

Annual Review

2024/25



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

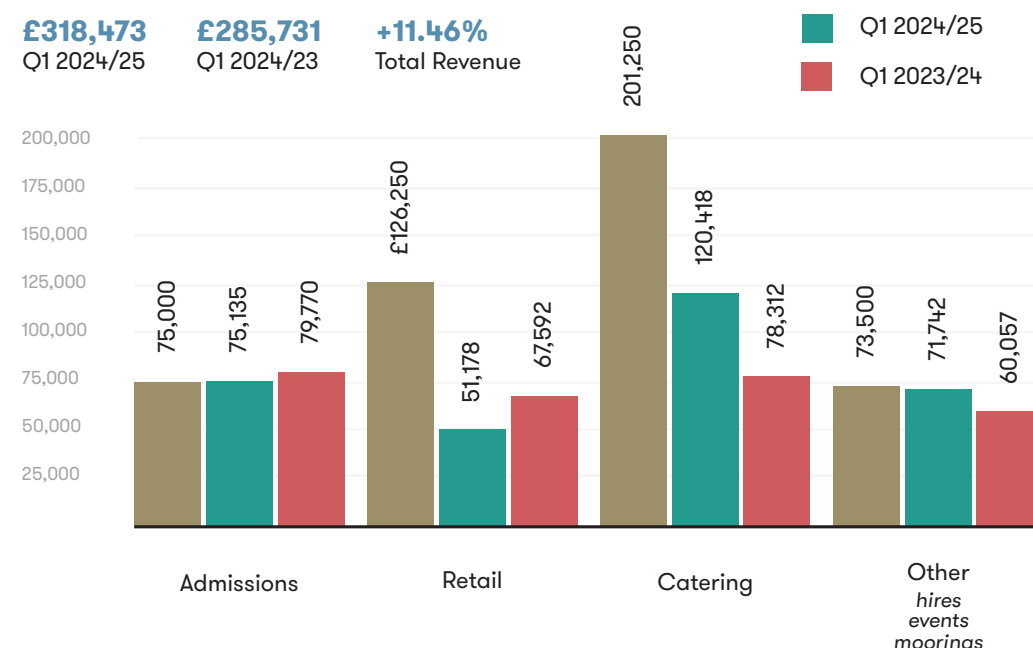
Dynamism

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



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



VURE'S LINEN WAREHOUSE

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.

ACE IP MET
All

Venue Visitors
231,230

Q1 2024/25

230,200
Q1 2023/24

+0.4%



Visitors

157,945*
2024/25

185,163
2023/24

-15%
New website
visitors



Views

563,055*
2024/25

592,104
2023/24

-5%
Webpage
views



Podcast

26,311
2024/25

23,540
2023/24

+12%
Downloads



Socials

340,948
2024/5

330,158
2023/4

+3%
Followers

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

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.

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.





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

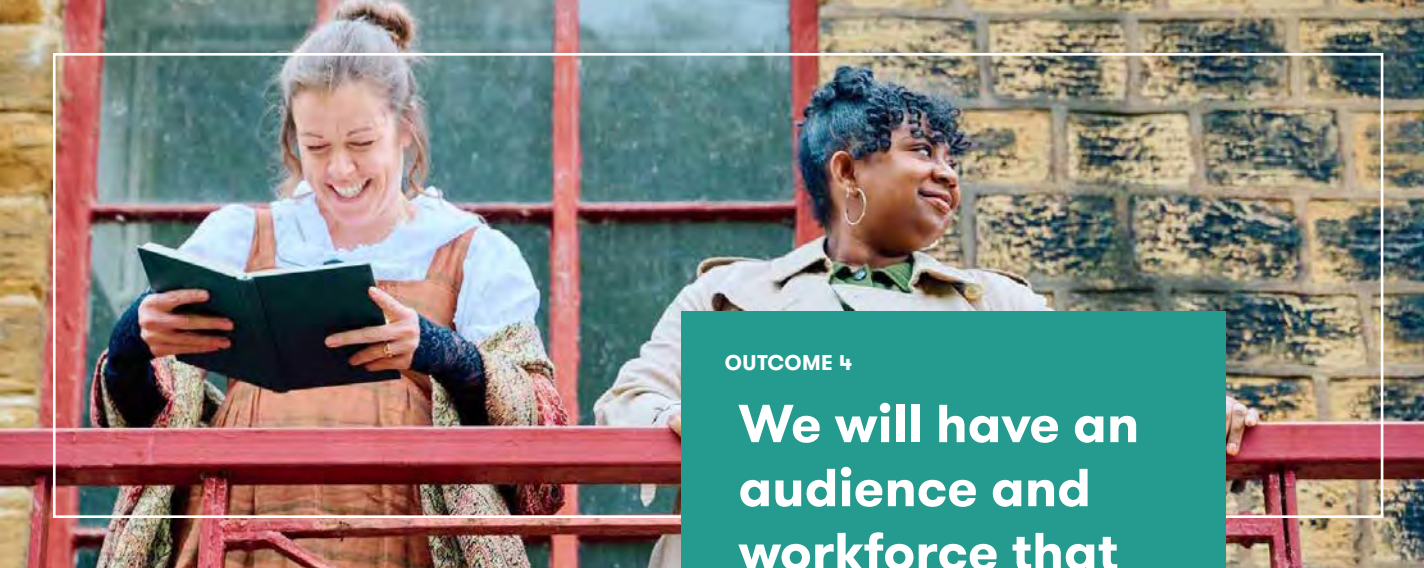
In the 2023-24 academic year the Primary School Membership scheme had 21 members, the highest number that we've ever had (20 in 22-23).

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

28 co-produced events with our community partners



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.

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%

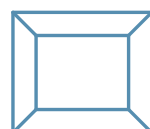
The Picture Library

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.

