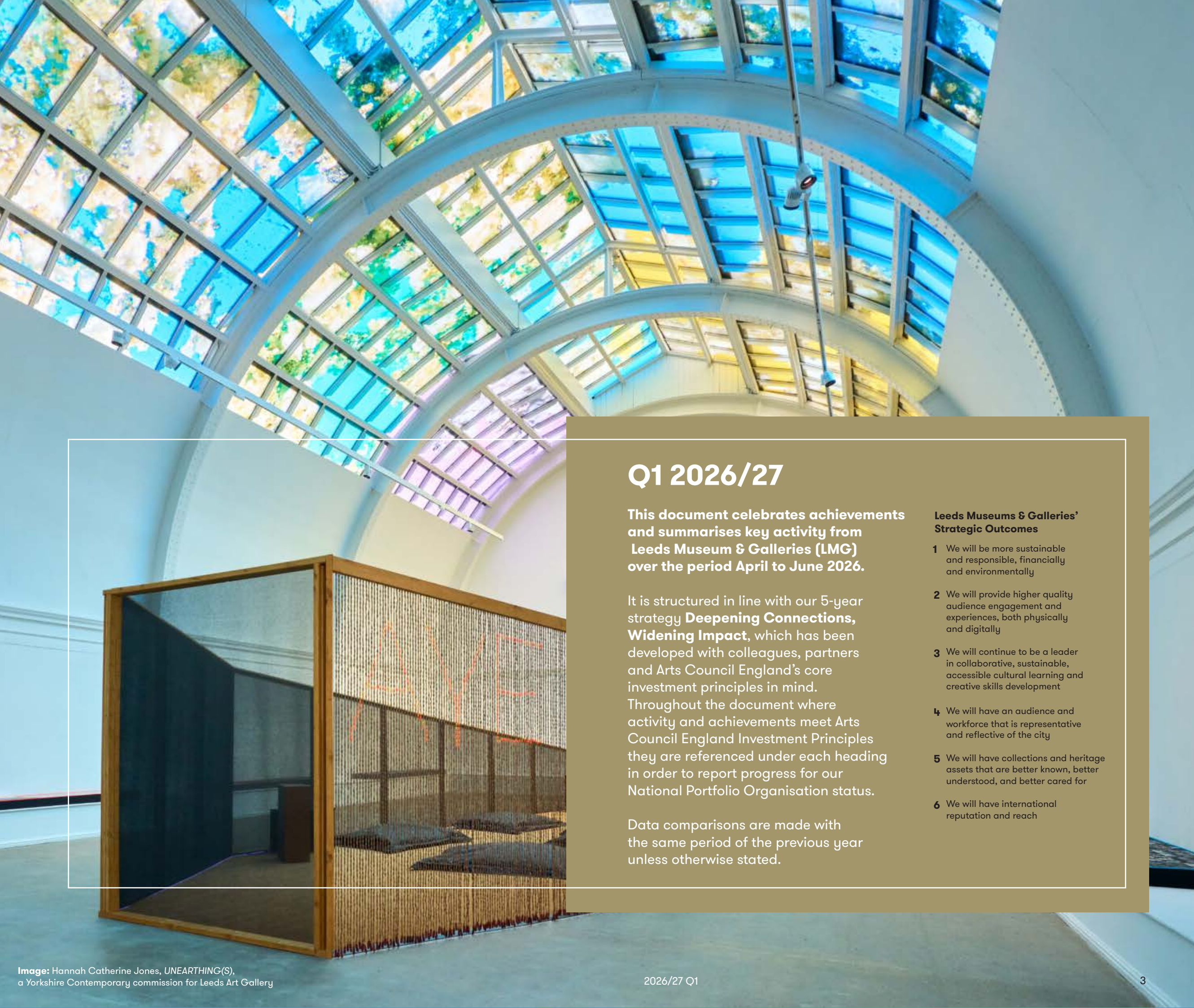


Quarterly Report

2026/27 Q1





Q1 2026/27

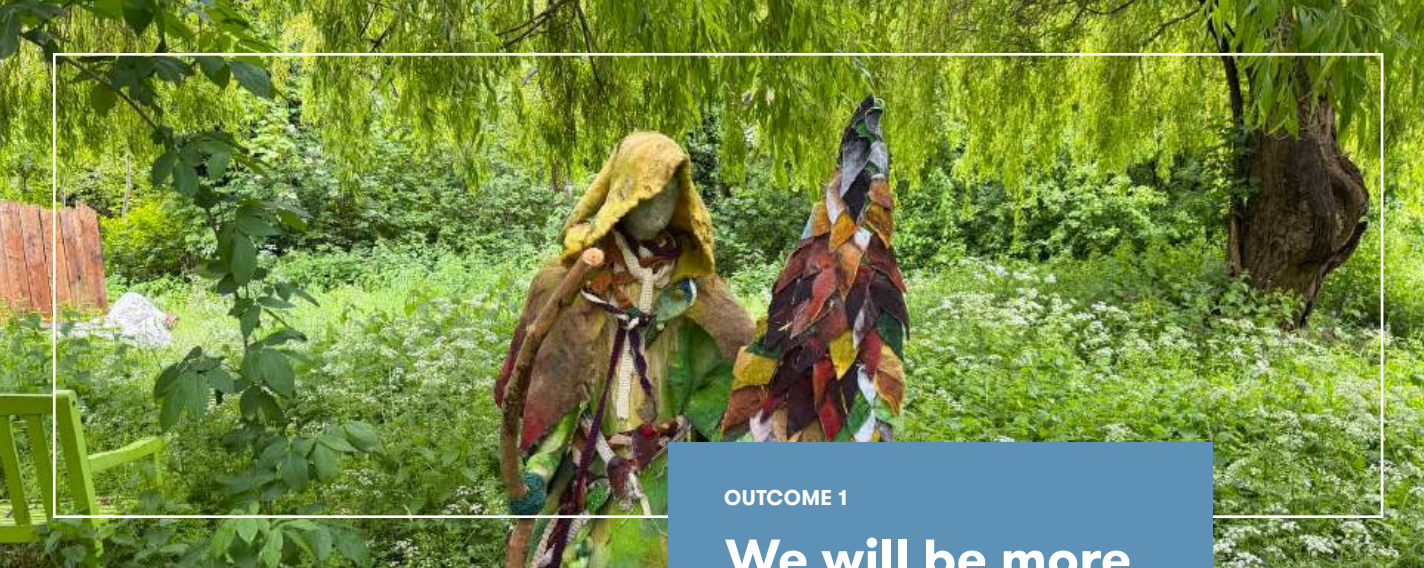
This document celebrates achievements and summarises key activity from Leeds Museum & Galleries (LMG) over the period April to June 2026.

