



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

### Imperial War Museum Director-General

Sir Robert Crawford has retired as Director-General of the Imperial War Museum after forty years service at the Museum. He has also just been appointed as a Trustee of the National Maritime Museum. Sir Robert was chair of NMDC from December 2000-2006, and his contribution both as Chair and as a member of NMDC since 1995 has been greatly valued by all his colleagues.

NMDC is pleased to welcome new member Diane Lees, the new Director-General of the Imperial War Museum, who takes up her post on 1 October. Diane was previously Director of the V&A Museum of Childhood, and before that Director of the Galleries of Justice in Nottingham. Beginning as an historic buildings researcher and moving into exhibitions, education and interpretation she has worked on some of the most challenging and exciting projects in the country, including the rescue and relocation of a hat block manufacturers workshop in central Manchester, the recovery and display of the Mary Rose ship in Portsmouth Harbour and the redisplay of the Nelson Galleries at the Royal Naval Museum. She also project managed the creation of the UK standard for the recording of information about museum collections (SPECTRUM). She is a trustee of the Story Museum in Oxford, a trustee of the Army Museums Ogilby Trust, Vice Chair of the Association of Independent Museums and a Trustee of Kids in Museums.

### Environmental Sustainability

Mark Jones and Sir Nicholas Serota chaired a meeting of conservators last month to discuss environmental conditions for objects in an era of energy constraint.

The discussion highlighted natural and sustainable environmental controls which might be explored and examples of more tailored collections care standards which are less energy-intensive.

The group is producing a paper for discussion by the International Bizot Group of art museum directors this October. NMDC is also arranging a meeting with key UK stakeholders in November to discuss taking this forward at a UK level.

### DCMS Sustainable Development Action Plan

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has published its third sustainable development action plan, for April 2008 to March 2011. It sets out aspirations for DCMS and its sponsored bodies, including national museums, and includes the work on international exhibition standards, as well as a case study on the energy saving features of the Science Museum's touring exhibition *The Science of Survival*. One of the key actions for the first year of the plan is collating accurate carbon footprinting data from DCMS-sponsored bodies to enable benchmarking and progress in carbon reduction to be monitored.

[www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/publications/5436.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5436.aspx)

### NMDC Committees Update

The NMDC **UK Affairs Committee** met in August with Professor Sara Selwood who is leading the review of Renaissance, the government funding programme for English regional museums, to hear an update on progress with the review and to offer input from national museums' perspective. Other current areas of focus for the UK Affairs Committee include the National Strategy for Museums, partnership working between national and regional museums, and the social impact of museums in the UK.

Continued...

## NMDC Committees Update - Continued.

At the NMDC **HR Forum** meeting on 5 September agenda items included a presentation from the Financial Services Authority on the services they can offer to museum staff on financial capability. Other issues for discussion included staff engagement, industrial relations and diversity initiatives. The Forum is to undertake a benchmarking exercise of HR indicators and statistics, to share information and promote best practice.

NMDC's Marketing Group has formed a **tourism sub-group**, which met for the first time in September, to consider ways for NMDC organisations to work together to promote national museums to the tourism market and work with tourism organisations.

Members of the NMDC Operations Committee also met this month to discuss how to take forward a **peer review of business continuity planning**. The aim of the peer review is to share best practice and work together to strengthen disaster and business continuity planning at national museums.

## Directors in the News

Dame Lynne Brindley, Chief Executive of the British Library, has been appointed to the governing body of the Arts and Humanities Research Council. Neil MacGregor's term as a member of the Council ended last month.

[www.ahrc.ac.uk/News/Latest/Pages/NewAppointmentsToTheArtsandHumanitiesResearchCouncil.aspx](http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/News/Latest/Pages/NewAppointmentsToTheArtsandHumanitiesResearchCouncil.aspx)

## National Museum Jobs

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

- Project Director, Natural History Museum
- Curator/Senior Curator, National Museums Scotland
- Keeper of Art, Tyne and Wear Museums
- Press Officer, Tate St Ives
- Operations Manager, Victoria & Albert Museum

For details of all the current vacancies visit:

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

## Forthcoming meetings

### Operations Committee

Tues 13 Oct, 2-4pm, Science Museum

### Learning & Access Committee

Wed 29 Oct, 1-3pm, National Gallery

### NMDC meeting

Fri 14 Nov, 11am-1pm, Science Museum

### HR Forum

Fri 5 Dec, 11am-1pm, V&A

## Current Issues

### Free Admission to Theatre

Culture Secretary, Andy Burnham, used his speech at the Labour Party Conference to announce the launch of a new programme giving a million free theatre tickets to young people. Mr Burnham described the initiative as the next stage of the journey to inspire more people through sport and culture following the success of free entry to national museums, and the forthcoming £140m programme providing free entry to swimming pools for people under 16 and over 60.