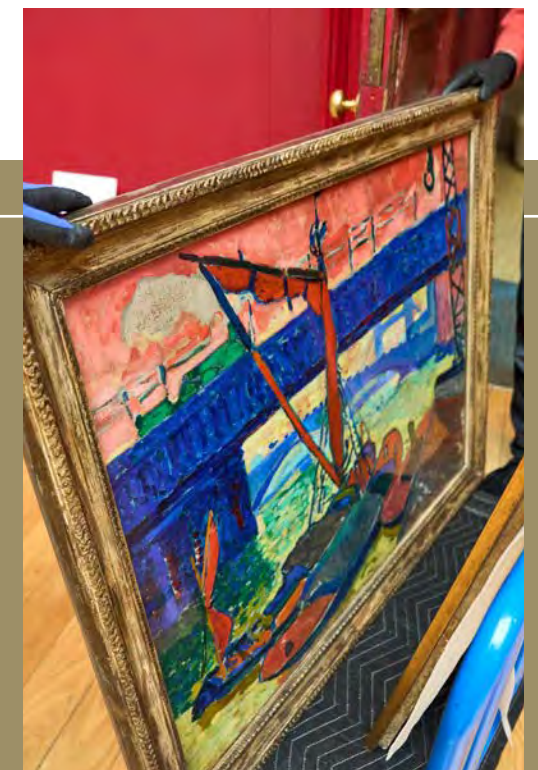
The Learning & Access team supported Remember Oluwale, the David Oluwale Memorial Association to complete teaching resources that began as a LEEDS2023 programme.

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.

Quarterly Report

2024/25 Q1

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.

Quarterly Report

2024/25 Q2



Q2 2024/25

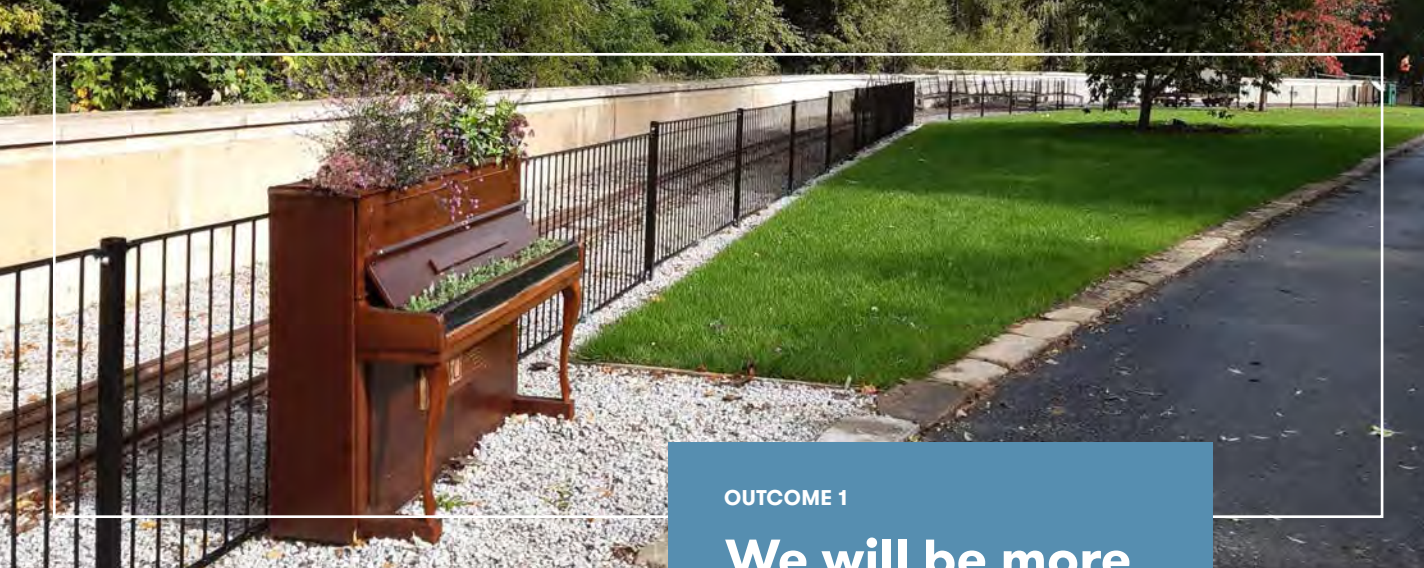
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OUTCOME 1

We will be more sustainable and responsible, financially and environmentally

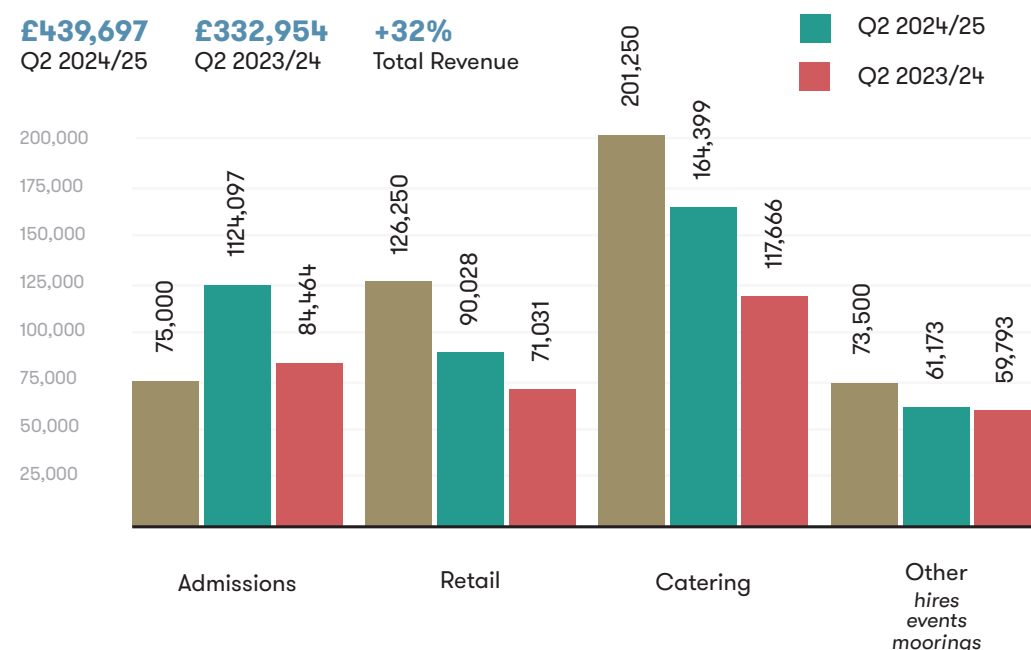
At a glance

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.

