and VisitBritain.

www.24hourmuseum.org.uk/nwh_gfx_en/ART52199.html

Arts and Humanities Research Council Grants

Museums, galleries, archives and libraries require high quality research to inform the interpretation and presentation of their collections and provide an important route for research to be communicated to a wider public. The Arts and Humanities Research Council is inviting applications for research to underpin new displays and temporary exhibitions, led by universities or Independent Research Organisations in partnership with museums, galleries, libraries and archives. Grant awards can be for up to £350,000, with a maximum duration of 3 years. The closing date for proposals is **24 January 2008**.

www.ahrc.ac.uk/apply/research/mandg/museums_galleries_archives_libraries_research_grants.asp

Textile Conservation Centre to Close

The Textile Conservation Centre at Southampton University is to close in 2009. The Institute of Conservation is supporting the Centre's staff in seeking an alternative location.

Further information at: www.icon.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=632&Itemid=15

Local Area Agreement Culture and Sport Toolkit

Regional agencies including MLA South East have developed a toolkit designed to help Local Strategic Partnerships embed culture and sport within their Local Area Agreement (LAA) and to raise awareness of the contribution that culture and sport can make to community life. It looks at key drivers, how culture contributes to local priority outcomes and features case studies. www.seco.org.uk/laatoolkit

A London-based guide on how the cultural sector can help deliver LAA outcomes is available at: www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/CultureInLAAs.pdf

Revised Human Tissue Authority Guidance on Public Display

The Human Tissue Authority (HTA) has published revised guidance on the public display of human bodies, body parts and tissue following extensive consultation. The guidance supplements the HTA licensing standards and Code of Practice on consent. Taken together the three documents form comprehensive guidance on complying with the public display requirements of the Human Tissue Act which came into force on 1 September 2006. www.hta.gov.uk/guidance/public_display_guidance.cfm

Nominations Invited for Young Achievers Awards

The Young Achievers Awards recognise inspirational young people aged 16-19 and 20-25 who have made a difference through their volunteer efforts in the arts, community, environment and sport during the past 12 months. Eight Young Achievers will each receive a £1,000 cash prize for personal and project development, a trip on the BA London Eye, a year's project support and tailor-made opportunities. Nominations close on **20 December 2007**. www.youngachievers.co.uk

Protecting Against Terrorist Attack

Project ARGUS is a National Counter Terrorism Security Office initiative, exploring ways to prevent, handle and recover from a terrorist attack. It is a free event which uses a multi-media simulation to ask questions and challenge attendees to develop responses to a terrorist attack.

The National Counter Terrorism Security Office has published two guides: *Secure in the Knowledge* a guide to business continuity, and *Expecting the unexpected* a guide to business security and sharing information securely. For more information visit: www.nactso.gov.uk/argus.php

Guidance on Metal Thefts

English Heritage has produced a guidance note on deterring metal thefts and the replacement of stolen metals, in response to the increasing number of metal thefts from churches and historic buildings in England as a result of rising metal prices. www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.12433

Parliamentary Report

Prime Minister's Statement on National Security

On 14 November the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, made a statement in the House of Commons on national security, ahead of the publication of the national security strategy.

Discussing the need to deal with "the challenge posed by the terrorist threat" and counter extremism the Prime Minister said: "by emphasising our shared values across communities we can both celebrate and act upon what unites us. This...is a generational challenge that requires sustained work over the long term, through a range of actions in schools, colleges, universities, faith groups and youth clubs, by engaging young people through the media, culture, sport and arts..."

He added: "We will have joint work with the French and German Governments on building an appreciation of the Islamic and Muslim heritage across Britain and Europe. Arts Council England, the Tate Gallery, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the British Library will all be taking forward projects to promote greater understanding".

The Prime Minister also said that companies responsible for crowded places would be given advice on improving resilience against attack and that new guidance would be sent to public venues that will include advice on training staff to be more vigilant. [House of Commons Hansard Debates for 14 Nov 2007 \(pt 0004\)](http://www.parliament.gov.uk/hansard-uk/07112007/071120070004)

Bills Announced in the Queen's Speech

The Government's legislative programme, unveiled in the Queen's Speech on 6 November, lists a number of Bills with a cultural dimension, including:

- The draft **Heritage Bill**, expected to be published next year.
- The draft **Cultural Property (Armed Conflict) Bill** which would allow the UK to ratify the 1954 Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, making it illegal to damage cultural property or trade in cultural property illicitly removed from occupied territory.
- **Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Bill**, which would allow the government to use money held in bank and building society accounts which have not been used for 15 years to provide more youth facilities and social investment through the Big Lottery Fund. The bill has had a second reading in the House of Lords.

The Queen's Speech and a list of government bills are at: www.commonleader.gov.uk/output/Page2134.asp

Greater London Authority Act Receives Royal Assent

The Greater London Authority Act, which transfers Government responsibility for the Museum of London, and the appointment of board members, to the Greater London Authority, gained Royal Assent on 23 October 2007. Under the Act the Mayor will also gain rights of appointment of board members of the Arts Council England, London; English Sports Council London Regional Sports Board; and MLA London. [Greater London Authority Act 2007](#)

Secretary of State Appears Before Culture Media and Sport Committee

The Secretary of State James Purnell appeared before the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee on 25 October to answer questions on his Department's annual report. The transcript of uncorrected oral evidence is at: www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmselect/cmcomeds/uc1099-i/uc109901.htm

Parliamentary Questions

Questions in the Lords about the Cultural Olympiad and Impact of Olympics Spending Overrun on Arts

Questions were asked in the Lords about the objectives, structure and funding of the Cultural Olympiad, its main projects and how objectives will be met. Responding for the Government, Lord Davies of Oldham said that funding for the Cultural Olympiad would come from private and public sources: non-departmental public bodies would spend some of their budget on the Cultural Olympiad, LOCOG sponsors are keen to play a part and the Legacy Trust will be an additional source of funding.