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

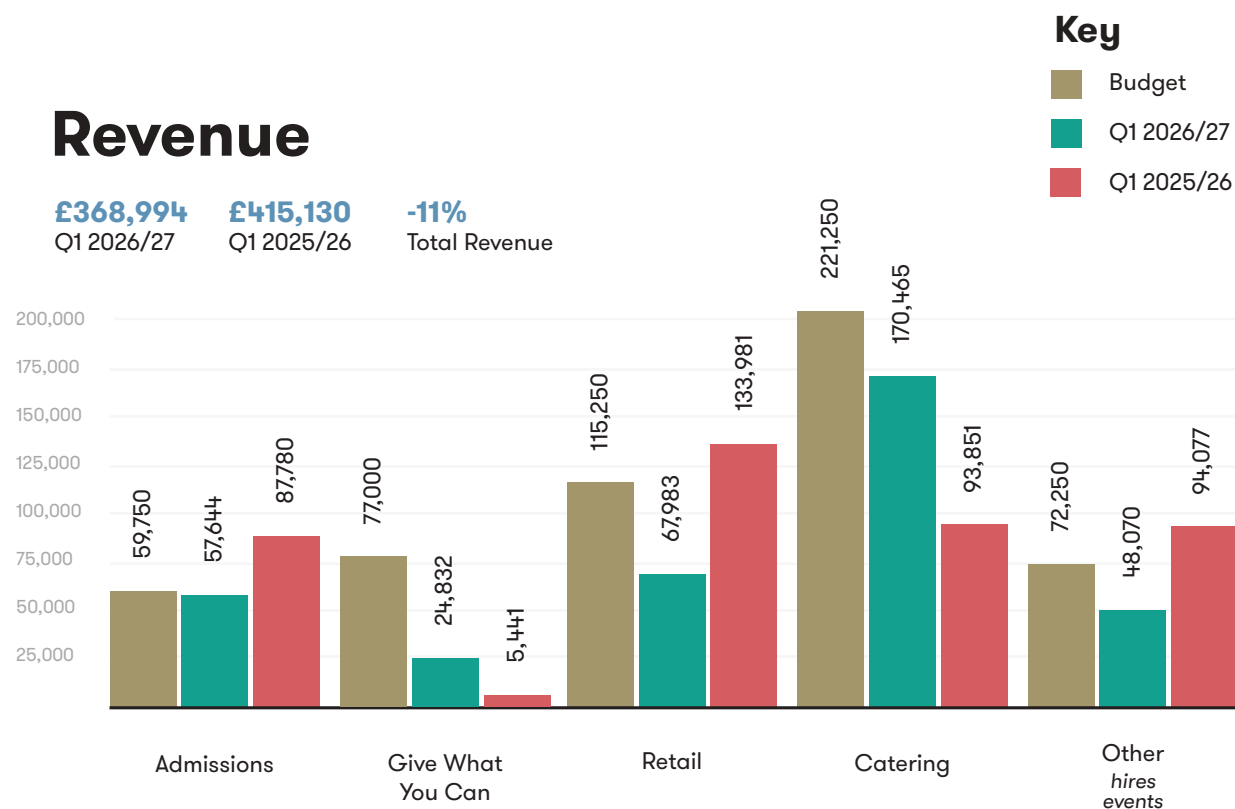
At a glance

Overall, admissions income is just below target despite lower visitor numbers during this period. Retail income has fallen in comparison with the popularity of the Miffy exhibition in the same quarter last year, but Leeds Art Gallery sales remain strong. Catering income continues to improve.

ACE IP MET
Dynamism
Environmental
Responsibility

Revenue

£368,994 Q1 2026/27
£415,130 Q1 2025/26
-11% Total Revenue



Headlines

Venue hire of the Victorian Street at Abbey House Museum has been popular with filming and photography requests providing income when the museum is closed to the public on a Monday.

Kirkstall Abbey hosted a Leeds City Council's Public Health team away day, delivering a tour and facilitating a gardening session linked to the history of the venue.

'Untangled' is a new exhibition at Leeds Industrial Museum created in partnership with the International Feltmakers Association. Through the work of 19 artists, it celebrates the connections between nature and industry, highlighting how nature can reassert itself following industrial decline. 36 artworks are placed throughout the top two floors of the museum and the newly reopened picnic grounds, encouraging visitors to experience the site's green space.

The Head of Operations and Enterprise attended a workshop to evaluate learning from the Climate Resilience in the Cultural Sector conference held earlier in the year at the British Library.

As part of LMG's commitment to measure and track its organisational carbon footprint, data for 2025/26 has been submitted using the Creative Climate Tools. For the first time, visitor travel has also been included.

In May, Leeds City Museum welcomed over 30 representatives from Leeds' schools as they exhibited students creative work for the Get Creative for Climate Justice campaign - empowering students to explore climate change as a human rights issue and express their visions through art, poetry, and music.



In Focus

