

Quarterly Report



2024/25 Q2

Q2 2024/25

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

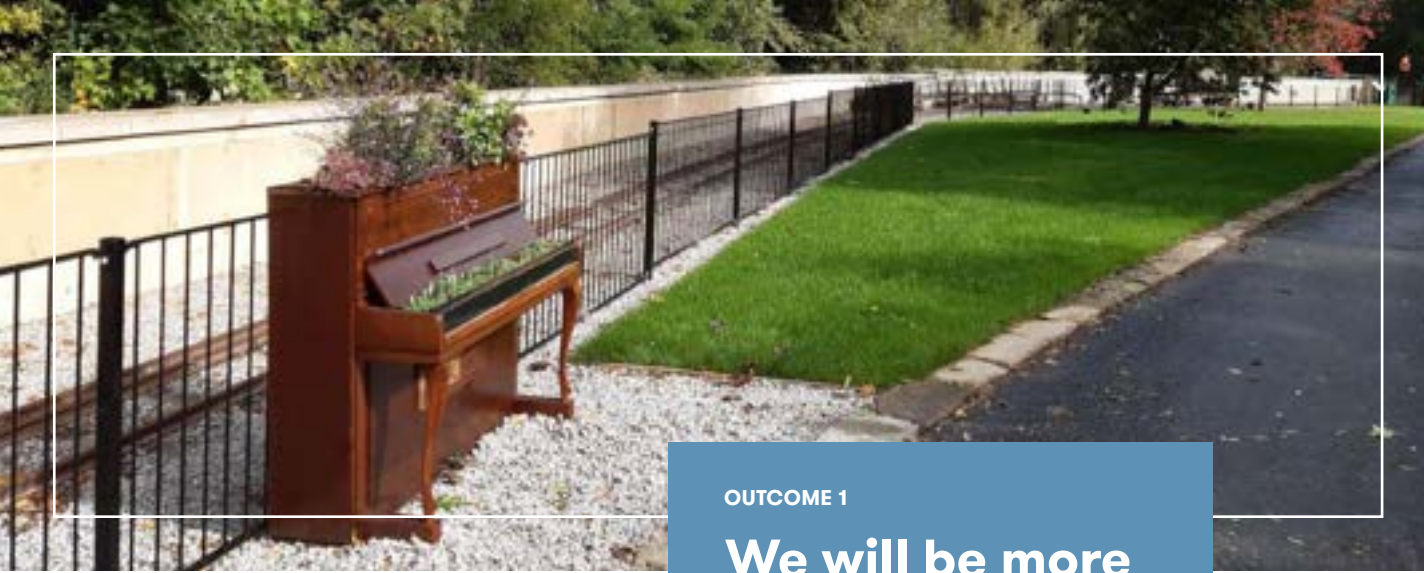
It is structured in line with our 5-year strategy **Deepening Connections, Widening Impact**, which has been developed with colleagues, partners and Arts Council England's core investment principles in mind. Throughout the document where activity and achievements meet Arts Council England Investment 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

2023/24 Q3



OUTCOME 1

We will be more sustainable and responsible, financially and environmentally

ACE IP MET
Dynamism
Environmental
Responsibility

At a glance

Admissions, retail and catering performance during this quarter continues to grow following sustained improvements to each offer.

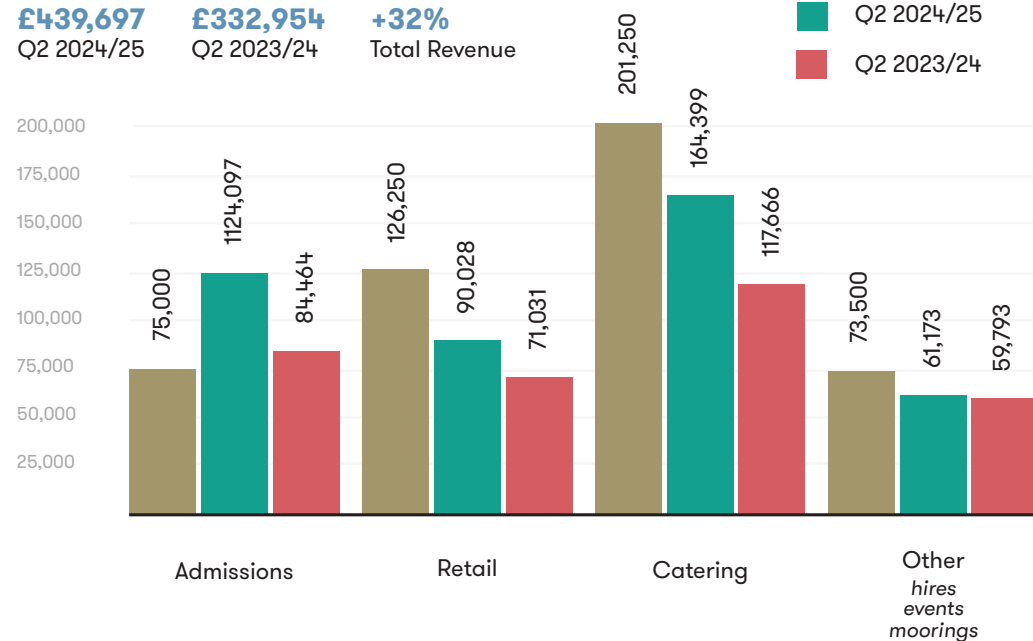
Retail stock is now more closely aligned to each venue and the wider programme with a strong focus on visual merchandising and catering continues to review its cafe and in-house offers.

