

**Joint statement from the
British Museum and The
Raymond and Beverly
Sackler Foundation**

25 March 2022

The British Museum and the Trustees of The Raymond and Beverly Sackler Foundation have mutually agreed that the galleries, rooms, and endowments supported by the Foundation will no longer feature the Sackler name.

Both partners believe taking this step ensures the Museum can serve the millions of people who visit today and also create new opportunities for future generations to engage with the collection.

“The Raymond and Beverly Sackler Foundation first supported the British Museum over thirty years ago and has long admired its work.

“As the Museum develops a new masterplan to transform for the future, we feel this decision comes at a unique moment in the Museum’s evolution” the Trustees of The Raymond and Beverly Sackler Foundation said in a statement.

“The British Museum is grateful for the Foundation’s past support, and the Trustees appreciate their co-operation in coming to this agreement as we now move the Museum into a new era and present our incredible collections in different ways for new audiences,” said George Osborne, Chair of the British Museum.

Background information

The British Museum is home to the stories of the world.

Throughout our 263-year history, members of the public from around the world have been able to visit the collection for free.

From the very beginning, the British Museum was intended as a place where the stories of human cultures could be told, provoking thought, learning and understanding. Millions of people visit each year to experience an inspiring collection that tells the story of people and cultures from the earliest moments of human culture to the present day.

The collection empowers visitors to navigate and understand the complex relationships between empires, nations and peoples whether through trade, conquest, conflict or peaceful exchange.

What does this announcement mean?

By mutual agreement, galleries rooms and endowments supported by the Foundation in the past, will no longer feature the Sackler name.

Why has the Museum decided to remove the Sacklers' name from the Galleries and Clore Centre?

The development of the new masterplan marks a fresh moment in the Museum's history and, through collaborative discussions, both partners felt the time was right to identify new ways to connect with the visitors of tomorrow.

Why has the Museum made this decision now?

The Raymond and Beverly Sackler Foundation and the British Museum have worked together for over 30 years and, as early development work begins on the Museum's new masterplan, both partners believe it's a timely opportunity to take this step.

How was the decision made?

The Raymond and Beverly Sackler Foundation are long-standing admirers of the British Museum's work, and we made this decision together through collaborative discussions which resulted in today's announcement.

Why will the Sackler's name remain on the benefactors' board and the Great Court donor list?

The British Museum has always recognised the important relationships we have with each of our benefactors, including the historic gifts provided by the Foundation in the past and we have no plans to change this.

Does the Museum plan to remove any other names from the building?

The British Museum has no plans to review other names at this time.

Will the Museum be reviewing its relationships with any other supporters?

The British Museum has no plans to review other relationships at this time.

What funding has the Museum received from the Sackler Family and will any funds be returned?

The British Museum received funding from the Raymond and Beverly Sackler Foundation between the 1990s and 2013. This funding has supported galleries, education facilities, and research activity. There has been no request for the return of any funds. We remain grateful for the Foundation's past support.

When will the signage be taken down?

The British Museum is a listed building located in central London. Any works undertaken within the building are done sensitively and in a way that is consistent with its heritage. Consequently, we expect the changes to signage to be implemented carefully over a period of time to protect the fabric of the estate.

For further information

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