The new £2.5 million arts programme - funded by Arts Council England, who will manage the scheme - will be focused on some 95 venues across England. Each will offer a proportion of the tickets for arts productions on the same night every week free to anyone under 26 years old. The scheme will start in February 2009 with an initial goal of providing a million free tickets by March 2011. Theatres taking part will have to guarantee free seats for young people across the whole two-year period. The scheme will operate principally at Arts Council England or local authority supported venues, each of which will bid for resources from a challenge fund and, if successful, will also take part in launch events.

A national marketing campaign with a substantial budget will promote the scheme which will be pegged to venues rather than individual productions. It marks the culmination of one of the key recommendations of the McMaster Report.

[www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/media\\_releases/5479.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/5479.aspx)

Mr Burnham's party conference speech is on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=7sKtJHdbvgw&feature=user](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7sKtJHdbvgw&feature=user)

### Free Admission to Heritage Sites in Wales

Free entry to all Cadw Welsh heritage sites for children aged 16 and under and Welsh residents over 60 came into effect on 1 September. Cadw is the historic environment service of the Welsh Assembly Government and the free entry scheme fulfils the Welsh Assembly Government's *One Wales* commitment to promote access to the wealth of history at Cadw sites. Residents over 60 year olds need to apply for a free entry pass to gain free admission.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/new/latest/2539893/?lang=en>

## Creative Scotland

The Scottish Government has announced plans to reintroduce legislation to set up Creative Scotland as part of a new public services bill. The Creative Scotland Bill establishing the new body was voted down by MSPs before the summer. Creative Scotland will now begin life as a limited company. It is expected that the new board of directors and chief executive will be in place by April 2009, with the organisation maturing into a statutory body by February 2010.

[www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/09/03115220](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/09/03115220)

## Welsh Heritage Minister

Alun Ffred Jones, Wales' new Heritage Minister, has given an interview to *Wales Online*, in which he promises there will be no major shifts in emphasis to what his predecessor Rhodri Glyn Thomas has been doing in the past year. "We are in the middle of a boom. We are punching above our weight. We are very lucky," he said referring to the current cultural climate. "We have to ensure it carries on."

[www.walesonline.co.uk/whats-on/whats-on-news/2008/09/06/heritage-minister-keen-to-succeed-91466-21683507/](http://www.walesonline.co.uk/whats-on/whats-on-news/2008/09/06/heritage-minister-keen-to-succeed-91466-21683507/)

## Museums Association President

Stuart Davies, a visiting professor at University College London and independent consultant, has been elected President of the Museums Association. Sandy Nairne, Director of the National Portrait Gallery was the other candidate in the election. Stuart Davies was previously museums adviser to the Heritage Lottery Fund, and director of strategy at MLA, where he authored the *Renaissance in the Regions* report. He has also worked as a social history manager and curator.

[www.museumsassociation.org/17224&\\_IXPOS=manews1.1](http://www.museumsassociation.org/17224&_IXPOS=manews1.1)

## DCMS Changes

Nicholas Holgate, Director General, Corporate Strategy and Services, at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has been appointed as Executive Director of Finance, Information Systems and Property at the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. He will take up his new post in November.

Ben Cowell, currently Head of Museums at DCMS, has been appointed as Assistant Director of External Affairs at the National Trust and takes up his new post on 3 November. The vacancy has been advertised across Whitehall and Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

## Chief Scientific Adviser

Anita Charlesworth has been appointed as Chief Analyst at DCMS. She will head up the Department's Evidence and Analysis Unit at Director level, take on the function of Chief Scientific Adviser to the Department and sit as the champion for analysis on the DCMS board. Ms Charlesworth is an economist, was previously Director of Public Spending at the Treasury, and has worked in the pharmaceutical industry. To assist her in this role the Department will seek to establish an advisory panel on science and research, drawing membership from its sectors. The panel will also seek advice from independent experts where the necessary expertise is not readily available on the panel, or where independent advice is deemed appropriate.