ACE IP MET
Dynamism
Environmental
Responsibility

Revenue



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.

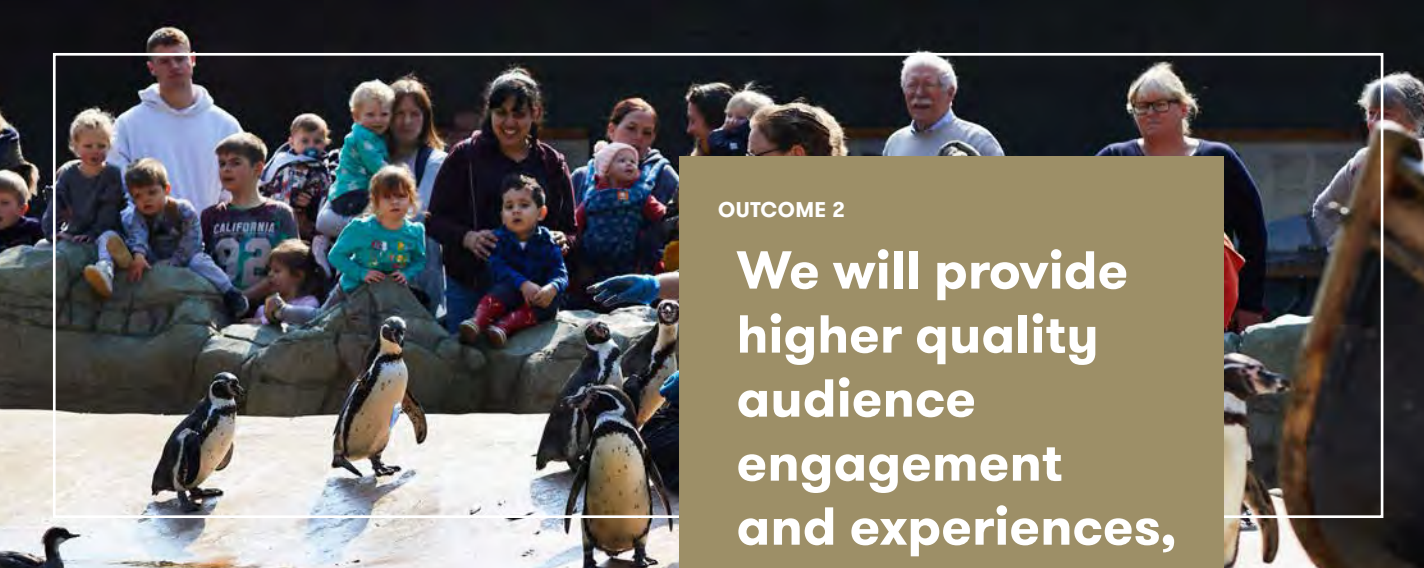
Most of the work took place alongside the River Aire and part of the new flood wall will be used to support the structure that will replace and raise the roof of the Railway Gallery (severely flooded in 2015 and yet to re-open), funded through the Museum Estate and Development Fund.

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

253,801
2024/25

250,806
2023/24

+1.1%
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

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.

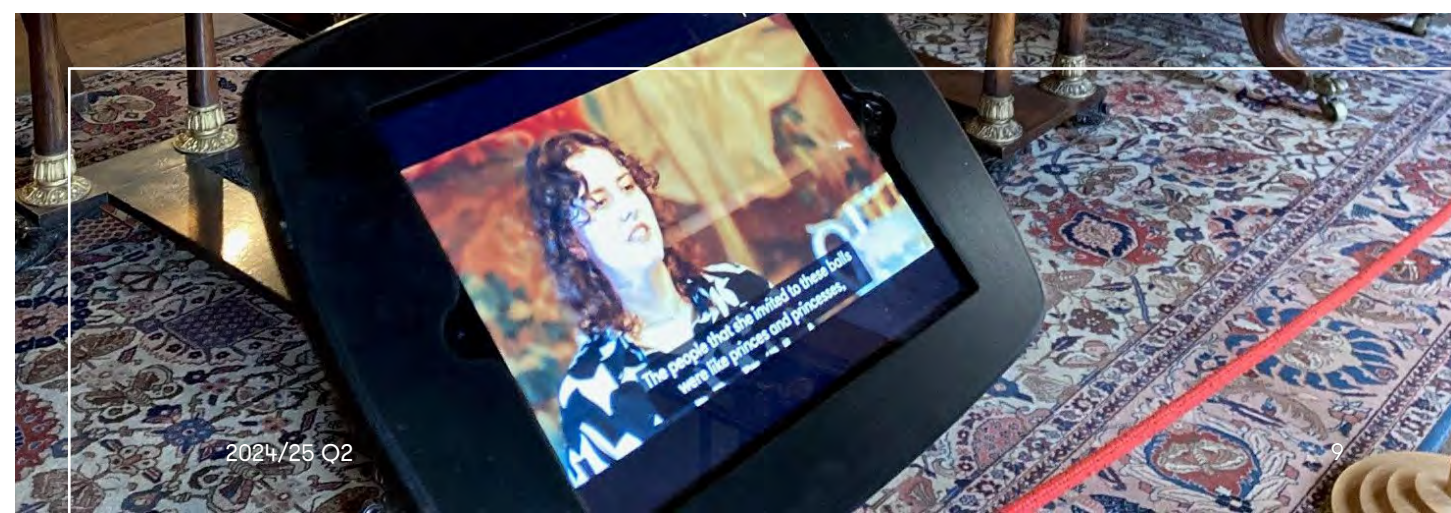
A new Changing Places provision has been opened at Abbey House Museum, as well as significantly improving the current toilet provision with additional visitor toilets added upstairs.

