

Quarterly Report



2024/25 Q1

Q1 2024/25

This document celebrates achievements and summarises key activity from Leeds Museum & Galleries (LMG) over the period April to June 2024.

It is structured in line with our 5-year strategy **Deepening Connections, Widening Impact**, which has been developed with colleagues, partners and Arts Council England's core investment principles in mind. Throughout the document where activity and achievements meet Arts Council England Investment Principles they are referenced under each heading in order to report progress for our National Portfolio Organisation status.

Data comparisons are made with the same period of the previous year unless otherwise stated.

Leeds Museums & Galleries' Strategic Outcomes

- 1 We will be more sustainable and responsible, financially and environmentally
- 2 We will provide higher quality audience engagement and experiences, both physically and digitally
- 3 We will continue to be a leader in collaborative, sustainable, accessible cultural learning and creative skills development
- 4 We will have an audience and workforce that is representative and reflective of the city
- 5 We will have collections and heritage assets that are better known, better understood, and better cared for
- 6 We will have international reputation and reach



OUTCOME 1
We will be more sustainable and responsible, financially and environmentally

ACE IP MET
 Dynamism
 Environmental Responsibility

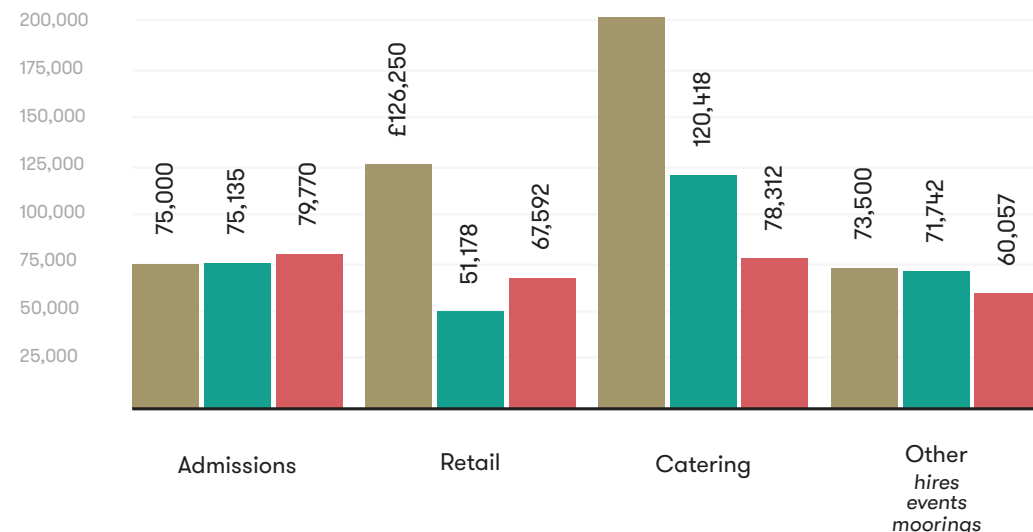
At a glance

During this quarter, we continue to see strong growth in catering income, through the introduction of consistent menu offer and a pricing review, as well as seeing a steady improvement of venue and room hire income. Admissions income remains stable, whilst retail has been negatively impacted.

Revenue

£318,473 Q1 2024/25
 £285,731 Q1 2024/23
 +11.46% Total Revenue

Key
 Budget
 Q1 2024/25
 Q1 2023/24



Headlines

The Curator of Natural Science presented at the Natural Sciences Collections Association annual conference held at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History on the Dead Inspiring project about encouraging secondary students to engage with insect and other natural science collections.

At the same conference, the Audience Development Officer who worked on the refresh of the Life on Earth gallery at Leeds City Museum in 2022, was on a panel focusing on decarbonising exhibitions and displays.

The Head of Operations & Enterprise is responsible for chairing the Council's internal culture sustainability working group.

The Head of Operations & Enterprise attended the Association for Leading Visitor Attractions inaugural meeting for Heads of Sustainability and also represented the service at the second Yorkshire Sustainability Festival.

Abbey House Museum's Creativity and Wellbeing Week included sustainability focused walks linked to the Revive, Repair, Reuse exhibition.

Our Digital Development Officer attended the Digital Works conference at Leeds City Museum, focusing on human behaviour, user decision making and user experience, which will inform decisions about our online shop and developments to increase sales.

Projects from our commercial development budgets have been allocated for 2024/25. This includes investment to support venue and room hire, to further develop The Picture Library and the development of retail space and visual merchandising across sites.