Working with an external organisation, Leeds Museums and Galleries have created a portfolio of products designed to appeal to domestic groups, coach operators, special interest groups, tour operators, wholesalers and other travel agents.

The introduction of these products creates an opportunity to generate new commercial income streams whilst supporting the service's ability to increase visitor numbers, overnight stays and visitor spend. Products include general and specialist tours and experiences at each venue and offer opportunities to experience Leeds through its stories, places and people. Experiences include Mills, Machines and More, Woven into Leeds, A Story of Leeds in Eight Artworks, Tea Traditions and a studio pottery experience. Additional incentives have also been developed, which include retail discounts on the day of the visit, and options to add on refreshments. This project, supported by the Museum Renewal Fund, has also developed a pricing strategy and marketing copy, training for staff and the products will be available from 2027 onwards.





OUTCOME 2

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

ACE IP MET
All

At a glance

We've had a successful three months to start the year with excellent press coverage, a new exhibition and seasonal events. Visitor figures are down compared to last year (which included the Miffy exhibition), however we have had an extremely hot June with the heatwave potentially having an impact on visitation.

Press Highlights

Weekly editorial exposure in Yorkshire Evening Post's 'Heritage Heroes' series: [article 1](#), [article 2](#), [article 3](#)

[A long-standing Hip Hop partnership with King Mok received press coverage - Yorkshire Evening Post](#)

[Our Yorkshire Relish collections appeared on Bargain Hunt, Series 74: Wetherby 4](#)

[Summer of Sculpture at Leeds Art Gallery - Aesthetica Magazine](#)

[Bronze Age artefacts discovered in Leeds and Life on Earth cleaning with Leeds Tiger](#) - Both BBC News

[Locomotive shed restoration project at LIM - BBC News](#)



Visitors

230,814
2026/27

272,343
2025/26

-15%
Venue
visitors



Socials

215,833
2026/27

No comparison available after the removal of Twitter, Bluesky and Threads for this financial year reporting.