Revenue

£439,697 Q2 2024/25
£332,954 Q2 2023/24
+32% Total Revenue

Key

- Budget
- Q2 2024/25
- Q2 2023/24



Headlines

Following on from the commercial review, a new post of Commercial Events and Experience Manager has been filled. This will enable us to develop a more consistent and efficient approach to commercial events. A number of casual catering staff have also been given permanent contracts.

A number of improvements have been made at the Tiled Hall Cafe at Leeds Art Gallery enhancing the coffee offer and the in-house catering provision continues to be developed.

Kirkstall Abbey (and the wider park) hosted a number of successful commercial events during the summer months including the renowned Leeds International Beer Festival.

Progress continues with decarbonising our portfolio with the installation of air source heat pumps and improved heating systems at Leeds Industrial Museum and Temple Newsam underway.

Craft sessions focused on sustainability tied to the Revive, Re-Use, Repair exhibition at Abbey House Museum.

Kirkstall Abbey Gardening Group is popping in on Wednesday afternoons to maintain and cultivate the raised vegetable beds towards the Infirmary, with volunteers going above and beyond to water the beds on other days during the hot summer weather.

The Head of Operations & Enterprise has joined the circularity working group created by Sustainable Arts in Leeds (SAiL).

A number of sustainability case studies have been shared with Eurocities (a network of European Cities), demonstrating Leeds' commitment and delivery against the Lille Call to Action (an initiative for low carbon and more inclusive culture).



In Focus

A 3-year flood alleviation scheme project at Leeds Industrial Museum has come to fruition delivered in partnership with Leeds City Council and the Environment Agency. The scheme will provide a one in one-hundred-year level of protection of securing the future of the museum from floods.

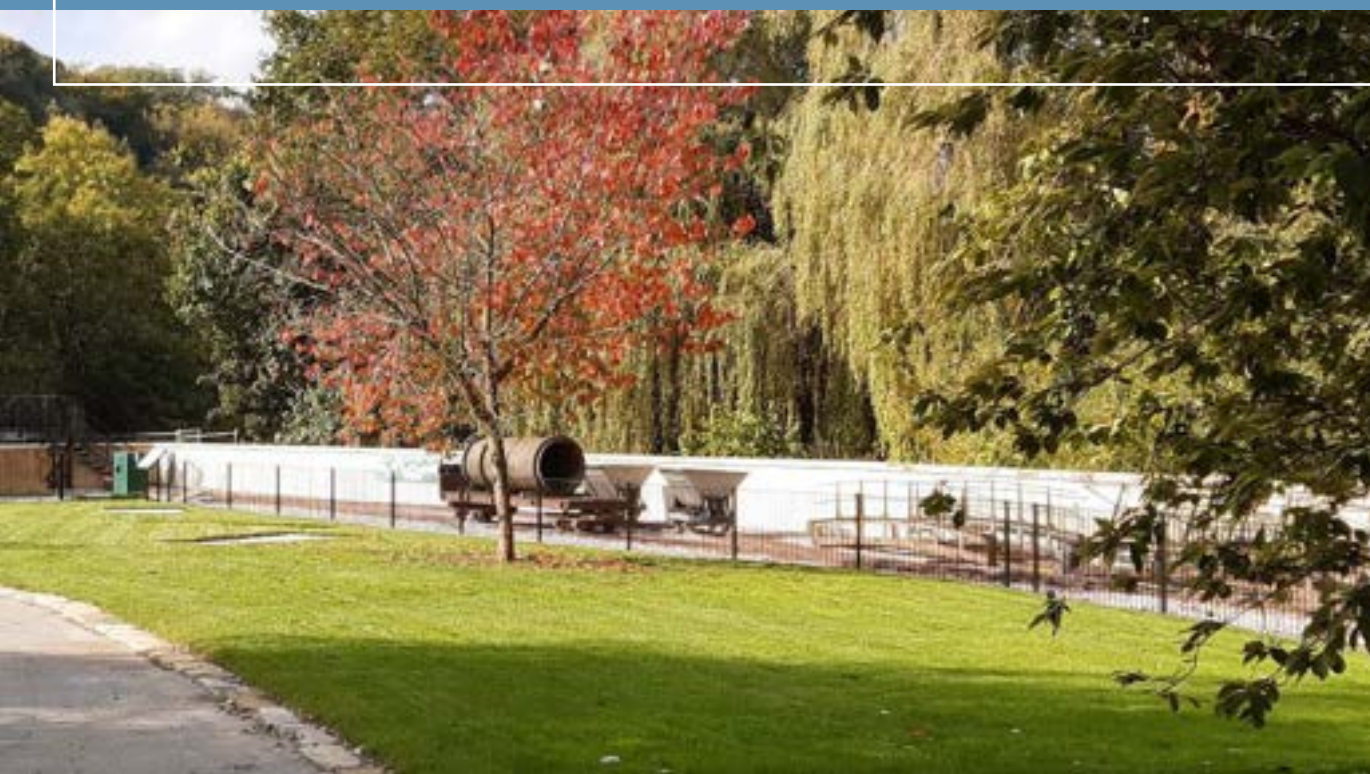
This ambitious scheme constructed a flood wall around the whole of the site as well as repairing the riverbank adjacent to the drying house range and installed new flow control structures.

