

Partners announced for second year of British Museum youth engagement projects in arts and culture across the UK

Press images: <https://tinyurl.com/96mnvbu8>

Where we are..., an innovative national programme for young people, today announces its three Key charity and cultural Partners across the UK for 2022, located in **Hackney**, **Bury** and **Barnsley**.

Organised by the British Museum, and supported by Paul Hamlyn Foundation, projects will be led by and co-produced with young people in these areas. The open and collaborative nature of these projects will enable creative and unconstrained approaches towards the idea of arts and culture. With direct input from young people aged 16–24, these bespoke projects will develop and evolve in response to a need in the local community. The Key Partner organisations involved span from a museum to historic house and art gallery and will support under-served young people to produce diverse and unique projects with their charity counterparts. These third sector bodies have missions ranging from a focus on young carers, a nurturing of new talent and the provision of music and arts education.

In **Barnsley**, [Jolly Good Communities](#) and [Barnsley Museums](#) will support young people to take a lead throughout the project from collecting objects for the social history collection to organising an evening event for young people. They plan to generate a range of possibilities to kick-start the young people's planning, but ultimately hope young people will choose something entirely their own. **Jolly Good Communities** was set up in 2018 as a community interest company (CIC) and exists to engage, support and encourage local groups and individuals who are wanting to make a difference in their community. It supports local people to plan and organise community events/ projects - building confidence and employability skills - improving community cohesion and well-being. This includes working with young people through the Jolly YOUth Group. **Barnsley Museums & Archives** is the museums service for Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Caring for six historic sites, gardens and parkland and significant collections of art, decorative art, archaeology, social history and archives, Barnsley Museums welcomes over 1 million visitors annually.

Gaby Lees, Sector Specialist – Community Arts, Barnsley Museums said:

“Barnsley Museums are overjoyed to have been selected by the British Museum to deliver a project co-designed with young people, in partnership with Jolly Good Communities. This is a real opportunity for us to develop new ways of reaching young people and engaging them with local history, arts and culture.”

In **Hackney**, [Museum of the Home](#) and [Voyage Youth](#) will collaborate on a project around the redisplay of the Geffrye statue in a new location on the Museum site, or will be a reinterpretation of the statue in its present location. **Museum of the Home** believes that ‘home’ has many meanings, from the buildings we live in, to a feeling that goes beyond a

specific place. Their purpose is to reveal and rethink the ways we live, in order to live better together. **VOYAGE** is a social justice charity that aims to empower marginalised black young people and provide them with the self-awareness and motivation to transform themselves and their communities. Established by the Black Police Association in 1998 in response to the Macpherson Report into the murder of Stephen Lawrence, their mission is to encourage and assist young people to bridge the gap between their schools, communities, and industries in which they are underrepresented, whilst supporting young people to sustain successful and meaningful partnerships.

Lamin Tarawally, Co-Chair of Youth Advisory Board at Voyage said: “Our Young Leaders are thrilled and can't wait to get started on their project with the Museum of the Home. They are pleased to learn that the British Museum recognises the significance of such a project and will participate as a partner. We hope that this involvement will be recognised as best practise in terms of creating a forum for young people to become leaders in the heritage and arts sectors.”

In Bury, [Bury Art Museum](#) and [Sunnywood Project](#) will work together to support young people explore their natural environment, imagine a greener future, and feel that they have the agency to make this a reality. **Bury Art Museum** belongs to the people of Bury and is located in the town's Cultural Quarter, a great position to highlight the importance of the past, engage in the contemporary, and conserve both for the future. Inside the building is an art gallery, a museum space, and a contemporary sculpture centre. They believe creativity, innovation and wellbeing are central to the quality of personal and public life, and hope to incite these through exhibitions, events, education, and community projects. Of central importance is providing a service to the local community, which is relevant, inclusive and engaging. The **Sunnywood Project** is a non-profit arts and nature education consultancy provider and outdoor events organiser. Combining arts and nature it promotes a love of the great outdoors through a variety of events, conservation and educational programmes stimulating a mentally and physically healthy lifestyle for those living in the North West and surrounding areas. Through each of these activities and bespoke programmes, they assist individuals to realize their own potential.

Sarah Evans, Arts & Museums Officer, Bury Art Museum said: “We are delighted to be selected to join the *Where we are* programme and are very much looking forward to working collaboratively with the Sunnywood Project and young people in Bury. To give them opportunity to create, share their ideas and help inform projects moving forwards.”

Sammy Deas, Creative Director & Family Engagement Coordinator, The Sunnywood Project said: “The Sunnywood Project are dedicated to connecting and improving the lives of young people and creating opportunities for our wider communities to engage in outdoor adventures and conservation. We are delighted to be chosen as a key partner by The British Museum alongside The Bury Art Museum for the ‘*Where we are*’ project and we look forward to supporting the young people of Bury to create something wonderful for their community.”

Hanouf Al-Alawi, National Outreach Manager at the British Museum said, “*Where we are...* is a new way for the British Museum to partner nationally and to collaborate with young people. This year, our partners bring a wealth of expertise and experience that will be greatly beneficial to our *Where we are* network of national partners. We are excited to partner with them and to help support the young people in their local areas. We can't wait to get started, to network, to plan, and to learn together.”

Sarah Saunders, Head of Learning and National Partnerships said, “The British Museum is really proud and excited to be working with these fantastic partners through Where we are... to benefit young people and give them a voice in their community. These amazing young people are shaping the future of our cultural organisations, our towns and cities and our communities around the UK. It is so great to be able to support their ideas and creativity, working with trusted partners in a way that empowers them to become confident global citizens.”

Moira Sinclair OBE, Chief Executive, Paul Hamlyn Foundation said, “It’s great to see these partnerships coming together across the country, bringing to the fore new interpretations of art and culture which are meaningful to young people and their communities. What an exciting vision for the future!”

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/where-we-are-programme>

Notes to editors

The British Museum’s National Programmes

The British Museum has a presence throughout the UK, engaging with partners nationally to lend hundreds of objects to partner organisations each year. Our initiatives give everyone the chance to engage with the British Museum’s collection and expertise.

With the lead support of the Dorset Foundation in memory of Harry M Weinrebe, in 2021/22 1,594 objects were lent to 95 venues, reaching 3 million people outside of London – 1 million more than visited the British Museum in the same period. Even with pandemic-related closures, in 2021/22 50% more visitors saw a British Museum object outside of London than in the museum in Bloomsbury.

The British Museum is committed to sharing its collection and knowledge as widely as possible and to create positive educational, social and economic impact for people and places across the UK. Facilitating new perspectives on our shared global history with others through Partnership Galleries, as well as through Touring Exhibitions which reflect diverse viewpoints, lived experiences and collective ideas. The Museum also manages the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) in England, recording and sharing archaeological discoveries to help shape our understanding of the past.



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Further information

Contact the Press Office:

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