The appointment follows recommendations by Dr Michael Dixon, Director of the Natural History Museum, who undertook a review of the need for a Chief Scientific Adviser to DCMS in 2006-7. Dr Dixon's report and recommendations have also now been published by DCMS.

[www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/publications/5477.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5477.aspx)

## MLA's Renaissance Team

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has appointed the new team to run the *Renaissance* regional museums funding scheme from its new Birmingham office. Janette Lissaman, Programme Manager: *Renaissance*, will have lead managerial responsibility for the programme. Her team will consist of three project managers: Isabel Churcher, Jo Dimitri and Julia Davis and a support officer, Jo-Ann Lloyd who continues in this role from the new Birmingham base. The team's immediate priorities are to conduct a business planning process for the coming two year period and to ensure the programme is ready to react to the findings of the Independent Review expected later in the year.

MLA has also released data on the impact of the *Renaissance* programme over the last five years. Visits to Hub Museums have increased by 18.5% and visits by priority groups are up 31.7% since 2002/03.

[www.mla.gov.uk/programmes/renaissance](http://www.mla.gov.uk/programmes/renaissance)

## London 2012 Cultural Olympiad Plans

London 2012 has announced its plans for the Cultural Olympiad, the four-year programme designed to showcase the UK's arts and culture to the rest of the world in the run up to the 2012 Games. The Cultural Olympiad was launched over the weekend of 26-28 September 2008 with more than 600 events taking place around the UK as part of the 'Open Weekend'. NMDC member institutions along with museums and galleries all over the country opened up their collection stores for behind the scenes visits.

Open Weekend will be followed by the launch of each of the ten major projects over the next four years, designed to fulfil the commitment that the London 2012 Games will involve and inspire everyone in the UK and across the world. The programme also includes projects which have been awarded the *Inspire* mark, recognising the quality and diversity of the work of large and small organisations around the country. 34 projects have already been awarded the *Inspire* mark including Tyne & Wear Museums' *Creative Spirits* programme.

The Major Projects are:

- **Artists Taking the Lead** - 12 cutting edge artists' commissions across the UK
- **Stories of the World** - a national network of exhibitions telling new stories in new ways
- **Sounds** - a four-project approach to celebrating music as a universal language
- **Somewhereto** - a project empowering young people to find somewhere to practice their sport and culture on their terms
- **Discovering Places** - opening up the historic and built environment to new audiences
- **Film Nation** - a programme designed to get young people behind the camera and explore their world and dreams
- **World Shakespeare Festival** - will celebrate Shakespeare as an international property and the British as an international people centring on exchange and collaboration
- **Festival of Carnivals** - five linked and themed street carnivals in the Olympic period
- **Unlimited** - a world celebration of disability arts, culture and sport.
- **World Cultural Festival** - an international arts festival as the culmination of the Cultural Olympiad in 2012.

[www.london2012.com/documents/press-kits/cultural-olympiad-press-kit.pdf](http://www.london2012.com/documents/press-kits/cultural-olympiad-press-kit.pdf)

## Open to All Mental Health, Social Inclusion and Museums and Galleries

Health Secretary, Alan Johnson MP, has launched *Open to All* a professional training package to enable museum and gallery staff to work more effectively with learners with mental health needs. The programme has been developed by a partnership between the National Social Inclusion Programme, the Wallace Collection, the Museums Libraries and Archives Council, the Victoria and Albert Museum and Tate Modern. It will involve practical sessions designed and delivered by people working in health and social care professions and will be specific to the needs of museum staff. Speaking at the launch, Mr Johnson said "Access and participation in the arts are an essential part of our everyday wellbeing and quality of life."

For more information on the training programme please contact Veronika Harris: [v.harris@vam.ac.uk](mailto:v.harris@vam.ac.uk)

Alan Johnson's speech:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/Speeches/DH\\_088160](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/Speeches/DH_088160)

## Joseph Rowntree Foundation: Museums and Social Change

A *Viewpoint* paper published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation argues that museums are playing a part in tackling a range of social issues, but the extent to which museums can be a focus for economic regeneration varies greatly depending on the nature of local communities, what investment regenerating authorities are prepared to make in museums, and town planning. The paper by Simon Tait, *Can Museums be a Potent Force in Social and Urban Regeneration?* concludes that the remaining challenges to developing a greater social role for museums are: convincing other agencies of museums' role in tackling social change; reflecting the speed of social change; acknowledging concerns about traditional curatorial remits; exploring legitimate areas that some still feel too sensitive for social history; and addressing the physical accessibility of older museums.