Most of the work took place alongside the River Aire and part of the new flood wall will be used to support the structure that will replace and raise the roof of the Railway Gallery (severely flooded in 2015 and yet to re-open), funded through the Museum Estate and Development Fund.

The project has also supported the site to make improvements to the display and storage of the industrial collections, designated as being of national and international significance, which will enable the Railway Gallery to re-open in 2025/26.

Additional funding through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund has also been secured for the restoration of the narrow-gauge running railway track to allow for future demonstrations of collection locomotives. This will also enable locomotives to be more easily moved at site. New interpretation has been added to the flood wall.

The green space at the site has been improved with a newly landscaped picnic area, as well as the introduction of bat and bird boxes alongside otter holts supporting wildlife and wider ecological systems. Further funding has subsequently been secured to develop a small orchard adjacent to the picnic area.





OUTCOME 2

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

At a glance

Projects have come to fruition including facility and gallery openings and new volunteer-led digital interpretation. Participant wellbeing evaluation continues to be positive.

Press Highlights

July 13: [Sculpting Royalty: Hew Locke and Mary Thornycroft at Henry Moore Institute drawn from LMG's sculpture collection and Archive of Sculptors' Papers - The Guardian](#)

July 22: [Prince's sailor suit sparked 'early' fashion trend - BBC News](#)

August: National press for family's reunion with Suffragette ancestor's wedding dress: [Yorkshire Post](#), [BBC News](#), [Brides.com](#).

Aug 21: [Museums making history count with major economic boost for Leeds - Leeds City Council](#)

September: Marsh Lane train station relics saved by Leeds museums: [BBC News](#), [Yorkshire Post](#).

Sept 21: [The Pianodrome: One of the world's most spectacular performances spaces bows out this weekend - Yorkshire Post](#)



Visitors

251,907
2024/25

250,806
2023/24

+0.4%
Venue visitors



Socials

344,042
2024/5

319,017
2023/4

+8%
Social media followers



Website

238,184
2024/25

191,000
2023/24

+25%
Website visitors



Views

868,811
2024/25

610,000
2023/24

+42%
Webpage views

ACE IP MET
All

Headlines

Focused visitor research is underway at Leeds Industrial Museum, with escorted audience visits during August supported by Bluegrass and LMG Audience Development to analyse visitor experience and develop opportunities.

The Abbey House Reminiscence Scheme was revamped with the addition of two extra boxes and launched again to care homes and groups in September.

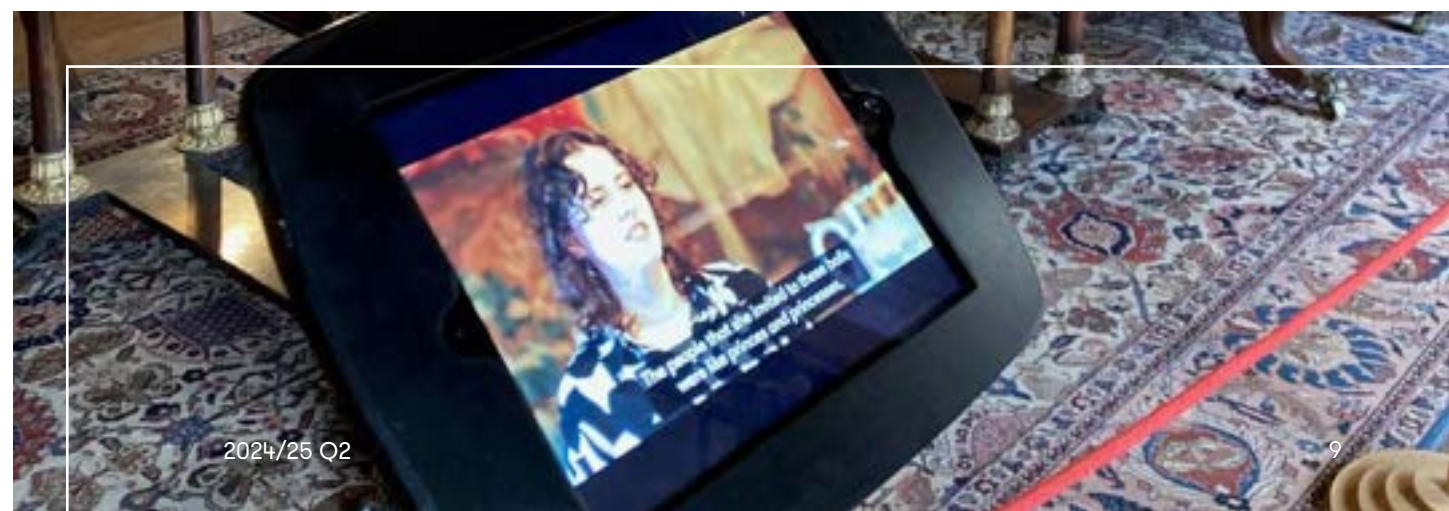
A new Changing Places provision has been opened at Abbey House Museum, as well as significantly improving the current toilet provision with additional visitor toilets added upstairs.