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

9

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 tour 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.



*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.



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.

OUTCOME 4

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

ACE IP MET
Ambition &
Quality
Inclusion &
Relevance

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

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.

**24 co-produced
events with our
community partners**



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



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

ACE IP MET
All

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.

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%

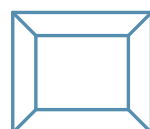
The Picture Library

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.

2024/25 Q2

21



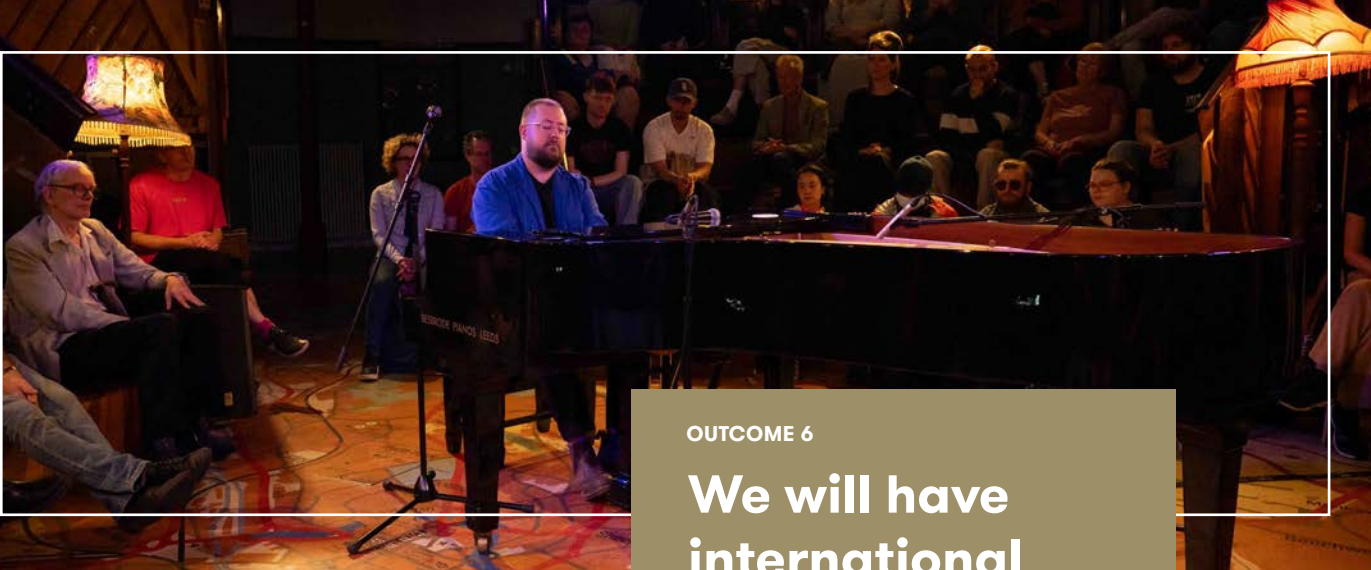
In Focus

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.

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.

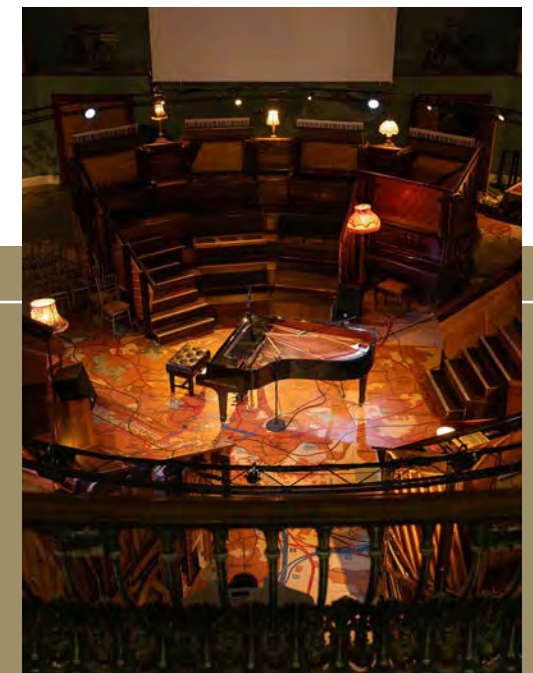
ACE IP MET
All

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

Quarterly Report

2024/25 Q3



Leeds Museums
& Galleries

Q3 2024/25

This document celebrates achievements and summarises key activity from Leeds Museum & Galleries (LMG) over the period October to December 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

