National Programmes
2020–22
The British Museum’s work around the UK has contributed to the nationwide post-pandemic recovery. Through National Programmes, we’ve supported the cultural economy, bolstered tourism and shared skills.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In numbers</th>
<th>2020/21</th>
<th>2021/22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>objects loaned</td>
<td>1,453</td>
<td>1,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>visitors</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>3 million +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>venues</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bespoke National Programmes touring exhibitions</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
National strategy 2022–2027
In 2022, the British Museum launched its five-year National strategy. We want the collection to inspire people everywhere and to be a vehicle for a shared understanding of human cultural achievement.

This will be delivered through:
- Digital engagement
- In-person engagement
- Outreach and sharing skills

Digital engagement

We will build on the British Museum’s digital offer, bringing the collection to life through data-driven online engagement, innovative virtual experiences and mobile-friendly options.
Samsung Digital Discovery Centre

The Museum’s digital learning programme reaches thousands of children and families on site every year. It also engages students across the UK through its Virtual Visits workshops, delivered live from the Museum into classrooms. Expanded to meet schools’ need for cultural access during the lockdowns, the programme continues to grow and has attracted national and international interest as a leading example of digital learning in the sector.

Supported by Samsung

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In numbers</th>
<th>2020/21</th>
<th>2021/22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Visits</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students and teachers</td>
<td>8,897</td>
<td>22,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools reached</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>384</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Knowledge Share
online events 2021–22
The National Programmes team hosts major conferences and events at the British Museum for colleagues in the UK museum and cultural heritage sector. In 2020–22, these events went entirely online and reflected a wide range of topics, from young people shaping collections and feminist leadership in museums to community-led object interpretation.

In numbers
40 speakers
1,300 participants live
3,500 online views

Recordings from the sessions are freely available online on the British Museum Events YouTube channel.

Supported by the Vivmar Foundation
British Museum Young People’s Programme
Every year the British Museum recruits 15 people representative of young Londoners to form a Youth Collective. The Youth Collective co-produces programming to grow the British Museum’s engagement with young people. In 2020 and 2021 the collective devised virtual programmes to connect young people across the UK with the Museum.

In numbers

1.7million Impressions on social media
15.9K Clicks on social media
30 Youth Collective members

Supported by the Greengross family
Virtual youth engagement

In 2020 the Youth Collective co-produced a series of video conversations and presentations around the theme of ‘change’. The group spoke with inspiring figures including South African youth activist and entrepreneur Amonge Sinxoto about her work to empower young South Africans to tackle social issues.

In spring 2021, the Youth Collective hosted Unlocking the Museum, a series of events looking at museum careers and how young people can break into the sector. This included an interview with the British Museum Director, Hartwig Fischer, who answered questions about how the Museum can better connect with young people.
UK Museums Showcase
While museums were closed, our UK partners responded creatively to engage with audiences unable to visit physically. The British Museum profiled a selection of these online highlights on our website, including various virtual exhibition tours such as the British Museum Touring Exhibition, *Pushing paper: contemporary drawing from 1970 to now* at Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea.

britishmuseum.org/our-work/national/uk-museum-showcase

*Pushing paper: contemporary drawing from 1970 to now* at Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea. Photo by Polly Thomas.
Virtual exhibitions

At the start of the lockdown in 2020, the British Museum had four Touring Exhibitions on display at partner museums across the UK. *Ancient Iraq: new discoveries* opened at Great North Museum on 7 March 2020, with just over two weeks before the first lockdown. Adapting to the situation, Great North Museum made an online recreation of the exhibition by using 3D cameras to capture the exhibition space, reaching thousands of online visitors.
Digital recording
The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) was able to easily adapt to the increasingly digital post-pandemic world thanks to its online database. To record as many finds as possible, Finds Liaison Officers produced records on the database entirely from information and images provided remotely by finders.
‘One of the best webinars I’ve been to… it is so valuable that it is online. It means that people out of London can attend, which wouldn’t be possible if it was in person.’

Museum Futures Summit attendee
In-person engagement

‘These are works by the superstars of the art world and we are absolutely delighted to have secured this exhibition, thanks to the British Museum... it’s a complete one-off and a real coup for Barnsley and Yorkshire.’

Cllr Tim Cheetham, Barnsley Council’s Cabinet Member for Culture
Nordic by nature: modern design and prints

Nordic by nature came to the end of its successful run in 2020. The exhibition profiled how artists and designers have been inspired by Nordic landscapes and offered audiences the chance to see beautiful examples of Finnish, Swedish, Danish and Norwegian art and design.