Lotherton Hall chapel reopened, with new volunteers supporting the visitor experience. They supported visitors to view a temporary display from the University of Leeds, following the stories of people with disabilities who were murdered by the Nazis during World War Two. Over four weeks, 979 visitors came to the chapel and saw the exhibition.

Community Team continue to monitor impact through wellbeing evaluation. Participants are given a light touch survey based on the Five Ways to Wellbeing. They score how they feel after the session out of 5, with 5 the highest. Data shows that the averages are all over 4, and most over 4.5. 'I felt happy' had an average response of 4.61.

The bridge link between Leeds Art Gallery and partners the Henry Moore Institute re-opened as part of the Institute's relaunch following a period of closure for redevelopment works. A new display in the Archive Gallery, Sculpture Photographed, launched at the same time.

Tales of Temple Newsam launched in June, a collaborative project shaped and co-produced by a dedicated team of volunteers. Through research at West Yorkshire Archive Service, a series of films telling the stories of people in the house's history have added a new layer of interpretation. Funded by Arts Council England's Designation Development Fund.



2024/25 Q2

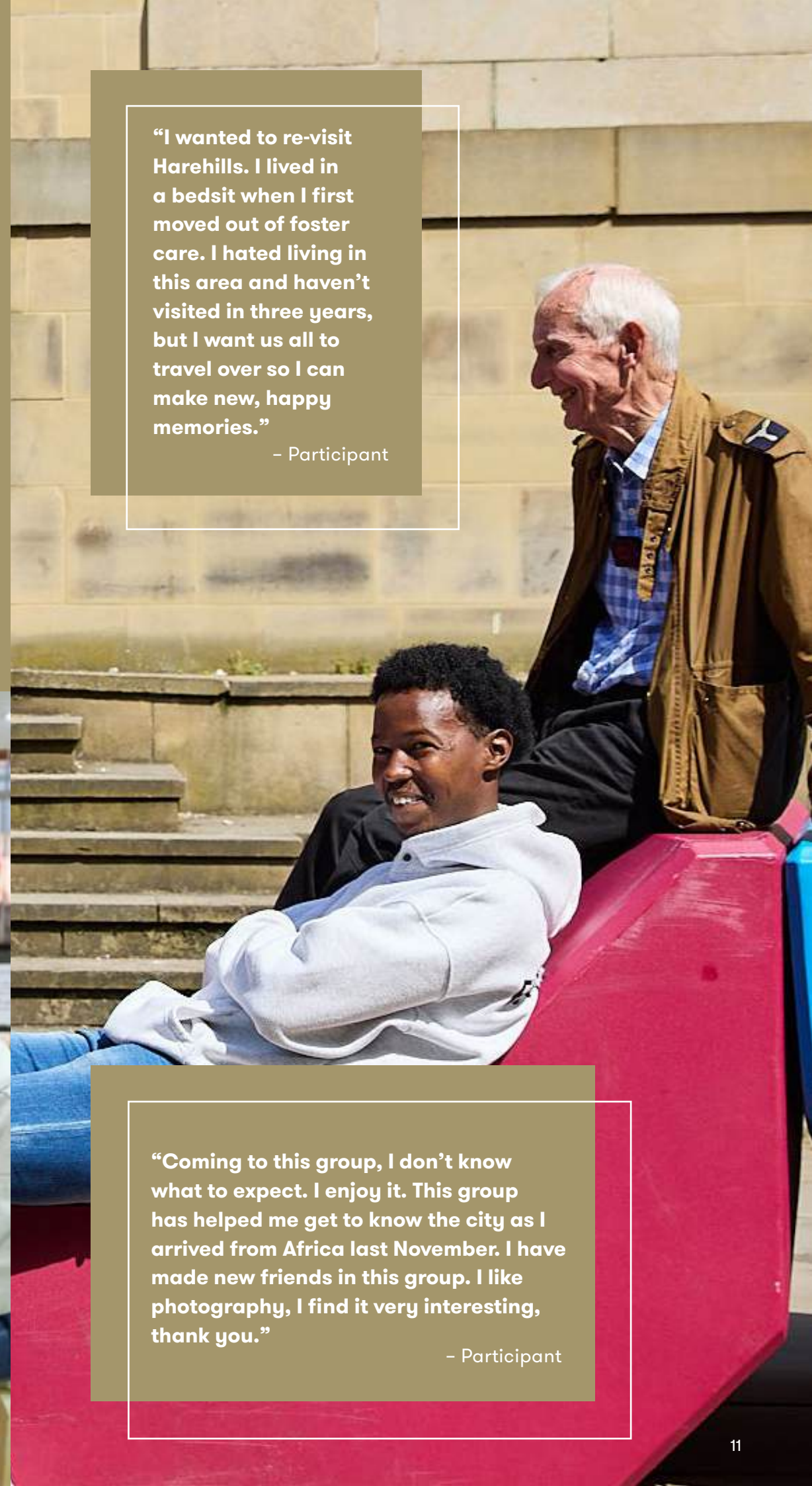
In Focus

The Care Creatives are a small group of four young adults aged 16-24 who spent some of their childhood living in foster, kinship or residential care. Over the last 12 months, the Care Creatives have spent time exploring different neighbourhoods across the city of Leeds.

Collectively they planned a route to explore and photograph. The group have developed their communication, confidence, resilience and team building skills over the course of the year.

They have selected which of their photographs to display, the framing, written the text panels and worked directly with the technical team to install their exhibition. They also attended a Virtual Head Teacher team meeting with 29 delegates and invited the 32 Local Authority Corporate Carers/Councillors to their exhibition opening.

The Care Creatives have identified different organisations who will display their exhibition over the next year including Leeds Social Care buildings, Leeds Libraries, Merrion House and Archway.



“I wanted to re-visit Harehills. I lived in a bedsit when I first moved out of foster care. I hated living in this area and haven’t visited in three years, but I want us all to travel over so I can make new, happy memories.”

– Participant