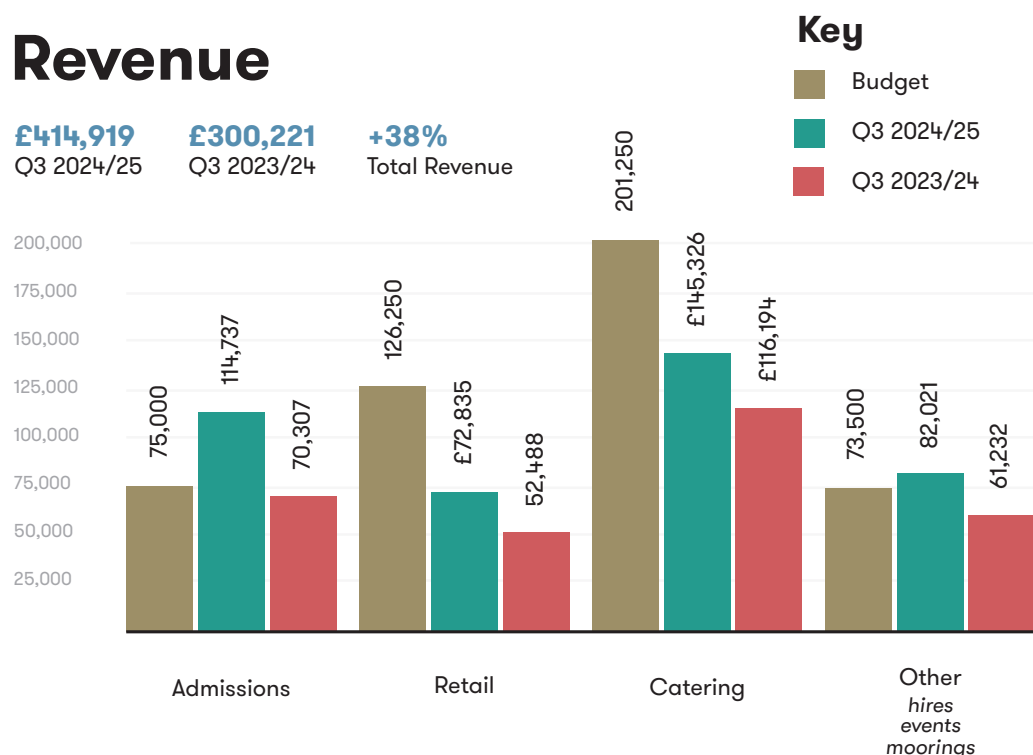
At a glance

Admissions income increased significantly particularly at Temple Newsam due to an increase in visitors of approximately 23%.

The performance of retail, catering, and room hire continued to improve during this quarter, with the offer closely aligned to each venue. Several presentations detailing Leeds Museums and Galleries sustainability journey have also been delivered to sector wide colleagues.

Revenue

£414,919 Q3 2024/25
£300,221 Q3 2023/24
+38% Total Revenue



ACE IP MET
Dynamism
Environmental
Responsibility

Headlines

Our website is now hosted by a green energy platform **Peppered CMS**, which means that our data is no longer stored on a system that produces carbon. Our website carbon rating has moved two grades higher from a F to a D.

Hyde Park Source, LMG's long term partners on our gardening for wellbeing projects at Kirkstall Abbey and Leeds Industrial Museum, have recently won 'Environmental Achievement of the Year' at the Compassionate City Awards.

The Community Engagement team and Leeds Industrial Museum staff recycled 30 hot water bottles from Thwaite Watermill and delivered them to St George's Crypt.

"We have gift wrapped all the hot water bottles; these will be given to residents at three of our properties which house clients who were staying in emergency accommodation inside The Crypt, but have now moved into supportive living apartments."

The highest number of Picture Library gift memberships (25) were sold in the lead up to Christmas. The scheme featured on Radio 4's Broadcasting House – a current affairs programme with Paddy O'Connell – interview with the Gallery's Principal Keeper and a Picture Library member. A photograph of preparation for the selection event also featured in national press.

Leeds Art Gallery's Peter Mitchell exhibition, **Nothing Lasts Forever**, is being adapted to tour to The Photographers' Gallery in London and will run from 17 March – 15 June 2025.

Leeds Museums and Galleries continues to work with Sustainable Arts in Leeds (SAIL) through their circularity working group and have supported the launch of a new initiative called the Circular Arts Network (CAN). The network is designed as a community-driven platform with the primary goal of facilitating the sharing of resources within the wider arts sector. The platform aims to support sustainable practices by enabling the reuse and redistribution of materials, knowledge and equipment.

Head of Operations & Enterprise gave a presentation at the Association for Leading Visitor Attractions Sustainability Forum sharing information about Leeds Museums and Galleries' sustainability journey.

We have a new web sustainability policy, which focusses on how we can use best practice in web management to be more environmentally sustainable.

In Focus

Christmas at a number of venues including Temple Newsam, Lotherton and Abbey House Museum provided an opportunity to engage with audiences, as well as generating income.

The aim of the Christmas programme is to deliver a careful balance of commercial success alongside market affordability, accessibility and is designed around the stories and history of each venue.

As well as being good drivers of income, both through direct ticket sales, retail and catering spend, the events provide a good opportunity for audience development as some families do not visit the venues throughout the rest of the year. Seasonal events can provide the nudge to people to visit a venue for the first time.

Broadly, the Christmas offer reaches all ages from Baby's First Christmas to festive tours with mulled wine. All venues ensure they offer relaxed experiences for families with additional needs. These experiences include fewer visitors, with more managed sensory experiences, alongside an increase in quiet spaces.

'What a wonderful experience. Normally these things are stressful for us and overwhelming for our girls. This is absolutely the loveliest experience with very kind and patient staff. Thank you so so much.'

– visitor to the Temple Newsam Christmas relaxed event





OUTCOME 2

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

At a glance

With the build and launch of our new website this month we've been putting the customer journey front and centre.

With a range of audience-focused projects and events it has been a busy period of providing great experiences. This quarter's visitor figures are 7% down compared to the same quarter last year. However, online activity saw an increase.

Press Highlights

Conservation of a mammoth tusk at Leeds Discovery Centre appears on [BBC national](#), Daily Telegraph, Daily Mirror, iPaper, Daily Express, Leeds Live Yorkshire Post and Yorkshire Evening Post.

A CT scan reveals the inner workings of the world's oldest model locomotive, from Leeds Industrial Museum's collection. Coverage on [BBC national](#), BBC Look North, Yorkshire Post and the Museums and Heritage Advisor.