Website

277,930
2026/27

233,751
2025/26

+19%
Website
visitors



Views

1,892,318
2026/7

1,994,758
2025/6

-5%
Webpage
views

Headlines

In May, we launched the Summer of Sculpture at Leeds Art Gallery with Arp: The Plasters celebrating the recent acquisition of plaster sculptures by French-German sculptor, painter and poet Jean (Hans) Arp (1886-1966), Garth Evans: The Anti-Virus Sculptures and UNEARTHING(S) a Yorkshire Contemporary commission by Hannah Catherine Jones.

May half-term's Petals and Poisons trail at Kirkstall Abbey drew over 5000 visitors, up 255% on the previous year. The new visitor offer created press coverage and was supported by warm weather across the week.

An Easter bunny trail and crafts drew over 2500 visitors to Abbey House Museum.

38 wellbeing surveys were returned from our community workshops, with data indicating strongly positive outcomes.

The Digital Development Officer went to Culture Suite's Culture Lab at The Lowry for a day of learning, experimentation and failings around websites.

A number of visitor facilities improvement projects have been approved for delivery during 2026/27 including upgrades to exhibition lighting, toilet provision, an 'Access'ories hub, and family engagement opportunities.

We have signed-up to Indigo share to benefit from their benchmarking reports as well as upgraded our subscription to Audience Answers to allow us to work on better segmenting audiences.

The community display case at Abbey House Museum was taken over by Farsley Rehoboth Baptist Burial Ground. The display showcases the reclamation of the 200-year-old site.

Leeds Art Gallery have seen social posts surpass any previous engagement; people loved seeing the [Henry Moore Reclining Woman](#) (usually on display outside the gallery) at Kew Gardens 40.2k views, 910 likes.

Plant Dreaming and Grimshaw ended their run - collectively secured c. 40 pieces of coverage incl. review in The Fourdrinier, i paper, and BBC Radio Leeds. The shows saw a 31.6% increase on visitors compared to this time last year to the gallery.

Discovery Day in the Easter Holidays saw a new mass event format for Leeds Discovery Centre - we opened up the dedicated collections store to welcome 120 children and adults to explore our objects through a series of exciting talks and workshops.



In Focus

Colleagues attended the launch of the All In Accessibility Standards at Leeds Grand Theatre. Leeds Museums & Galleries is one of the pilot organisations in this Arts Council England scheme to improve accessibility at arts venues around the country.

Catherine, our Digital Development Officer spoke on a panel with other early adopters who shared their experiences of the scheme and changing their approaches to accessibility.

Discussions included what we've learnt during the pilot, what we hope All In achieves, how we've developed as an organisation and how the pilot has been a collaboration with All In and the pilot organisations, who represent all strands of the cultural sector.



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 continued our commitment to leading inclusive practice with the Access in Museums conference, engaged people with objects in non-standard settings (home educating families, work at HMP Leeds), had Art Adventures with schools, and won an award for creativity at Leeds Art Gallery.

MyLearning
73,842
Unique Users
Q1 2026/27

117,447
Page Views

878
Downloads

1274
Watched Videos



Pupils

12,019
Q1 2026/7

11,027
Q1 2025/6

+9%
Engaged through workshops, self led and outreach



Family

24,950
Q1 2026/27

32,300
Q1 2025/26

-22%
People engaged in family activities



SEND

32
2025/6

51
2024/5

-37%
Workshops differentiated for pupils with SEND needs

Headlines

Leeds Art Gallery won the Big Draw Creative Innovation Award, with a prize of £400. Families worked with artist Kate Genever to create plasticine flowers which will later be used for botanical study.

Leeds City Museum has been shortlisted for the Kids in Museums Family Friendly Award, and Careers for All is a finalist in the National Training Awards.