“Coming to this group, I don’t know what to expect. I enjoy it. This group has helped me get to know the city as I arrived from Africa last November. I have made new friends in this group. I like photography, I find it very interesting, thank you.”

– Participant



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

We focused on holiday activities for local families over the summer holidays, and GCSE exam preparation through our secondary school programmes in September. We were successful in gaining research funding and in fundraising to provide sustainability for Learning programmes.



Pupils

7,388
Q2 2024/5

6,691
Q2 2023/4

+10%
Engaged through workshops, self led and outreach



Family

35,991
Q2 2024/25

46,575
Q2 2023/24

-23%
People engaged in family activities



SEND

4
2024/5

4
2023/4

+/- 0%
Workshops differentiated for pupils with SEND needs

MyLearning
121,000

Unique Users
Q2 2024/25

308,000
Page Views

1596
Downloads

2000
Watched Videos

Headlines

Mini Wonders, the Early Years social development research with NESTA and Art Fund, launched in September 2024.

The programme is based at Leeds Industrial Museum (LS12, Armley) and will take place over two years and is worth £64,000.

Awarded £1000 from the Mildred Fund for R&D for Careers for All at Leeds Art Gallery (LS1, Little London and Woodhouse) looking at emotional literacy using artworks with neurodivergent young people 14-18 years. If successful, the R&D phase will lead to three years of funding (approx. £120,000).

Supported two UK mentoring relationships and a cultural colleague from the Netherlands, spoke at the Group for Education in Museums (GEM) national conference to 300 delegates about the Value of Cultural Learning, supported the Cultural Learning Alliance Advisory Group, ACE cultural educator sessions and a Development Day for Artsmark, and chaired two Creative Careers Access panels.

We hosted the LCC Corporate Parenting Group (CPG) at Leeds Art Gallery in July 2024. The CPG were guided by members of the Care Creatives, a group of care leavers developing their creativity through work at the gallery.

‘Our visits to Temple Newsam House as part of our Yr11 GCSE History were thoughtfully planned and of great use to our students in their exam preparation. There was a clear focus on the themes and requirements of our GCSE specification, and our guides were knowledgeable and engaging.’

- Head of History, Morley Academy (LS27, Morley South), September 2024

‘I come to the museum because it boosts the creativity in my child and makes them less shy’.

- Parent, during summer holiday activity at Leeds City Museum (LS2, Little London and Woodhouse)

Our wonderful insect collection has been inspiring Year 11s. They’ve been using it for their GCSE Design & Technology product design module.