Conservation of the bird collection at Leeds Discovery Centre. Coverage on [BBC national](#), Yorkshire Post BBC Radio Leeds and Yorkshire Evening Post.



Visitors

242,498
2024/25

255,895
2023/24

-5.5%
Venue
visitors



Socials

351,369
2024/5

331,111
2023/4

+6%
Social media
followers



Website

193,572
2024/25

190,000
2023/24

+1.6%
Website
visitors



Views

1,148,453
2024/25

585,000
2023/24

+96%
Webpage
views

ACE IP MET
All

Headlines

Moving to a new CMS, Peppered, our website has seen improvements across the board, scoring 100% for best practices (up 25%) and 96% for accessibility (+8%), performance has increased by 29% and we've maintained our 100% SEO ranking.

Leeds City Museum held a special 'Museum Late' linked to the Living with Death exhibition, which saw tickets sell out. Activities were themed on Day of the Dead and it attracted audiences in their 20s/30s in couples or groups, many who were first time visitors to the museum.

A combination of qualitative and quantitative research has been gathered this quarter, looking into non-visitors and undertaking in-depth interviews with visitors. This project is underway at Abbey House Museum and Leeds Industrial Museum.

Community Engagement team have run several events including Leeds Festival of Gothica with special tours of Living with Death by a celebrant, and Hip Hop Historian Society ran their annual celebration of Hip Hop History Month at Leeds City Museum.

Leeds City Museum hosted the annual Christmas celebration with the community choir and the Forget Me Not choir for people living with dementia and their carers.

Artist Florence Peake created a new performance work in Central Court at Leeds Art Gallery with students on the MA Interdisciplinary Dance Performance course at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance.

Assistant Community Curator at Temple Newsam has worked with the Leeds Stitch and Textile to create a 'non-walking' tour of Temple Newsam. The book of unique tapestries can be used to show people details of the house they may not be able to access otherwise.

We officially opened our new Changing Places toilet at Abbey House Museum courtesy of Levelling Up and Arts Council England funding.

Almost 6,000 people saw Cumulative Entanglement by Rian Treanor at Leeds Art Gallery in partnership with the Henry Moore Institute for Light Night Leeds 2024. The interactive artwork was created through workshops with blind or partially blind users of Rotherham Sight and Sound.



In Focus

In November Abbey House Museum hosted Light for Leeds, an annual celebration of faith in Leeds. It was planned by a group of representatives of many faith groups, and the day included performances, stalls, food and talks.

The event included representatives from Buddhist, Brahma Kumaris, Christian, Hindu, Humanist,

Jewish, Muslim, Pagan and Sikh communities, featured the World Peace Flame and was attended by the Lord Mayor.

The event was generously funded by the Leeds City Council Religion and Belief Hub. This year we piloted a 'Faith Trail' in Abbey House Museum's Victorian Street with partners encouraged to select an object linked to their faith which could then lead visitors around the street.





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 have been supporting young adults and early career professionals as they begin their working lives through careers fairs, Project Placements and volunteering. This term is always busy for school visits, and Halloween activities at October half term remained popular.

MyLearning
84,251
Unique Users
Q3 2024/25

259,664
Page Views

1040
Downloads

1649
Watched Videos



Pupils

10,693
Q3 2024/5

11,849
Q3 2023/4

-10%
Engaged through workshops, self led and outreach



Family

34,634
Q3 2024/25

24,903
Q3 2023/24

+39%
People engaged in family activities



SEND

40
2024/5

61
2023/4

-34%
Workshops differentiated for pupils with SEND needs

Headlines

Leeds Industrial Museum hosted students from University of Leeds’ Environment and Business programme, learning about flood defences and impacts on business and cultural sites.

We are taking part in Arts Council England’s national pilot access scheme, All-In. The scheme aims to reduce access barriers for our audiences and will contribute to developing a national scheme.

Leeds Art Gallery has worked consultatively with the Collaborative Learning Trust to deliver staff CPD, curriculum development around equity and inclusivity, and pupil engagement linked to Curtis Holder’s portraits, generating over £1000 income.

Leeds City Museum hosted 300 Yr7 students from Roundhay School as part of the final term of the Explore: Urban Nature, climate change and biodiversity programme in partnership with the Natural History Museum.

Completed successful R&D phase for emotional literacy and identity programme for 14-19 yr olds funded by the Mildred Fund working with PINC College and John Jamieson East SILC at Leeds Art Gallery.

We have restarted our monthly programme of working with children and families at the Medical Needs Teaching Service at Leeds Children’s Hospital. We take objects, talk about stories and help children continue to engage with education whilst they are receiving treatment.

Leeds Discovery Centre and Leeds City Museum delivered sessions on museum best practice for undergraduate and postgraduate students from the Universities of Leeds and York.

Within the Community Engagement team 18 participants had opportunities to develop their experience and attain paid work this quarter. These ranged from mentoring others in paid supervisor roles to delivering creative workshops and contributing to papers at conferences.

A young adult from the Youth Engagement programme secured a residency at Barnsley Museums: “Working with the Lotherton fashion curators and Leeds Art Gallery changed my life. I gained a first in my dissertation exploring decolonisation of collections at Leeds Museums and Galleries. I have the ability and strength to run my own workshops which has helped me secure a graduate residency at Barnsley Museums”.

*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

We delivered an inclusive SEND Careers Fair at Leeds City Museum with 12 creative industries and education providers from across Leeds as part of the national Discover Creative Careers Week in November.