[www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/2262.asp](http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/2262.asp)

## Community Impact Research Report

Museums Galleries Scotland has published new social research looking at the impacts made by museums and galleries on their local communities. The research was carried out by the Moffat Centre for Travel and Tourism Business Development. The report contains the results of an extensive literature review and fieldwork. The case studies presented in the report represent a variety of key community impact themes including volunteering, regeneration and community engagement. This research is a first step in exploring the impacts that museums have on communities and recommends areas for further research.

[www.museumsgalleryscotland.org.uk/pdfs/Community\\_Impact.pdf](http://www.museumsgalleryscotland.org.uk/pdfs/Community_Impact.pdf).

## Protection of Historic Buildings in Fire and Rescue Service Response

Communities Secretary, Hazel Blears MP, has launched new guidance to the Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) to integrate better protection for historic buildings and the environment into their planning process. The focus of the guidance is to identify measure and reduce the commercial, social and economic impact that fire and other emergencies can be expected to have on individuals, communities, commerce, industry, the environment and heritage. While the firefighters' priority will always be to save life, the new guidance emphasises that safeguarding both built heritage and the natural environment should be an essential component of an FRS integrated risk management strategy.

[www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/944239](http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/944239)

## Planning Protection for World Heritage Sites

Housing and Planning Minister, Caroline Flint MP, has announced new planning regulations giving all 17 English World Heritage Sites the same protection levels as conservation areas, national parks and areas of outstanding beauty. The changes will no longer allow any sort of development in the surrounding area without the granting of specific planning permission.

[www.communities.gov.uk/news/planningandbuilding/962965](http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/planningandbuilding/962965)

UNESCO's World Heritage Committee has expressed concern about seven world heritage sites in the UK which it claims are in danger from building developments, and has requested action by the UK Government and Scottish Government to fulfil their legal obligations to protect these sites.

<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2008/whc08-32com-24e.doc>

## Views Sought on New Legal Form for Charities

The Office of the Third Sector and the Charity Commission has published and is consulting on draft details of a new legal form for charities, the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Currently, most charities can only incorporate as a company limited by guarantee, meaning they are regulated by both the Charity Commission and Companies House. The new CIOs would be regulated solely by the Charity Commission, significantly reducing regulatory burden. The consultation runs until 10 December.

[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third\\_sector/news/news\\_releases/080910\\_views.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_releases/080910_views.aspx)

## Public Appointments

The Prime Minister has made the following appointments:

- **Sir Robert Crawford CBE** and **Linda Hutchinson** as Trustees of the **National Maritime Museum**. Sir Robert has just retired as Director-General of the Imperial War Museum and is also a trustee of the Horniman Museum, Florence Nightingale Museum and Fleet Air Arm Museum. Linda Hutchinson is Head Teacher at the Townley Grammar School for Girls in Bexleyheath, a specialist school for the performing and visual arts.
- As **Trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum**: architect **David Adjaye OBE**; **Erin O'Connor**, a leading fashion model and writer/broadcaster on fashion and design who is also Vice-Chair of the British Fashion Council and has given lectures at the V&A; **Michelle Ogundehin**, Editor-in-Chief of ELLE Decoration and Real Homes magazine and an internationally recognised authority on interiors, style and design; **Stephen McGuckin**, Head of Ebbsfleet Valley at Land Securities Group PLC, who has held senior positions at Fitch RS plc, Grimshaw and Mace Ltd; and **Robert Stefanowski**, a senior financial executive with over 20 years experience in Commercial, Retail and Private Banking.
- **Sir Ronald Cohen** and **Baroness Helena Kennedy** reappointed as Trustees of the **British Museum**. Sir Ronald Cohen is Chairman of Portland Capital LLP, The Portland Trust and Bridges Ventures. Baroness Kennedy is a leading barrister who has spent her professional life championing civil liberties and promoting human rights.