2024/25 Q2

13

*MyLearning analytics: Changes to GA4 Google Analytics tool means data measured in a different way we will not be able to compare with previous periods

In Focus

All eight venues provide free, drop-in family activities in Leeds school holidays, and family-led activities every day. The activities attract a wide range of families, including many who might be currently struggling with the cost-of-living.

The activities are all designed to be intergenerational, where a child and adult complete the activity together, as we know this strengthens socialisation for young children, increases positive family interactions and develops creative skills. We contribute to Child Friendly Leeds Wish 7, a civic offer around enjoying cultural experiences and having things to do.

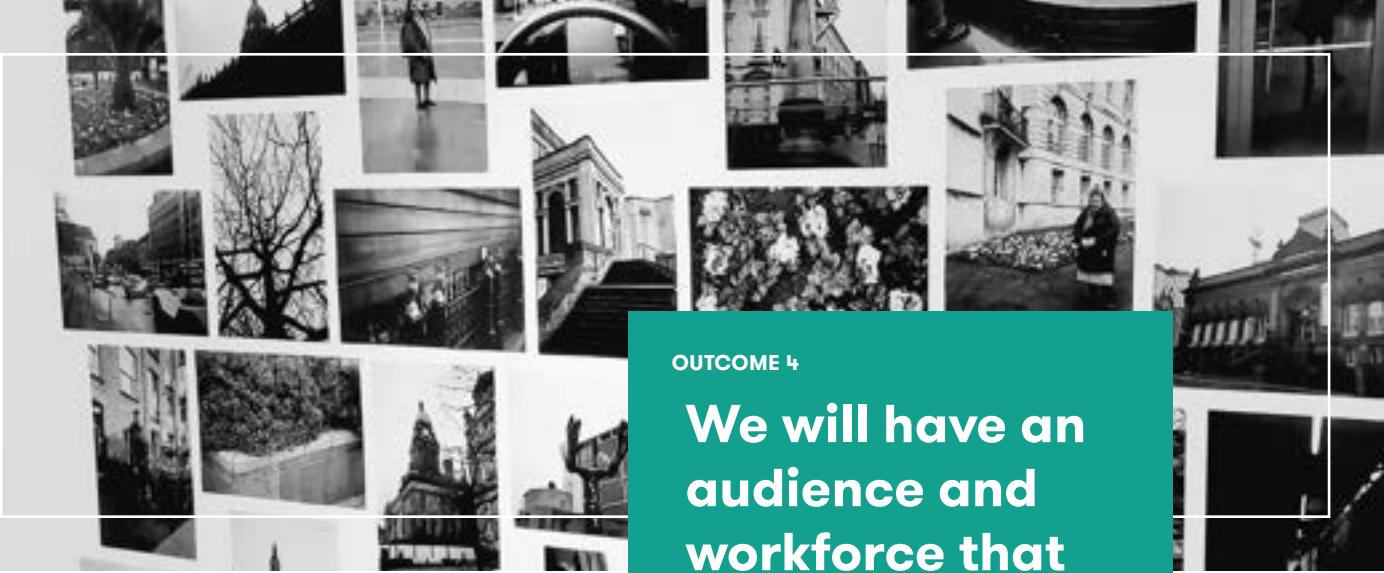
Leeds Art Gallery focused on the photography work of Peter Mitchell with three Artists in Residence in Artspace: Sarah Jane Mason, Kalisha Piper Cheddie, and Nicki-Joe Baxter.

We have developed and trialled a family evaluation framework over the last year, aiming to give us high quality data and case study evidence for the impact our activities have with families. When we ask families what brought them to our spaces, two words repeatedly come up: accessible (financial and inclusive) and comfortable.

We also target our family work for those who may need it most. In August, we worked with the Virtual School (care experienced young people) at Leeds Discovery Centre (LS10, Hunslet and Riverside), and in September we began work with the Leeds Children's Hospital working with families with very ill children.

Right: Kalisha Piper-Cheddie with her nominated piece 'Somewhere Between Hope and Mourning'. Image courtesy of Leeds University Library Galleries.





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

This quarter saw another successful annual all-staff day together with a range of training taking place. Community involvement in different projects continues and our Young Smeatonians volunteers won an award.

7 -42%
Co-curated displays

154 -8%
Community creative sessions

73 +82%
Generous hostings



Volunteers

117
2024/5

103
2023/4

+14%
Volunteers



Hours

2646
2024/25

2287
2023/24

+16%
Hours contributed by volunteers

24 co-produced events with our community partners



Headlines

LMG's annual all staff day took place in July at the Carriageworks Theatre. The day included hearing from the Lord Mayor, Cllr Abigail Marshall Katung, updates on site development plans and creative break-out sessions.

The Workforce Development Plan training is rolling out. All venue staff have received training in unconscious bias, Dementia Friends and safeguarding. Trauma Informed Practice training is planned.

The Community Engagement Team had sighted guide training from Guide Dogs Association.