Leeds Art Gallery retail has shown the most growth out of all the sites, due to the opening of the Peter Mitchell exhibition, which reinforces the importance of programming on commercial income.

Temple Newsam retail has significantly fallen in Q1 due to a project to relocate the shop, pictured left, to align with a change to the visitor route (entering and exiting through the shop), which will be finished in forthcoming months.

Thwaite Watermill continues to bring in revenue through weddings and moorings while it is being prepared for return to the Canal & River Trust following the decision to close to improve financial sustainability across the whole service. Savings have already been made through the release and redeployment of staff.

In Focus

During Q1, Leeds City Museum has seen a remarkable 113% increase in commercial hire income compared to the same period last year.

This growth is primarily the result of a rise in repeat bookings through the development of partnerships with returning clients. Since October last year, Leeds City Museum has been working with commercial client Fever Up to host Candlelight Concerts in the museum. These out-of-hours events now take place twice a month at the museum, bringing in regular income as well as attracting new audiences.

Key improvements to our room hire offer, including upgraded AV equipment, redecoration and the reintroduction of in-house catering options, have also been instrumental in attracting new and returning clients. This work included commissioning murals for our meeting rooms to better connect the rooms with the rest of the museum. The murals by Etkaterina Sheath have transformed the meeting rooms ensuring that the spaces now reflect the client's choice to host their meeting in a cultural building.

In other areas of the service, improvements to commercial hire income have also been seen at Leeds Art Gallery and Temple Newsam through the residencies of Pinc College and Leeds City College at these venues.



Murals by Etkaterina Sheath



OUTCOME 2

We will provide higher quality audience engagement and experiences, both physically and digitally

At a glance

We've had a busy few months across the service opening fantastic new exhibitions and hosting some wonderful events. Behind the scenes we have begun auditing our website and getting to grips with Google Analytics 4, as well as embarking on new audience research projects.

Press Highlights

Peter Mitchell, Nothing Lasts Forever received fantastic print coverage including the [Daily Telegraph](#), [The Times](#) and [Yorkshire Post Magazine](#).

Living with Death, highlighting the Roman lead coffin found in Garforth going on display for the first time made national and international news including [Yorkshire Post](#), [BBC News](#), [Daily Express](#) and [Newsweek \(USA\)](#)

Conservation work of [Billie the Hippo](#) caught the attention of the [BBC](#) as we work to ready him for display later this year.

*figure taken from combination of GA4 and Wordpress due to reconfiguring Google Analytics 4 and issue capturing data from UK cookies.

Venue Visitors

223,735

Q1 2024/25

230,200
Q1 2023/24

-3%



Visitors

157,945*
2024/25

185,163
2023/24

-15%
New website visitors



Podcast

26,311
2024/25

23,540
2023/24

+12%
Downloads



Views

563,055*
2024/25

592,104
2023/24

-5%
Webpage views



Socials

340,948
2024/5

330,158
2023/4

+3%
Followers

ACE IP MET
All

Headlines

We are at the beginning of an audience research project which spans across two of our venues and is looking at both non-visitors' and visitors' perceptions and barriers.

Audience Development ran a website survey to enhance understanding our online audience and user journeys, to improve website functionality and planning for website developments.

Leeds City Museum opened *Living with Death*, an exhibition exploring the different ways people experience death, dying, and grief. A series of talks, workshops, and family-friendly events will complement the exhibition.

Leeds Art Gallery opened *Peter Mitchell, Nothing Lasts Forever*, a survey show spanning a vast career, featuring photographs of Leeds and including works from our collection.

In May, *Entangled* opened at Leeds Industrial Museum, an exhibition of artworks by the International Felt Makers Association and runs for a year.

Work is underway to invest ACE facilities improvement funds in a new interactive at Leeds Industrial Museum telling the human stories of textile workers in mills like ours.

Inspired by the exhibition, *Found Cities, Lost Objects* at Leeds Art Gallery, four Leeds-based artists were commissioned by Arts Council Collection to create artworks for billboards around the city which were on display throughout April and May.

A Hip Hop Journey: 50 Years Of Kulture won Museums + Heritage Award for Temporary or Touring Exhibition of the Year (under £80k), pictured below. The exhibition ran at Leeds City Museum from July 2023 until March 2024 and was a partnership with the Leeds Hip Hop Historian Society.



2024/25 Q1



In Focus

Staff at Leeds Industrial Museum have been working with Archipelago Theatre Company for over two years on the production of *Mother of the Revolution*, a fully accessible theatre production which moved both audience and actors through Leeds Industrial Museum in a promenade piece.