Weston Park Museum, Sheffield, 4 May – 28 July 2019
(29,000 visitors)

Old Gala House, Galashiels, 5 August – 31 October 2019
(1,168 visitors)

Kirkleatham Museum, Redcar, 15 February – 19 March; 22 July – 20 September 2020
(7,218 visitors)

38,274 visitors
Living with art: Picasso to Celmins

Highlighting key developments of 20th-century art in Europe and America, Living with art was an exhibition of 30 prints and drawings by prominent artists including Pablo Picasso, Bridget Riley and Vija Celmins, bequeathed to the Museum by film critic Alexander Walker.

National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin, 20 February – 7 June 2021 (4,195 visitors)
Danum Gallery, Library and Museum, Doncaster, 24 July – 1 October 2021 (11,258 visitors)
The Burton at Bideford, Devon, 21 January – 24 April 2022 (10,844 visitors)

26,424 visitors
Showcasing one of the largest porcelains in the Sir Percival David Collection at the British Museum, this Spotlight Loan tour marked the first time the seat had been displayed at a museum outside of London. Crafted for the court of one of the longest-reigning of all the Ming dynasty emperors, the Wanli Emperor (r. 1573–1620), the Ming Emperor’s seat Spotlight Loan gave a fascinating insight into Chinese court culture.

Manchester Museum, 7 February – 17 March 2020 (35,931 visitors)
Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, 10 August – 21 November 2021 (42,000 visitors)
Coventry City of Culture
The British Museum was proud to contribute to the Coventry City of Culture programming in 2021. The UK City of Culture programme demonstrates how investment in culture helps to create a lasting legacy of social, cultural and economic change.

The Lampedusa Cross at Coventry Cathedral. Photo by Mary Reed.
Spotlight loan

The British Museum was a significant part of the opening weekend, with the Spotlight loan *Crossings: community and refuge* displaying the Lampedusa Cross on the High Altar of Coventry Cathedral on 22 and 23 May 2021.

Collaboration

Continuing this relationship with Coventry, the British Museum collaborated with Historic England and a range of local partners, including Coventry Business Improvement District, to pilot a new way of bringing British Museum experiences to audiences. Co-curated with young people from the local charity Positive Choices, *The Show Windows: Reflections* saw reproductions of artworks from famous artists with a connection to Coventry including Geoffrey Clarke RA and Käthe Kollwitz on display in the City Arcade windows.

Co-curators of the Show Windows: Reflections exhibition in Coventry City Arcade as part of Coventry City of Culture. Photo by Jamie Gray.
Portable Antiquities and Treasure in focus: Shropshire sun pendant
The Bronze Age Shropshire sun pendant was found by detectorist Bob Greenaway and reported as Treasure via the British Museum Portable Antiquities Scheme. It has been exceptionally crafted, highlighting the skill of people from 3,000 years ago. Acquired by the British Museum in 2021, it was first displayed at Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery.

Bob Greenaway, finder of the Shropshire Sun Pendant at Gathering light: a Bronze Age golden sun at Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery.
PAS in focus: Wickwar coin hoard

In May 2021, Mark Lovell and Mark Wilcox were metal detecting a field in South Gloucestershire when they discovered a Roman coin hoard in its original pot. Realising it was still in-situ, and the importance of preserving this information, they immediately called their local Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) who was able to organise a small excavation of the site. Three pots containing coins were discovered, all buried together in a line and nestled within building rubble from a previously unknown Roman structure and site. With the detectorists’ help, further archaeological fieldwork is now being undertaken to find out more about the site.
‘A privilege to see this collection of art and artefacts – gorgeous design!’

Visitor comment, Nordic by nature: modern design and prints
Outreach and sharing skills

We are a conduit for collaboration, co-design and networking for colleagues, young people and communities.

Young people collaborating with Harewood House and the Geraldine Connor Foundation in Leeds as part of the Where we are... programme. Photo by Tim Smith.
Where we are…
Where we are... is a UK-wide national programme for people aged 18–24 that co-designs and co-delivers meaningful local art and culture projects. The programme aims to engage young people who are under-served in the museum sector.

In 2021 the Key Partners for the programme were:

Museums and Galleries Edinburgh and Edinburgh Young Carers:
A group of 10 young people from Edinburgh co-produced a project titled Edinburgh is Not the Royal Mile which explored their feelings of alienation within Edinburgh’s touristic city centre and showed their own special places.

Harewood House Trust and Geraldine Connor Foundation:
In Leeds, 13 young people from the African and Caribbean diasporas were invited to reflect on Harewood House’s history of slavery and colonisation and bring new perspectives. In partnership with Sable Radio, the group produced a film titled Not My House and wrote a collective poem on their reactions to Harewood House.