[www.number10.gov.uk/news/press-notice](http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/press-notice)

## Interim Chair for English Heritage

Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe has been appointed as the interim-Chair of English Heritage. Professor Sir Barry's appointment follows the death of Lord Bruce-Lockhart in August 2008. Professor Sir Barry, who is currently a trustee of the British Museum and Chair of the Hampshire Museum Trust, served on the English Heritage Commission between 1986 and 1992. He will take up the post of Chair immediately and remain in post until a replacement for Sandy Bruce-Lockhart is appointed. DCMS expect to have the new Chair in post by Easter 2009.

[www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/media\\_releases/5476.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/5476.aspx)

## National Museums Northern Ireland

The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure in Northern Ireland has extended the competition seeking an individual for the position of Chair of the Board of National Museums Northern Ireland. The competition was launched in April and will now run until 10 October. The Chair will receive remuneration of £10,000 a year with a required time commitment of at least 36 days per annum.

[www.northernireland.gov.uk/news/news-dcal-170908-appointment-of-chair](http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/news/news-dcal-170908-appointment-of-chair)

## National Collections Strategy for Archives

The National Archives is seeking views on the National Collections Strategy for archives, an initiative to identify in which areas the documentary heritage of England and Wales is under represented or not represented in archives, and to address the underlying reasons. Its aim is to ensure that the records of key events, of the lives and activities of individuals and communities and of public, private and charitable organisations are retained in the most appropriate places, preserved and made easily available for as many purposes as possible.

Through collaborative partnerships, The National Archives will provide a framework of support, help and guidance in developing individual archive strategies: for example, for the health and business sectors, for the performing arts and sporting events, and for websites and digital information.

A consultative panel of representatives from archival and other relevant bodies has been established to oversee the implementation of the National Collections Strategy. The deadline for consultation responses is 30 November.

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives/national-collections-strategy.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives/national-collections-strategy.htm)

## London Museum Librarians and Archivists Group Seminar

The London Museum Librarians and Archivists Group (LMLAG) is holding a seminar on development and design of collections access and exhibition spaces, at the Wellcome Collection Conference Centre on 22 October. Speakers include Eleanor Gawne, Head of Archive and Library at the National Maritime Museum, who will talk about early stages of planning the Archive and Library Research Centre in a new wing at the National Maritime Museum. LMLAG is an informal grouping of archivists and librarians in national museums and galleries in London which aims to promote best practice and opportunities to learn from each other. If you would like to attend, please contact:

[elspeth.hector@ng-london.org.uk](mailto:elspeth.hector@ng-london.org.uk)

## Arts Council Plan

Arts Council England has published its plan for 2008-2011. The plan identifies four development priorities for the next three years: digital technology, visual arts provision, children and young people, and the 2012 Olympics. The next three years will also bring significant internal change to reduce administrative costs by 15% and increase efficiency and transparency. The Arts Council will conduct a major review of its organisational structure, management and operations. Decisions will be announced in June 2009 and implemented by April 2010.

[www.artscouncil.org.uk/plan](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/plan)

## New Research on Arts Participation

Arts Council England has published new research on patterns of arts attendance and participation in England. It has developed a new 'segmentation' of English adults in terms of their engagement with and attitudes towards the arts. The segmentation analysis is based on data from the *Taking Part* survey with additional insights drawn from the TGI consumer survey. The research is intended to be used alongside existing tools as a source of insight and ideas for developing new audiences.

[www.artscouncil.org.uk/audienceinsight](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/audienceinsight)

## Dame Liz Forgan on Britishness

Heritage Lottery Fund Chair, Dame Liz Forgan, addressed the issue of British values in a lecture at the Royal Society of Arts, explaining why heritage, not a pure values-based concept of Britishness, has the power to bring communities together and foster a strong, inclusive national identity.

Dame Liz gave four reasons why culture and heritage should be equal partners in any government attempt to stimulate a sense of Britishness. First culture is porous, permeable, non-exclusive and constantly evolving; second it allows people to give as well as to receive; third it allows for understanding; and finally, a "coherent society cannot be made by suppressing painful truths, only by exposing them honestly in a safe environment and with as many contributors to the story as possible."

[www.thersa.org/events/audio-and-past-events/britishness-a-values-based-approach-is-not-enough](http://www.thersa.org/events/audio-and-past-events/britishness-a-values-based-approach-is-not-enough)

## Visit London

Visit London has announced that its Chief Executive, James Bidwell, will be leaving at the end of the year to take up the position of Managing Director, Anthropologie, Europe - a leading US lifestyle brand.