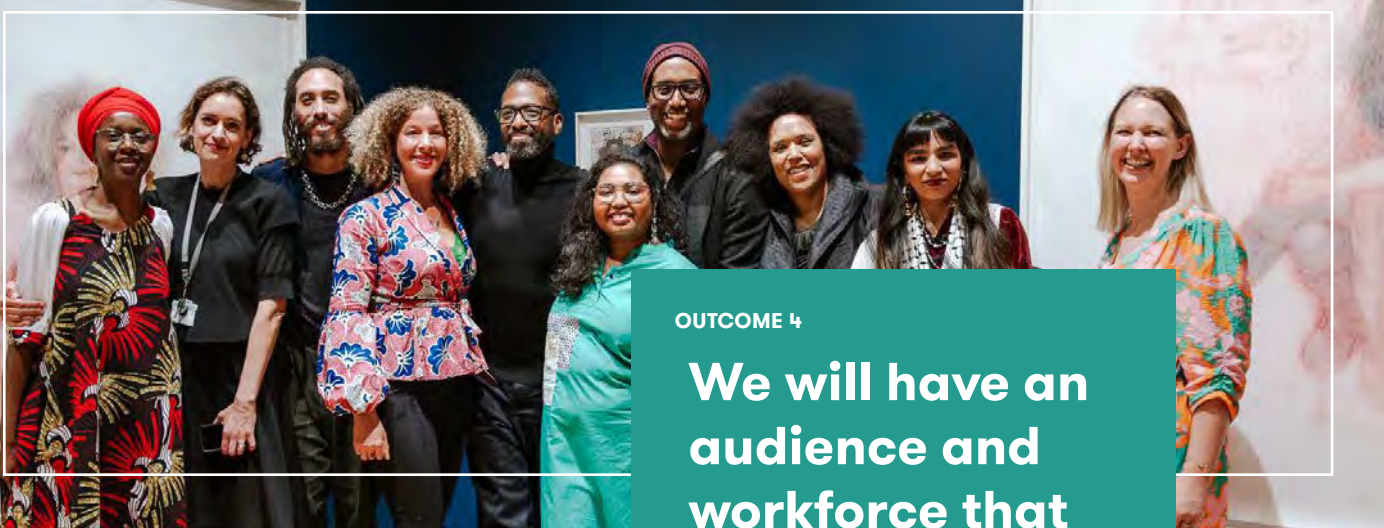
To ensure a relaxed event, we had 30-minute bookable time slots with a 30 student limit. One teacher said, **'It was really beneficial to the students to have a quiet slot so they could walk around the stalls without feeling overwhelmed.'**

154 students attended (170 booked). We also included a quiet space for students who became over stimulated and sent out pre-visit

packs to schools, including a visual story and 'Who I will meet there?' document making the event more predictable. The unique SEND friendly approach was filmed by the national Discover Creative Careers team and will be used as a template for other organisations to run similar events in the future, making LMG a national forerunner for inclusive careers fairs.

We had a stall at the city-wide Cultural Careers Festival and spoke to 250 young adults about careers in museums, alongside three members of staff being on panels talking about their career paths to 300 young people. Three of our four annual Project Placements for early career professionals started in Q3.





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

During Quarter 3, although there was a slight drop in volunteer hours, there was no shortage of engagement opportunities, from Christmas themed activities created by young people with SEND, work placements at Leeds Industrial Museum, and the re-presentation of the Community Corridor at Leeds City Museum with local sportspeople.

12 -20%
Co-curated displays

207 +59
Community creative sessions

92 +24%
Generous hostings



Volunteers

96*
2024/5

109
2023/4

-12%
Volunteers



Hours

2286*
2024/25

2709
2023/24

-15%
Hours contributed by volunteers

* Please note due to reporting lag these will always be lower than the same quarter a year before.

23 co-produced events with our community partners



Headlines

The Learning & Access Officer, Careers for All, facilitated a group of young people with additional support needs to develop Christmas themed activities for visitors to Leeds Industrial Museum, in conjunction with site team.

The Museum's Assistant Community Curator is undertaking a series of volunteer opportunities to share skills and experience around industrial history collections research through 6-week placements.

A new Community Corridor display at Leeds City Museum represents professional and grass roots sportspeople from across Leeds.

The Youth Engagement Curator has recruited and trained project mentees for the new University of Leeds-funded project to create series two of the Whose Power? podcast.

The Care Creatives attended Hyde Park Picture House for the premiere of their film Instant Impressions as part of National Care Leavers week. The film event was promoted on the National Care Leavers social media platforms.

Christmas joy reached Lotherton Hall where volunteers gathered to decorate the trees and house: "The staff and fellow volunteers were very friendly, told stories about local history and I felt connected to my neighbours and felt positive that LH helps keep community memory and activity alive.... by being here I feel more relaxed, sociable and mentally healthy and with friendly people. I felt the staff and volunteers have an excellent programme, well planned, safe and inclusive of all ages and barriers."

The exhibition Silent Echoes, Spoken Truths: Curtis Holder features members of our local community including artists, poets and a Visitor Assistant from Leeds Art Gallery as sitters and continues the important decolonising work of the gallery.

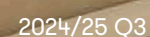
The Principal Keeper at Leeds Art Gallery has undertaken the Common Purpose leadership programme funded by Culture Consortium Leeds to support Global Majority leaders.

A breast-feeding awareness campaign run in partnership with the Shine Young Mums, Leeds Bosom Buddies, University of Lancashire, University of Brighton, was officially launched at Leeds Art Gallery.

A display in Artspace was the culmination of a photography project, co-curated by the women seeking asylum at Rainbow Hearts with the intention of inspiring others to explore Leeds.

Leeds City Museum transformed its 'Who's Who' wall for the first time in a decade.

In October 2024 a new hanging system was installed, funded by the NPO facilities improvement budget, so that visitors and community members can nominate people for the display which can change regularly, and the first wall was launched for Black History Month. It included people from the Global Majority who are important to Leeds. Fruitful relationships have been forged to acquire images for the wall, which have led to offers of items for loans, displays or the permanent collection from people such as Mel B and Graft.