The Youth Engagement Curator has been able to communicate with members of the deaf community about upcoming events, or renewed loan requests, by filming himself doing BSL and sending the videos.

Rainbow Hearts (a group for women seeking asylum) co-curated a photographic exhibition installed in Artspace, pictured left. The project was culmination of a series of workshops with Emma Bentley Fox in response to the exhibition, *Found Cities, Lost Objects*.

Community partners have engaged with consultation about updates to the Leeds Story Gallery at Leeds City Museum. Several new names were suggested for the 'who's who' wall to be installed later this year.

Arts to Share (a community group for people who are blind or visually impaired) worked with artist Rian Treanor on an upcoming piece for Light Night at Leeds Art Gallery.

Two members of the Youth Collective have developed their practice to run workshops independently at the Leeds Industrial Museum Print Fest, developing their creative and leadership skills.

Leeds Industrial Museum's group of volunteers, the Young Smeatonians, won the Yorkshire category of the award for Marsh Volunteers for Museum Learning. They were presented with their certificate at the award ceremony at the British Museum.

A recent Project Placement holder and Visitor Assistant at Leeds Art Gallery has been appointed Trainee Registrar on the scheme which LMG runs in partnership with the Royal Armouries and the University of Leeds.

In Focus

The Preservative Party (Leeds City Museum's group of volunteers aged 14-24) launched their first podcast series.

'Whose Power?' is a podcast that explores the power of participation and seeks to amplify the voices of young people to create new knowledge and understanding.

The podcast is a collaboration between Professor Abigail Harrison Moore from the University of Leeds and The Preservative Party who empower young people to break down traditional barriers and influence the way museum exhibitions and events are curated and presented. The project is supported by the Arts & Humanities Research Council.

Together they've been exploring how participation can help us better understand power, who has it, and how it's used in different settings. 'Whose Power?' has been downloaded 450 times and received five-star reviews on podcast platforms.



OUTCOME 5

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



At a glance

Picture Library membership has grown as we have boosted marketing since adding new artworks. Our loans programme continues to be busy and community input has improved records and created a new display.



ACE IP MET
All

205 +7%
Objects conserved

221 -66%
Objects condition checked

416 +22%
Enquiries answered

1088 -56%
TMS records updated

389 +33%
Records amended as a result of community input

345 -38%
New records created

35 +/-0%
Researchers accessing collections

Visitors to objects on loan out

96,886*

Q2 24/25

136,665

Q2 23/24

-26%

Long Loans (12 months+)

182 out +4%

991 in from 72 lenders +0.1%

Short Loans (up to 12 months)

126 out to 21 venues, 4 international +83%

850 in from 134 lenders -42%

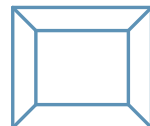
The Picture Library

Members Loans

414 **522**
2024/25 2024/25

349 **376**
2023/24 2023/24

+19% **+39%**
Members Artworks on loan



Headlines

Our amazing mollusc collection has been helping researchers at Oxford University. They are carbon-dating them for archaeological baselines around the UK.

Thanks to the Collections Research Fund we now know much more about a significant locomotive model in our collection. The University of Leeds performed non-destructive CT X-Ray scanning on the 1811 Murray/Blenkinsop model, while early locomotive expert Dr Michael Bailey has produced a report on the model's significance. These strands will now help shape the re-interpretation of this key early industrial object.

One of our volunteers from the Preservative Party has curated a display of collection and loaned postcards of Trinidad at Leeds City Museum.

Our Curator of Natural Science gave a special introduction, with specimens from the collection to a screening of the film Kes at Hyde Park Picture House for Yorkshire Day.

Fiona Rae's painting, Present Party for You, went to Gomersal Primary School for a day as part of the national Superpower of Looking project.

A fruitful collaboration with Leeds Irish Health & Homes and award-winning poet Ian Duhig has sparked two successful workshops at Leeds Industrial Museum. Inspired by our collections and participants' experiences, the poems will appear in anthology due to be published in early 2025.

Over the last year, each venue has reviewed and renewed their Site Development Plan, embedding heritage at their heart. The plans provide a clear vision and actionable targets for each venue set within the Service's strategy, Deepening Connections, Widening Impact.

Work is progressing on the new maquettes and works on paper collections store at Leeds Art Gallery with NPO facilities improvement investment and repurposing storage units from Leeds Libraries.



Please note collections comparison figures are with Q2 23/24.
*Some data pending.