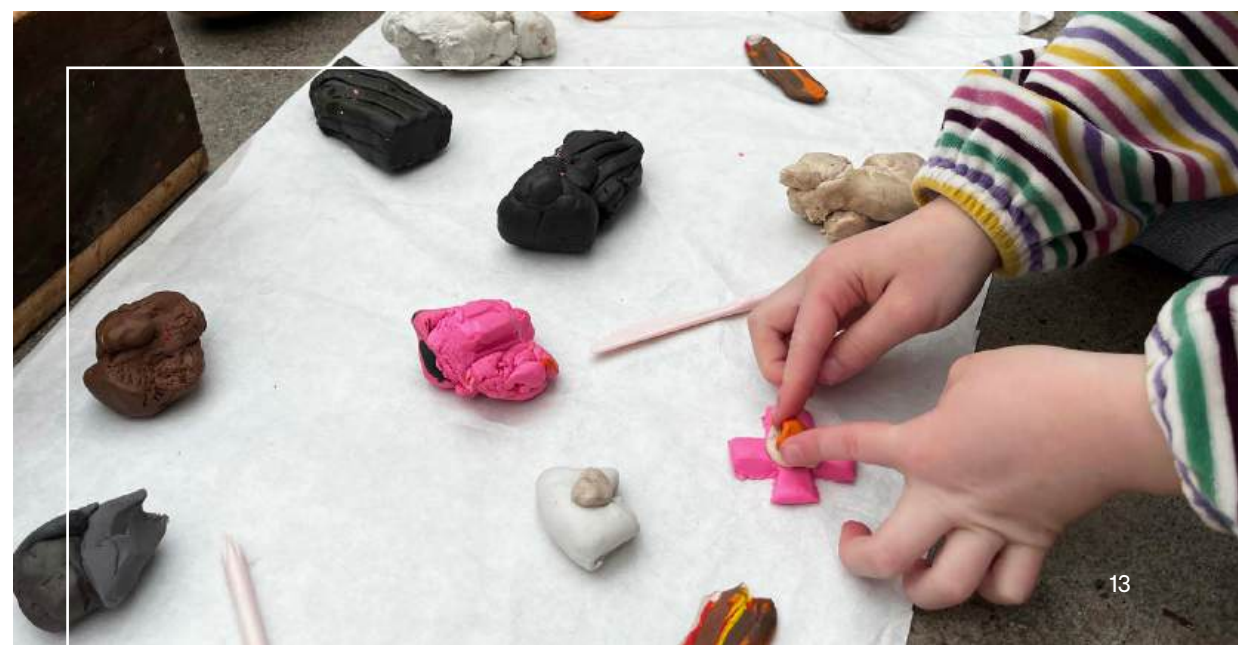
Neurodiverse Careers for All students are gaining gardening skills at Leeds Industrial Museum in partnership with Hyde Park Source, using Inclusive Pathways funding from the Group for Education in Museums (GEM).

Temple Newsam House have completed year two of Art Adventures with three local primary schools. The project embeds art creation and local history into the curriculum (GEM, £1500).

MyLearning.org (LMG's learning platform) had a stand at the Museums and Heritage Show, generating new business from the cultural sector.

We supported the Artsmark service redesign, future planning for Kids in Museums and Leeds 33 (the cultural education partnership), the Head of Learning and Access became an assessor for the Fellowship of the Museums Association (FMA), and presented about the Curriculum and Assessment Review at the Museums and Heritage Show.

Leeds Art Gallery volunteers had a full day's workshop and training from artist Kirstie Williams around natural dyeing techniques. They explored more sustainable practices and their fabrics will share with visitors the wider thriving natural dyeing community in Leeds and opportunities to get involved.



In Focus

We delivered the second national Access in Museums conference at Leeds City Museum in April.

The sold-out event welcomed Jessica Starns and Julia Collar as keynote speakers alongside workshops and spotlight talks on access topics, from making museums more appealing for visitors with visual impairments to equitable experiences for neurodivergent staff.

The event included live transcription, BSL, audio descriptions for all presentations, a pre-visit visual story and a quiet space. We hope our inclusive approach will inspire other creative based events to adopt this practice as standard.

“I took away a lot of practical tips & have shared with access working group within my organisation and hope to implement some of the learnings.”

“I loved the networking and discussions with like-minded people. Sharing ideas and experiences always makes conferences much more meaningful for me.”

The conference is part of our commitment to be sector leaders and support and train colleagues through inclusive practice.

LinkedIn: #AccessInMuseums2026



In Focus

The number of home educating families has risen nationally since the pandemic.