The 2008 Visit London Awards shortlist has been announced and includes the Science Museum, National Maritime Museum and Imperial War Museum.

[www.visitlondonmediacentre.com/press\\_releases/](http://www.visitlondonmediacentre.com/press_releases/)

## EU Culture Programme

The website for the EU Culture Programme has been substantially updated and expanded including factsheets and a page listing all projects with UK lead partners. EUCLID would like to hear from other UK co-organisers of projects in the Culture Programme to add to this webpage.

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

# International Issues

## New Directors for Guggenheim and Metropolitan Museum

The Metropolitan Museum of Art has announced that Briton Thomas P. Campbell has been elected its next Director and CEO, succeeding Philippe de Montebello who retires at the end of this year. Dr. Campbell is a curator with a specialty in European tapestry and has worked at the Metropolitan Museum since 1995, currently as Curator in the Department of European Sculpture and Decorative Arts and Supervising Curator of the Museum's Antonio Ratti Textile Center. He will take up his new post on 1 January 2009.

[www.metmuseum.org/press\\_room/recent.asp?type=2](http://www.metmuseum.org/press_room/recent.asp?type=2)

Richard Armstrong has been appointed as the new Director of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation and the Guggenheim Museum in New York, replacing Thomas Krens who resigned in February. Mr. Armstrong has been the Henry J. Heinz II Director of the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh since 1996. He will take up his new post on 4 November. The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation owns and operates the Guggenheim Museum on Fifth Avenue in New York and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, and also provides programming and management for the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao and the Deutsche Guggenheim in Berlin, as well as the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi which is due to open in 2013.

[www.guggenheim.org/press\\_office.html](http://www.guggenheim.org/press_office.html)

## Valuing Culture in Canada

New research estimates that the economic footprint of Canada's culture sector was \$84.6 billion in 2007, or 7.4% of Canada's total real GDP, including direct, indirect, and induced contributions. The research, *Valuing Culture: Measuring and Understanding Canada's Creative Economy*, produced by the Conference Board of Canada, was commissioned with money from the federal Heritage Department and is the most comprehensive study ever made of Canada's cultural sector.

[www.conferenceboard.ca/documents.asp?rnext=2671](http://www.conferenceboard.ca/documents.asp?rnext=2671)

## Lehman Brothers Art Collection

Speculation continues in relation to the art collection owned by the failed investment bank Lehman Brothers Inc. Bloomberg.com reports that Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc owns about 3,500 contemporary art works that have been displayed in the investment bank's offices around the world. The fate of the collection is currently unclear.

[www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601088&sid=a4BqjycH4C\\_s&refer=muse](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601088&sid=a4BqjycH4C_s&refer=muse)

# National Museums' News Round Up

**Tate** has revealed that 2007-8 was the most successful year on record for acquisitions to the Tate Collection. 494 works, valued at £63.1 million, were acquired for the Collection in 2007-8. Of these 320 were thanks to the generosity of collectors and artists through gifts and bequests. These figures include the Simon Sainsbury bequest, but not the major gift by Anthony d'Offay to the National Galleries of Scotland and Tate of ARTISTS ROOMS, as these will not be formally accessioned until the next financial year.

[www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2008/16294.htm](http://www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2008/16294.htm)

The **Victoria and Albert Museum's** new Sackler Centre for arts education opened on 30 September. Designed by architects Softroom, the Centre more than doubles the education space at the V&A and includes a digital studio, an auditorium and design and practical art studios. It has a separate entrance enabling it to open outside normal museum hours and function as a separate arts centre. The Centre's new Residency Programme will give four practitioners a year the chance to have a studio at the V&A, to create new work, run workshops and master classes with visitors, and hold regular open studios. The Sackler Centre has been made possible through a generous donation from the Dr. Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation. The Sackler Endowment Fund will further fund a series of conferences and lectures held at the centre.