Lord Davies added that the Government's legacy action plan, which will explain how the Government will deliver its commitments for the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, including Cultural Olympiad projects, as set out in *Our Promise for 2012*, will be published in the next few months.

[Lords Hansard text for 20 Nov 2007](#) [Lords Hansard text for 21 Nov 2007](#)

On 28 November, Lord Sheldon raised the issue of the impact of the spending overrun on the 2012 Olympics on spending on the arts. In response, Lord Davies cited the 3.3% above inflation increase in Arts Council funding over the next three years and said "we have taken great care to protect core funding for the arts." [Lords Hansard text for 28 Nov 2007](#)

Question on Young Graduates for Museums and Galleries Programme

In response to a question from Shadow Secretary of State for Culture Jeremy Hunt about the Young Graduates for Museums and Galleries programme, Culture Minister Margaret Hodge said it: "is an internship programme run by the British Museum for gifted and talented students from non-traditional and diverse backgrounds..." She said that the British Museum, Victoria and Albert Museum, National Portrait Gallery, the Petrie Museum, Tate and Royal Air Force Museum were involved and that the Natural History Museum would participate in 2008.

[House of Commons Hansard Written Answers for 14 Nov 2007](#)

Education of Older People

In response to a question from Liberal Democrat MP Paul Burstow about steps being taken to increase the number of older people in formal learning or education programmes David Lammy, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Skills, said that his department aims to encourage older people, especially the disadvantaged and those in hard to reach groups, to take up learning, including "unlocking the potential of libraries, museums and galleries as places of learning for older people in partnership with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport". [House of Commons Hansard Written Answers for 30 Oct 2007](#)

International Issues

Houston Museum of Fine Arts, Lincoln Center Leads in US Donations

According to the Chronicle of Philanthropy's annual Philanthropy 400 survey, which covers 400 of the largest US-based non-profit institutions, the Houston Museum of Fine Arts received \$185.8 million in private donations in 2006, more than any other US arts organisation. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, was second, raising \$133.5 million, followed by The Smithsonian Institution in Washington with \$131.2 million; Boston Museum of Fine Arts with \$130.4 million; the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center with \$114.8 million; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art with \$108.9 million.

Private support for arts organisations, including libraries, museums and public broadcasting, rose 17.5% from 2005 to \$2.5 billion. Private donations to US education institutions increased 11.3% to \$17.6 billion.

www.philanthropy.com/stats/

Canadian Cities Invited to Compete for Portrait Gallery

The Canadian Government is inviting proposals from developers to locate a new facility for the Portrait Gallery of Canada in one of nine Canadian cities: Toronto, Halifax, Quebec City, Ottawa, Montreal, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver.

The Gallery does not currently have a physical base, following the Conservative Government's decision to stop work on the development of a site in Ottawa. www.portraits.gc.ca/009001-5009-e.html

European Cultural Statistics

This publication describes different areas of culture for the 27 EU Member States, candidate countries and the European Free Trade Area countries, including: cultural heritage, cultural employment, household cultural expenditure, cultural participation by age and profession, and time spent on cultural activities. It includes visitor numbers for the five most visited museums in each country.

epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-77-07-296/EN/KS-77-07-296-EN.PDF

ICOM Seeks Director General

The International Council of Museums (ICOM) is seeking a new Director General. The job description and further information is available at: icom.museum/DG_eng.html

Italy Uses TV Telethon to Fund Restoration

The Art Newspaper reports that the Italian government held a three-day television telethon in October to appeal for funds for the restoration and protection of seven archaeological and cultural sites, including: Augustus's villa on the Palatine Hill in Rome; a museum for visually impaired people in Ancona; and the Cremona centre for the restoration of antique musical instruments.

Culture minister Francesco Rutelli appeared with actors and opera singers on state broadcasting channel RAI to describe the plight of the country's monuments. By the end of the weekend €2.8 million had been raised against a target of €3.5 million.

www.maratonarte.it www.theartnewspaper.com/article.asp?id=6425

National Museum of Iraq to Reopen

The Art Newspaper reports that two galleries at the National Museum of Iraq in Baghdad are due to reopen at the end of December. The galleries hold large Assyrian and Islamic antiquities, including stone panels from the royal palace at Khorsabad, which present a lower security risk than smaller items. Restoration work on the galleries has been completed by Iraqi contractors, funded by the Italian Ministry of Culture. The Museum has been closed since 2003. www.theartnewspaper.com/article.asp?id=6981

Undercover Restorers Fix Pantheon Clock

The Guardian reports that four members of Untergunther, an underground cultural guerrilla movement that aims to restore France's cultural heritage, have been cleared in a French court of causing damage to the Pantheon in Paris, where they secretly repaired an antique clock.

The group told officials once the year-long repair had been completed "so that they would know to wind the clock up so it would still work". The Centre of National Monuments took legal action against the group for breaking and entry. www.lemonde.fr/web/article/0,1-0,36-982097,0.html (in French)

arts.guardian.co.uk/art/heritage/story/0,,2217212,00.html?gusrc=rss&feed=40 www.ugwk.eu

We would like to wish our readers a very happy Christmas and New Year

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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