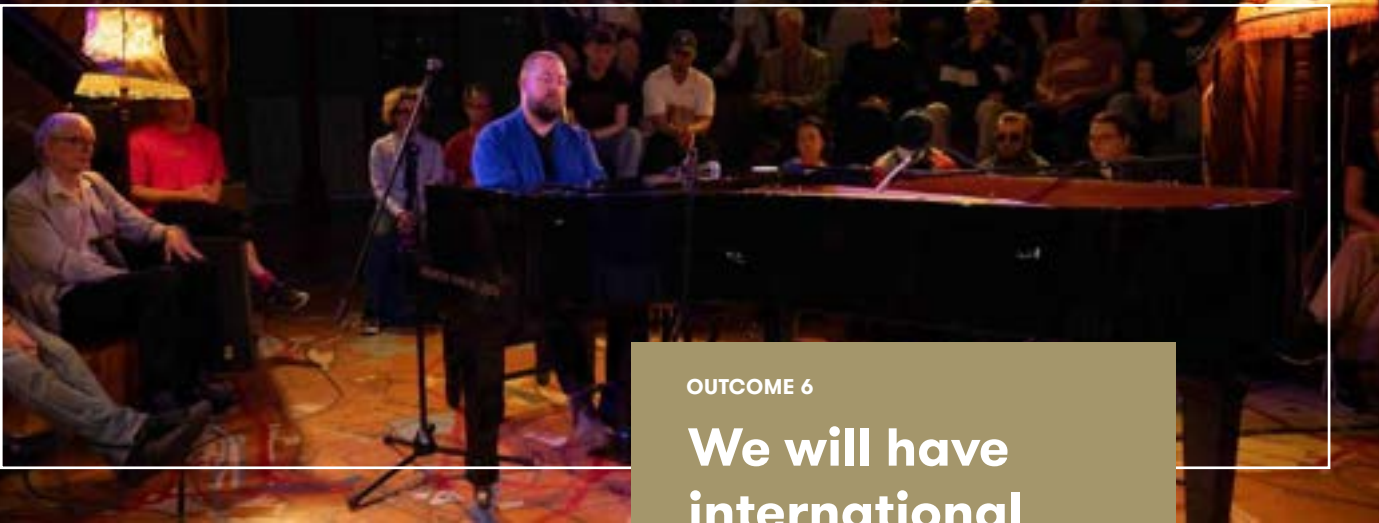
In Focus

During this quarter, the Assistant Community Curator completed an archival project with a long-term volunteer who had been coming to Leeds Industrial Museum weekly for almost two years.

During these two years, the volunteer has been involved in a huge project, adding and editing almost 800 records to the collections database to completely

overhaul the records for our collection of 19th and 20th century hand cut wallpaper printing blocks. We are now sure that all 420 wallpaper blocks are accurately recorded and have relevant images and information.

During these two years, the volunteer has gained useful skills in object handling, cataloguing and processes which will help them as they go on to university.



OUTCOME 6

We will have international reputation and reach

At a glance

We continue to make international connections through loans from the collection and partner organisations. This month we have welcomed international colleagues to a number of our venues alongside hosting the Pianodrome.

Headlines

From May to July, the loan of Barges on the Thames by André Derain to Sotheby's, London was visited by 24,000 people. Over 100 articles tied to the exhibition were published over the course of its view. Articles appeared in as many as twelve countries and in four languages. News of the exhibition reached 16 million people.

In July a group of 50 international delegates visited Kirkstall Abbey for an extended tour with the Curator of Archaeology. The excursion was part of the International Medieval Congress held at the University of Leeds, which draws medievalists from over 60 countries.

In July we welcomed an Italian curatorial partner from the Museo Civico Lanuvino, Luca Atteni, for a two-day visit to Leeds. Luca has been working with LMG on our collections from Lanuvium, including an ongoing international loan and an upcoming collaborative publication.

ACE IP MET
All

Headlines

Additionally, collection objects have been on loan to museums in Basel, Switzerland and Caen and Rouen, France this quarter.

The Youth Engagement Curator at Leeds City Museum led tours for staff from Museum Odense, Denmark and Leeuwarden, Netherlands.

A small delegation of visitors from cultural organisations in Nairobi, Kenya came to Leeds hosted by Transform and spent time at Leeds Art Gallery considering the link between art and everyday life in the past and present.



In Focus

In September, Leeds City Museum partnered with Leeds International Piano Competition to host Pianodrome, a unique one-hundred-seat amphitheatre made entirely of upcycled pianos.

Leeds International Piano Competition, established in 1963, is one of the world's most prestigious music competitions, attracting exceptional young pianists from around the globe. Pianodrome served as the centrepiece of the competition's public engagement programme, hosting an array of public events, and serving as a community hub for the competition.

Rounds of the competition were broadcast live into the amphitheatre, making the international competition accessible to new audiences.

It also hosted free daily lunchtime concerts, workshops, special events, and open sessions, inviting visitors to explore this unique and creative space.

The programme was launched with an evening of performances by the winners and finalists of Channel 4's popular show, The Piano.

Another highlight was a performance by Duo Ardašev, comprising Czech pianists Renata Lichnovská and Igor Ardašev. The concert was presented as part of the Czech Dreams, an international initiative dedicated to promoting Czech music.

Quarterly Report

2024/5 Q2