[www.vam.ac.uk/resources/press\\_releases/index.html](http://www.vam.ac.uk/resources/press_releases/index.html)

The **Victoria and Albert Museum** is working with Kensington and Chelsea College to deliver National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) and Creative Apprenticeships to people working in the culture and arts sector and wider business community. The V&A are recruiting 6 Creative Apprentices working on a 2 year programme. This partnership will provide support for other arts organisations who recruit Creative Apprentices and link up with other organisations. [www.ccskills.org.uk/news/press\\_releases\\_vanda\\_launch\\_creative\\_apprenticeships.html](http://www.ccskills.org.uk/news/press_releases_vanda_launch_creative_apprenticeships.html)

The **Natural History Museum** has begun the countdown to the opening of the Darwin Centre in September 2009. The building is now complete and work to install the 20 million plant and insect specimens that will be housed there will begin shortly. A 65m-long 8-storey-high cocoon is the architectural highlight of the building and is the largest sprayed concrete, curved structure in Europe. Its 30 steel columns are 28m long and are the longest columns ever to be transported through London.

[www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/news/2008/september/darwin-centre-cocoon-countdown-begins.html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/news/2008/september/darwin-centre-cocoon-countdown-begins.html)

National museums in Liverpool are enjoying record visitor figures during the city's tenure as European Capital of Culture 2008. **National Museums Liverpool** has recorded the highest number of visitors in its history with 760,000 visitors in July and August 2008 alone - more visitors than it received in the whole of 2000 - 2001. **Tate Liverpool**, hosting the major Klimt exhibition, has also had its two busiest months since it opened in 1988 with over 180,000 visitors in July - only the second time (the previous month being the first) it has broken the 100,000 barrier.

[www.liverpool08.com/archive/index.asp?tcmuri=tcm:146-131442&ipage=2&m=Sep&y=08](http://www.liverpool08.com/archive/index.asp?tcmuri=tcm:146-131442&ipage=2&m=Sep&y=08)

**National Museum Cardiff's** new permanent archaeological exhibition, *Origins: In Search of Early Wales*, has received 100,000 visitors in its first 9 months. 36% of those who have visited the museum since last December have visited the exhibition. [www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/news/?article\\_id=463](http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/news/?article_id=463)

The **National Media Museum** and **National Maritime Museum** are providing access to their collections on Flickr, the photo-sharing website. They are part of *The Commons*, a project developed by Flickr and the Library of Congress to promote access to publicly-held photography collections. The site also invites viewers to help describe the collections by adding tags or leaving comments. [www.flickr.com/commons](http://www.flickr.com/commons)

The **British Museum** has put its conservators on display for six weeks, enabling visitors to see members of the conservation team at work on different parts of the collections in a gallery just inside the main entrance of the museum. [www.britishmuseum.org/whats\\_on/all\\_current\\_exhibitions/conservation\\_in\\_focus.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on/all_current_exhibitions/conservation_in_focus.aspx)

The **British Library** has been successful in its campaign to acquire the Dering Roll, the oldest extant English roll of arms, dating from c1270-1280. The cost was met with numerous donations from individual supporters as well as the National Heritage Memorial Fund, The Art Fund and the Library's Friends organisations. [www.bl.uk/news/2008/pressrelease20080902.html](http://www.bl.uk/news/2008/pressrelease20080902.html)

The **British Library** will this month host a major international conference to address threats to information created or held in digital formats. Over 250 experts, practitioners and decision makers from 33 countries and four continents will assemble at the British Library on 29-30 September for the Fifth International Conference on Preservation of Digital Objects. [www.bl.uk/news/2008/pressrelease20080925.html](http://www.bl.uk/news/2008/pressrelease20080925.html)

**National Museums Scotland** has appointed Balfour Beatty Construction Limited as a contractor on the Royal Museum Project, the £46.4 million redevelopment of the National Museum of Scotland site in Chambers Street, Edinburgh, which is due for completion in 2011. [www.nms.ac.uk/press\\_release\\_contractor.aspx](http://www.nms.ac.uk/press_release_contractor.aspx)

The **National Library of Scotland** has won a Standard of Excellence WebAward in the Web Marketing Association's 2008 competition. The Library's Scottish Screen Archive site came third in the General Interest category. The judges awarded the site the Design Standard of Excellence, based on overall excellence and quality.

[www.nls.uk/news/index.html](http://www.nls.uk/news/index.html)

**Tyne and Wear Museums'** Monkwearmouth Station Museum in Sunderland has been announced as a finalist for a prestigious Regional Tourism award. The museum, which underwent a £1m redevelopment last year, is nominated in the category of Access for All Tourism Award at the North East England Tourism Awards 2008.

[www.twmuseums.org.uk/news/monkwearmouth-nominated-for-top-tourism-award/](http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/news/monkwearmouth-nominated-for-top-tourism-award/)

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