We run monthly home education sessions across LMG venues to support parents and carers with diverse content, cultural engagement, and child socialisation. One event this quarter, was a Musical Museum Day at Leeds City Museum for 35 home educated young people, plus their parents and carers (60 people total). Families explored the Music Leads Us exhibition, took part in a hip hop dance basics and a djembe drumming workshop. Most of the young people attending had social, emotional or mental health (SEMH), anxiety or special educational needs (SEND).

“Everyone was included and made to feel seen. This will help my son do further group activities”

– Parent

“The workshops were brilliant. Both teachers were great with my son who has ADHD and has trouble sitting”

– Carer

“I have been inspired to try more drumming”

– Child

In Focus

We have begun an in-depth working relationship with Novus, who provide education services into the UK prison service.

This quarter, we delivered four days of workshops at HMP Leeds with 30 learners designed to inspire them to take further paths of study during their time in prison, leading to raised aspirations, greater life chances and a higher likelihood of rehabilitation. When asked what their favourite thing about the sessions was, the learners said:

‘Everyone had a chance to express their views’

‘Feeling part of [the sessions] and being asked questions and listened to’

‘Jed and Louise took time to tell us things’

These comments show that a large part of our role in this setting is to take time and to listen, and that feeling heard and seen is a valuable part of both inspiration and rehabilitation.



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

A wide range of community events and a new who's who wall celebrating volunteering in Leeds have been delivered this quarter. We've been supporting the sector and have worked with 135 partners.

7 -22%
Co-curated displays

181 +21%
Community creative sessions

71 -38%
Generous hostings

135
Partners worked with



Volunteers

85
2026/7

134
2025/6

-37%
Volunteers



Hours

1392
2026/27

2300
2025/26

-39%
Hours contributed by volunteers

14 co-produced events with our community partners



Headlines

We supported the redevelopment of the Museums Association Workforce Strategy and chaired the GLAM Cares 2026 conference for workforce wellbeing.

Leeds City Museum partnered with Leeds Festival of Gothica for a World Goth Day Takeover, for which over 1700 people attended. An alternative market and information stalls were supported by live music in the café by local goth artists, talks and activities. 'The focus on access enabled me to come to the event and made me feel safe to come here, I have had such a great time.'

New 'Who's Who' wall at Leeds City Museum celebrates volunteering in Leeds, in partnership with Voluntary Action Leeds.

Music Leeds Us co-curators supported the Community Engagement Manager to deliver a training day on co-curation commissioned by The National Archives.

Community-led events in Music Leeds Us included a takeover by music producer Junior Simba, a performance of a Leeds400 programme by West Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra, and a celebration of Leeds' LGBT+ nightclub scene by the Speedqueen pioneer Suzy Mason.



In Focus

This quarter the All Age Activists worked with local zine artist Sarayah Hall to create a Zine focused on ageism.

The AAA are an intergenerational group comprising of Leeds City Museum's young curator group, the 'Preservative Party', and the Leeds Older People's Forums' over 60s group the 'Age Friendly Steering Group'. They were recently invited to create a zine focused on their activism for the upcoming exhibition It Takes a Community, opening at Leeds City Museum in October 2026. The zine is a wonderful collaborative project, allowing individual members to highlight the issues that matter to them most, whilst also providing a platform for them to be creative, honest and share ideas. The zine includes photography, poetry and testimony and it was launched at the Ageing Well Leeds event at the museum, which was attended by several hundred visitors.



OUTCOME 5

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



56 -64%
Objects conserved

355 +19%
Objects condition checked

338 -33%
Enquiries answered

5494 -25%
TMS records updated

129 -50%
Records amended as a result of community input

1466 +22%
New records created

154 +67%
Researchers accessing collections

ACE IP MET
All

At a glance

The loans programme is busy, the Picture Library has grown and major heritage projects - a new Heritage Framework for Leeds, and Reimagining Railways at Leeds Industrial Museum - both launched. Collections care and access continue to be delivered.

Visitors to objects on loan out

326,771

Q1 26/27

811,134
Q1 25/26

-60%

Long Loans (12 months+)

225 out +24%
994 in from 69 lenders -1%

Short Loans (up to 12 months)

256 out to 25 venues, 1 international -10%
2175 in from 175 lenders +92%

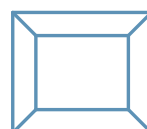
The Picture Library

Members Loans

496 579
2026/27 2026/27

442 567
2025/26 2025/26

+12% +2%
Members Artworks
on loan



Headlines

In May a new blueprint aimed at shaping the pivotal role heritage can play in the future of Leeds was launched.