Attenborough Arts Centre and Pedestrian:
12 young people from Leicester, who identify as LGBTQ+, explored activism and social justice. The See Me as Me project explored several art forms, including poetry, music, ceramics and performance, which were presented at the Attenborough Arts Centre.
Museum Futures
The Museum Futures programme was a three-year Skills for the Future programme run by the British Museum. The programme aimed to give a diverse group of young people with digital talents the chance to receive paid vocational training at museums across the country, culminating in each trainee completing a Level 3 Cultural Heritage Diploma/RQF.

Programme partners
Along with the British Museum, the following 20 organisations hosted trainees:
The Atkinson
Birmingham Museums Trust
Bristol Culture
Culture Perth and Kinross
Derby Museums
Fitzwilliam Museum
Garden Museum
Hastings Museum and Art Gallery
Horinman Museum and Gardens
Loburn Museum and Irish Linen Centre
Museum of Cardiff
Museum of East Anglian Life
National Football Museum
National Museums Liverpool
Norfolk Museums Service
Royal Pavilion and Museums
South West Heritage Trust
Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery
Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums
York Museums Trust

Supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund

In numbers

25 trainees were recruited over 3 years, 100% completion

96% of trainees were 18–24 years old

76% of trainees had not started or completed an undergraduate degree

100% of trainees were without a post-graduate qualification

100% of trainees had less than 6 months’ prior work experience in the sector
Museum Futures Summit

This one-day online conference in March 2022, to celebrate and learn from 10 years of Heritage Fund Skills for the Future programming, marked the completion of the Museum Futures programmes.

Bringing together staff and young people from organisations across the country, the summit explored the impact and learning outcomes of these paid, entry-level training programmes.

Recordings from the Museum Futures Summit are freely available on the British Museum Events YouTube channel.

Museum Futures trainees 2021 at the British Museum.
Knowledge Exchange

This scheme has created week-long professional exchanges between arts and heritage organisations across the UK since 2010. In 2021–22, British Museum staff took part in exchanges with museum colleagues from Perth, the Isle of Lewis, Worcestershire, Sunderland and Torquay.

In numbers

130+ staff exchanges at more than 45 UK museums since 2010

16 placements with five partners delivered in 2021–22

Supported by the Vivmar Foundation
2022 saw the completion of a three-year collaboration between the British Museum and Culture Perth & Kinross on the conservation of the kahu kākāpō, a Māori feather cloak in the Perth Museum collection – the only one known of its kind.

Conservation staff from both organisations worked on the cloak in 2021–22, sharing conservation skills and developing a culturally appropriate treatment in collaboration with Māori curatorial and cultural advisors based in the UK and New Zealand.
British Museum Portable Antiquities Scheme Internships
Since 2009, the Headley Trust has funded internships enabling people entering a career in archaeology or museums to train with British Museum Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officers across the UK. As the FLO role is unique, and covers a wider range of disciplines across the sector, interns gain a broad range of skills.

In numbers
71 interns to date
35 interns have become Finds Liaison Officers
50,000+ finds added to the Portable Antiquities Scheme database by interns
‘I’ve had space here to learn how to be unapologetic about myself… the massive mix of different viewpoints and ideas being shared in a non-hierarchal way helped me to see that my own perspective was also welcome.’

Young participant, Where we are...
Touring Exhibitions

Crossings: community and refuge
People's History Museum, Manchester
Hastings Museum and Art Gallery
Derby Museum and Art Gallery
Troy: beauty and heroism
Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology, Reading
Gathering light: a Bronze Age golden sun
Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery
Pushing paper: contemporary drawing from 1970 to now
Oriental Museum, Durham
Ancient Iraq: new discoveries
National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin
Living with art: Picasso to Celmins
F. E. McWilliam Gallery and Studio, Northern Ireland
Knowledge Exchange
Culture Perth & Kinross Museum & Taigh nan Eilean, Oban
Torre Abbey, Torquay
Partnership Galleries
Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery
Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery
The British Museum, London
Glenbow Museum

Where we are...

Programme
Harewood House Trust and
Geraldine Connor Foundation
Attenborough Arts Centre
Edinburgh Young Carers and
Museums & Galleries Edinburgh

Knowledge Exchange
Culture Perth & Kinross
Museum & Taigh nan Eilean, Outer Hebrides
Museums Worcestershire
Sunderland Culture
Torre Abbey, Torquay

Partnership Galleries
Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery
Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery
Royal Cornwall Museum
Great North Museum
Yorkshire Museum

Portable Antiquities Scheme
Aberystwyth
Aylesbury
Bangor
Barnsley
Birmingham
Bradford
Bristol
Bury St Edmunds
Cambridge
Cardiff
Gafiel
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Paul Hamlyn Foundation
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Vivmar Foundation

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