This piece was made possible by funding from the Arts Council England and was a resounding success with every one of the eight performances selling out, enabling an audience of just under 400 people to see the museum in a new light as it was used for an accessible and incredible theatre production which told the story of Betty Beecroft and Kirkstall Forge, through acting, music and British Sign Language.

In Focus

On 13 April Leeds Art Gallery, in partnership with 8 dance organisations, produced a performance of Melanie Manchot's *Dance (All Night, Leeds)*.

For an entire night, a variety of movements, cultures and dance styles came together. Re-tracing the routes taken by protestors in the very first Reclaim the Night march in 1977, dancers and members of the

public paraded through the streets of Leeds converging on Victoria Gardens in front of Leeds Art Gallery.

After a performance of the dance groups together, the square was transformed with dance lessons offered ranging from Bulgarian folk to Indian classical dance and hula hooping. An audience of 300 joined in wearing silent disco style headphones.





OUTCOME 3

We will continue to be a leader in collaborative, sustainable, accessible cultural learning and creative skills development

ACE IP MET
Dynamism
Environmental
Responsibility
Inclusion &
Relevance

At a glance

Our national impact widened through sector support, mentoring, and Early Years research news. Our city-wide partnerships grew through Primary School Membership. Our influence can be seen through impacts on teaching practice and on young adults' soft skill development through Careers for All.

MyLearning
145,000

Q1 2024/25

382,000

Page Views

2096

Downloads

1400

Watched Videos



Pupils

9,695
Q1 2024/25

11,140
Q1 2023/24

-13%
Engaged through workshops, self led and outreach



Family

22,255
Q1 2024/25

25,989
Q1 2023/24

-15%
People engaged in family activities



SEND

31
2024/25

11
2023/24

+182%
Workshops differentiated for pupils with SEND needs



Eco

8
2024/25

1
2023/24

+700%
climate and biodiversity related workshops

*MyLearning analytics: The launch of Google Analytics 4 means the data is measured in a different way, therefore will not be comparable with previous periods

Headlines

The Learning & Access team were highly commended at the Museums + Heritage Awards in the category of sector impact.

Fortnightly and monthly under-fives sessions continued at Leeds City Museum and Leeds Art Gallery. June focused on Peter Mitchell's photographs with 48 adults and 43 children attending. The session was designed by two FE work experience students, supported by an artist.

We have been selected as one of 8 museums across the country to develop and pilot Early Years research around social development with NESTA and Art Fund.

We were successful in a bid to LEGO Build the World through the Natural History Museum Real World Science Partnership for around £5000. Family and schools work will happen in autumn 2024.

We developed ASMR resources with 6 students from John Jamieson East SILC (Roundhay, LS8) over 4 weeks at Leeds Art Gallery, and 6 students from Swarthmore (Little London and Woodhouse, LS3) developing Makaton resources for MyLearning.org as part of employability skills with Careers for All.

We have continued our support within the sector this quarter supporting partners and mentees, highlights include including chairing part of the GLAM Cares staff wellbeing conference (70 delegates) and training workshops for regional groups.

100 people attended a volunteer celebration, held during Volunteers' Week with partners Voluntary Action Leeds.



In Focus

In the 2023-24 academic year the Primary School Membership scheme had 21 members, the highest number that we've ever had (20 in 22-23).

More schools have expressed an interest, but they're unable to join due to the availability of loan boxes. We have loaned out a total of 144 boxes this year – four more than last year and are working to increase our capacity for the future by creating three new boxes. Members this year described having access to objects as allowing children to 'visually learn, great for SEND, children very engaged' and able to 'really experience a piece of history they would never have been able to otherwise'. Four of our current members have also accessed additional curriculum planning support (two in 2022-3) and in three cases to make significant changes to their curriculums.

We've also worked with two new schools through our curriculum planning offer, one of whom has gone on to join as a new member for 2024-5.

Our CPD offer has once again run successfully, with an average of seven attendees over autumn and spring term sessions and new sessions on Industrial History and Ancient Greeks launched in summer term and plans to build this further over the next academic year.





OUTCOME 4

We will have an audience and workforce that is representative and reflective of the city

ACE IP MET
Ambition & Quality
Inclusion & Relevance

At a glance

Another busy quarter with increases in the number of co-curated displays and events, generous hosting, recruitment of project placements, and progress made in rolling out our workforce development plan through training.