Convened by LMG, [Independent Spirit: A Heritage Framework for Leeds](#) has seen partners from across the city's heritage sector come together to set out an exciting, shared vision for how heritage can help bring people together, strengthen communities and support the city in the years to come.

We announced plans for a new Railway Gallery at Leeds Industrial Museum having secured a grant of £233,125 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of the 'Reimagining Railways' project.

A new community corridor display at Leeds City Museum: Peats. Plants. People was opened. Co-curated by West Yorkshire Peat Partnership Trust and including moss samples from LMG's collection.

New acquisitions as part of the Music Leeds Us project include a violin played by iconic Leeds' artist Len Liggins, who was in the Ukrainians, amongst other acts.

Objects excavated from a Bronze Age burial mound during archaeological investigations on a modern-day housing project in Drighlington have been accessioned into the collection, giving an insight into life and death in Leeds 4000 years ago.

In May, the Project Curator and sporting heritage volunteers attended Leeds Sports Awards, taking objects from the collection and talking to guests about our work around sport in the city.

Two new collection displays opened at Leeds Art Gallery in April and June respectively. *Lines of Enquiry: Drawings from the collection*, brings together a range of drawings which illuminate the varied roles sketches and preparatory drawings play in the creative process. *Dinner Party: Matthew Smith, Jacob Epstein, Olivia Bax* brings together Smith's paintings and Epstein's bronzes into a new dialogue with the work of contemporary sculptor Olivia Bax.

The loan of Bridget Riley's *Winter Palace* to her major retrospective at Turner Contemporary was seen by 189,114 visitors and was conserved before going on display.

In Focus

Natural science staff are working on implementing a new pest management regime in the Life on Earth gallery at Leeds City Museum. Moths and Golden Spider Beetles have been a regular problem, but with new equipment and a new pest management programme, progress is being made.

Large amounts of accumulated dust, a favourite food of museum pests, has been removed with a new, more versatile vacuum cleaner. This - combined with sealing cases, monitoring pest traps and a more hands-on approach to integrated pest management - has seen a significant reduction in pest activity this quarter (normally a particularly busy one for moths) and concern for the taxidermy on display has been reduced.





OUTCOME 6

**We will have
international
reputation
and reach**

At a glance

International connections continued to develop this quarter as we welcomed visitors from the United States and Kenya to Leeds and connected with European partners, in person and online.

ACE IP MET
All

Headlines

In April, a high-level museum delegation from the Perez Art Museum Miami toured Leeds Art Gallery, including the Director of PAMM along with trustees and major donors.

The Head of Service led an online session with Eurocities members from across Europe about the Leeds Heritage Framework which launched in May.

In June, we welcomed a British Council Kenyan delegation to Leeds City Museum and Leeds Discovery Centre. The study visit was part of a wider programme also visiting National Museums Scotland and the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford, with each institution chosen deliberately to represent a different governance model. They were interested in our approaches to access, collections care, decolonisation and community engagement. Delegates included the Head of Research, National Museums of Kenya, the Programme Manager for Cultural Heritage and the Head of Arts Kenya, both from the British Council Kenya.

An American university delegation of 22 visited Kirkstall Abbey.

Five short term international loans were out this quarter from the art collection to venues in Italy, Austria and Germany.



In Focus

In 1896, Lord Savile gave Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society a precious gift of hundreds of artefacts excavated from ancient Lanuvium.

In doing so he forged a connection between Leeds and Lanuvio that continues to the present day. Since 2023, six equestrian marbles have been loaned to Lanuvio and the loan has recently been extended.

In early April, the Head of Service, travelled to Rome for the launch of a publication about the Savile excavation in the 1880s and 1890s. Parts of the

book, edited by the Lanuvio Civic Museum, were written by the Curator of Archaeology. The launch itself took place in the Camera dei Deputati in the Italian Parliament.

The partnership has reached beyond the museum with students and staff from Leeds City College going to Lanuvio to perform in a play relating to the history of the site. Lanuvio hope to reciprocate and bring students to Leeds to perform the play in the city.



Quarterly Report

2026/7 Q1

Cover image: Olivia Bax, *Flatland* (2026) in *Dinner Party*: Matthew Smith, Jacob Epstein, Olivia Bax at Leeds Art Gallery. Courtesy of the artist and Holtermann Fine Art.