11 +83%
Co-curated displays

136 -44%
Community creative sessions

100 +270%
Generous hostings



Volunteers

109
2024/25

103
2023/4

+6%
Volunteers



Hours

1643
2024/25

2840
2023/24

-42%
Hours contributed by volunteers

Headlines

The Project Placement call out for 2024/25 has been completed and is now moving to recruitment phase.

A pilot project at Leeds Industrial Museum and Abbey House Museum offering free tickets for families accessing food banks is underway. 130 family tickets were delivered to foodbanks in west Leeds for distribution before half term.

For Pride Month, a new LGBT+ trail launched at Leeds City Museum.

Leeds Industrial Museum is working towards being more older people and Dementia Friendly, having signed up with the Leeds Older People's Forum to improve information and access.

New all staff training has begun including neurodiversity training, with focus on adult autism, and unconscious bias training.

In Focus

We are trialling new methods of improving intellectual accessibility at Leeds City Museum in consultation with access specialists and the local community.

This includes the 3D printing of museum objects to better engage people who are blind or partially sighted, and the creation of a visual access guide to better support neurodivergent visitors. DEX are a group of young Deaf volunteers based in Leeds, who we have worked with on past displays. DEX were invited to tour the Life on Earth gallery and tell us how they would approach accessing it through BSL. The group identified



key themes and objects that they would like to know more about and highlighted specialist/complex language on some text panels which they would struggle to access. Working with the exhibition's curator they created new interpretation and were filmed signing the stories themselves. This was a great success, with participants feeling welcome and included with their first language being prioritised throughout.

28 co-produced events with our community partners



In Focus

The Youth Engagement Curator based at Leeds Art Gallery ran a series of artist-led workshops with Shine Young Mums group based in Hunslet and Leeds Bosom Buddies. These were connected to the themes of *Feed*, an artwork in the *Found Cities, Lost Objects* exhibition, through explorations of Leeds city centre and other nearby places frequented by the groups.

Through creative processes, such as photography, model making, movement and mark making, groups identified places where they feel welcome/unwelcome, visible/invisible, comfortable/uncomfortable, safe/vulnerable.

The content produced will be used to co-create a collaborative artwork. This will provide a focal point for a discussion event at the end of the project about how the city can better support feeding people and parents, to which we will invite local councillors, community organisations and activists.



OUTCOME 5

We will have collections and heritage assets that are better known, better understood, and better cared for



At a glance

This has been another busy quarter for collections development and displays. A major infrastructure project to reduce flood risk at Leeds Industrial Museum is concluding.



ACE IP MET
All

100 -76%
Objects conserved

292 -53%
Objects condition checked

357 +71%
Enquiries answered

4828 +228%
TMS records updated

164 -58%
Records amended as a result of community input

597 +91%
New records created

39 +56%
Researchers accessing collections

Visitors to objects on loan out

436,500

Q1 24/25

644,675

Q1 23/24

-32%

Long Loans (12 months+)

182 out +4%

990 in from 72 lenders +/- 0%

Short Loans (up to 12 months)

102 out to 19 venues, 5 international +72%

1565 in from 180 lenders +107%

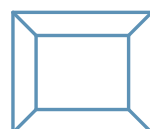
The Picture Library

Members Loans

389 **492**
2024/25 2024/25

330 **419**
2023/24 2023/24

+18% **+17%**
Members Artworks on loan



Headlines

An ancient Roman coffin has been conserved and is now on display for the first time, in *Living with Death at Leeds City Museum*. West Yorkshire Archaeological Services uncovered the lead coffin in a field at Garforth in 2022 and it is now part of LMG’s archaeology collection.

To coincide with *MONOPOLY Leeds Takeover* in summer 2024, a new display focusing on the story of *Waddingtons* has been installed at Leeds City Museum. Leeds was home to Waddingtons, Britain’s leading manufacturer of board games and playing cards, from the 1930s onwards.

Temple Newsam is home to a new conference *Public Houses: What makes civic custodianship of historic house museums in Britain different and where next?* on 9th and 10th October. LMG have developed the conference supported by Leeds City Council, University of Leeds, the Paul Mellon Foundation and Leeds Art Fund.

Leeds Industrial Museum have invested UKSPF funding, capital funding and improvements from the flood alleviation scheme to reinstate railway tracks to better store and display the Designated collection of locomotives. As the flood alleviation scheme concludes, the MEND project will begin to make good the Loco Shed as the first phase of transforming it into the new Railway Gallery.

LMG secured a new acquisition at auction by the sculptor *Ronald Moody (1900-1984)*. ‘Absent’ dates from 1973, later in the artist’s career and has been jointly funded by the Leeds Art Fund and Henry Moore Foundation.

Fine Art graduate *Skye Davies* was selected for the *Ben Read Acquisition prize*, pictured top left. The annual award with the University of Leeds sees a work added to the Picture Library.

New objects have been acquired through a contemporary collecting project in East Leeds, which had been identified as an area of the city under-represented in the LMG collection.

The Leeds Lieder Song Path event at Kirkstall Abbey on 13 April focused on mental well-being through the transformative power of music and nature. Together with free workshops led by Arts and Minds in the lead up, the events offered visitors the chance to experience music outdoors in the inspirational setting of Kirkstall Abbey.

In Focus

Three new projects have been selected for the 2024/25 Collections Research Fund, a partnership between LMG and the Cultural Institute at the University of Leeds.

One will scan bird specimens from the Natural Science collection to produce a database of 3D models of birds in flight, which will be used to quantify bird flight around the UK using weather radar data sets. For several decades, weather radars have been able to detect birds in flight, but this data has remained largely unanalysed because it has been difficult to identify one species from another. Another project will help to monitor insect biodiversity, by sampling DNA from specific types of insects known as cryptic species

from the Natural Science collection. This will be combined with hyperspectral imaging in order to test if cryptic species can be more easily identified by computer-vision and AI supported cameras and therefore the species monitored.

The third will focus on Salamanca, thought to be one of the world's oldest model locomotives. Made in 1811 for Leeds engineer Matthew Murray as a working model for the twin cylinder Salamanca, which Murray built a year later. The use of the MicroCT facilities at the School of Civil Engineering and School of Earth Sciences will provide non-destructive insights into the construction of the model for the first time.





OUTCOME 6

We will have international reputation and reach.

Headlines

In May, the singer, Madonna, included a picture of her studying *L’Homme*, a wooden sculpture by Ronald Moody from our collection, on her Instagram account. The sculpture was on loan from LMG to The Metropolitan Museum, New York, for the show, ‘The Harlem Renaissance and Transatlantic Modernism’.

In addition to New York, LMG objects have been on loan this quarter to Bottrop in Germany, Lanuvio in Italy and Caen and Rouen in France.

At a glance

Over the past few months, our collections have been in the spotlight with national and international loans, we’ve hosted international visits, and we’ve been contributing to teaching resources remembering David Oluwale, continuing work from LEEDS2023

ACE IP MET

All

Headlines

The American ancestor of a 19th Century railway worker rediscovered a family connection to a fatal Leeds explosion with help of world’s oldest locomotive model and travelled over 5,000 miles from Phoenix, Arizona to Leeds Industrial Museum to see the object. Read more in this [Yorkshire Post](#) article.

Staff from Museum Folkwang in Essen, Germany visited Leeds Art Gallery on 1 June and the Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art led a tour for the group.

Article published in the International Journal of Arts in Society on the theme of Engagement Curating.

The Learning & Access team supported Remember Oluwale, the David Oluwale Memorial Association to complete teaching resources that began as a LEEDS2023 programme.

In Focus

The painting *Barges on the Thames* (1906) by the French artist André Derain (1880 – 1954) has travelled from Leeds Art Gallery to Sotheby’s in London to be featured in their exhibition exploring the wealth of Britain’s public collections.

London: An Artistic Crossroads, displays twelve artworks from leading UK institutions whose creators were born outside of the UK. Each artist was inspired by their time in London, either a visitor in the case of Derain or having permanently relocated to the city.

Acquired in 1937 as part of Leeds Art Gallery director Sir Phillip Hendy’s ambitious push to buy notable works of art for the Leeds collection, it is one of those rare paintings which immediately draws the eye and has been a favourite in the exhibition at Sotheby’s.



The loan has required a real team effort, from our Registrars co-ordinating the loan, our Technical team carefully packing the painting, to Audience Development colleagues working with Sotheby’s to publicise the loan. The Head of Collections & Programmes took part in an afternoon of talks in early June as part of the exhibition’s public programme.

Barges on the Thames will now be on display until 5 July 2024.

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Cover image:

Sotheby's shoot by
Charlotte Hadden for the
Evening Standard (detail).

Yomi Adegoke, author and
journalist and artist Claudette
Johnson with Barges on the
Thames by *Andre Derain*
on loan to Sotheby's.