OUTCOME 5

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



ACE IP MET
All

146 -28%
Objects conserved

568 +29%
Objects condition checked

419 +93%
Enquiries answered

2994 -50%
TMS records updated

196 +292%
Records amended as a result of community input

656 -3%
New records created

69 +8%
Researchers accessing collections

At a glance

Another busy quarter for sharing LMG’s collections with audiences in Leeds, including growth in the Picture Library, alongside vital work to support the integrity and understanding of our historic buildings.

Visitors to objects on loan out

159,330

Q3 24/25

676,849
Q3 23/24

-76%

Long Loans
(12 months+)

182 out +4%
991 in from 72 lenders +0.1%

Short Loans
(up to 12 months)

201 out to 29 venues, 3 international +191%
859 in from 147 lenders -30%

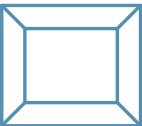
The Picture Library

Members Loans

402 **509**
2024/25 2024/25

356 **449**
2023/24 2023/24

+13% **+13%**
Members Artworks on loan



Headlines

Condition surveys at Leeds Industrial Museum began in November, allowing maintenance priorities to be actioned to improve the built environment at site.

41 objects on loan for conservation, 58 works for framing and a loan of 28 molluscs from natural science collection for research at Oxford University. The conservation freezer was rented out four times.

Updated collections management processes have been developed around born-digital object storage, for example oral histories, ensuring objects are securely stored, backed up and used.

Physical storage improvements have been made at Leeds Art Gallery with the adaptation of a space for storing maquettes and works on paper.

Continued involvement in White Rose Collaboration Fund project ‘Bespoke open, collaborative and creative approaches to heritage documentation’, led by the Universities of York, Leeds and Sheffield.

The Community Engagement team has enabled new acquisitions including Leeds through the Lens: About Town booklet, created in response to the Peter Mitchell exhibition by community groups, and a vinyl from the first ever UK Ska act, The Bedrocks, who were from Leeds.

New exhibition Karanjit Panesar: Furnace Fruit at Leeds Art Gallery includes new work by the artist together with loans from both the sculpture and industrial history collections. It is part of the Collections in Dialogue project with the British Library.

A new sculpture acquisition, Absent by Ronald Moody, has gone on display at Leeds Art Gallery. The acquisition was supported by Leeds Art Fund and the Henry Moore Foundation.



In Focus

An interdisciplinary conference, *Public Houses: What makes civic custodianship of historic house museums in Britain different and where next?* took place at Temple Newsam House on 9th and 10th October.

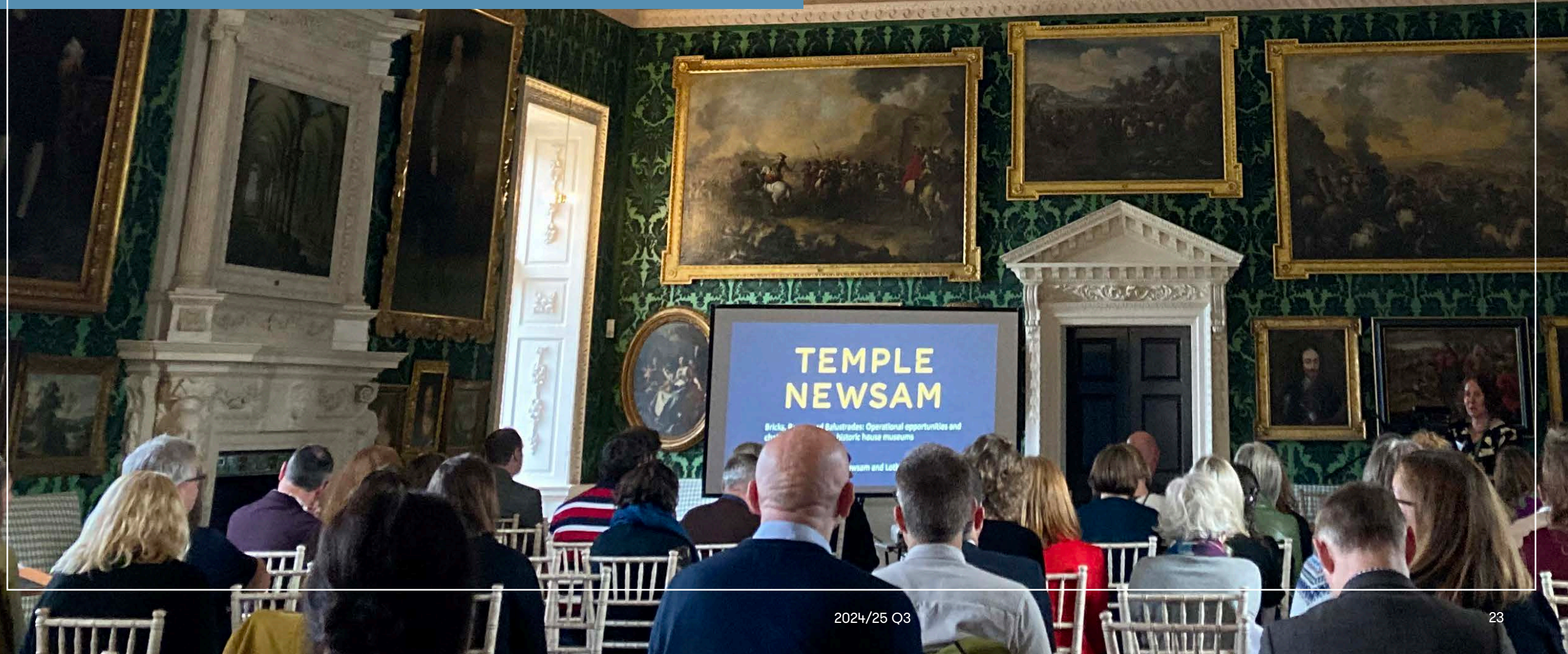
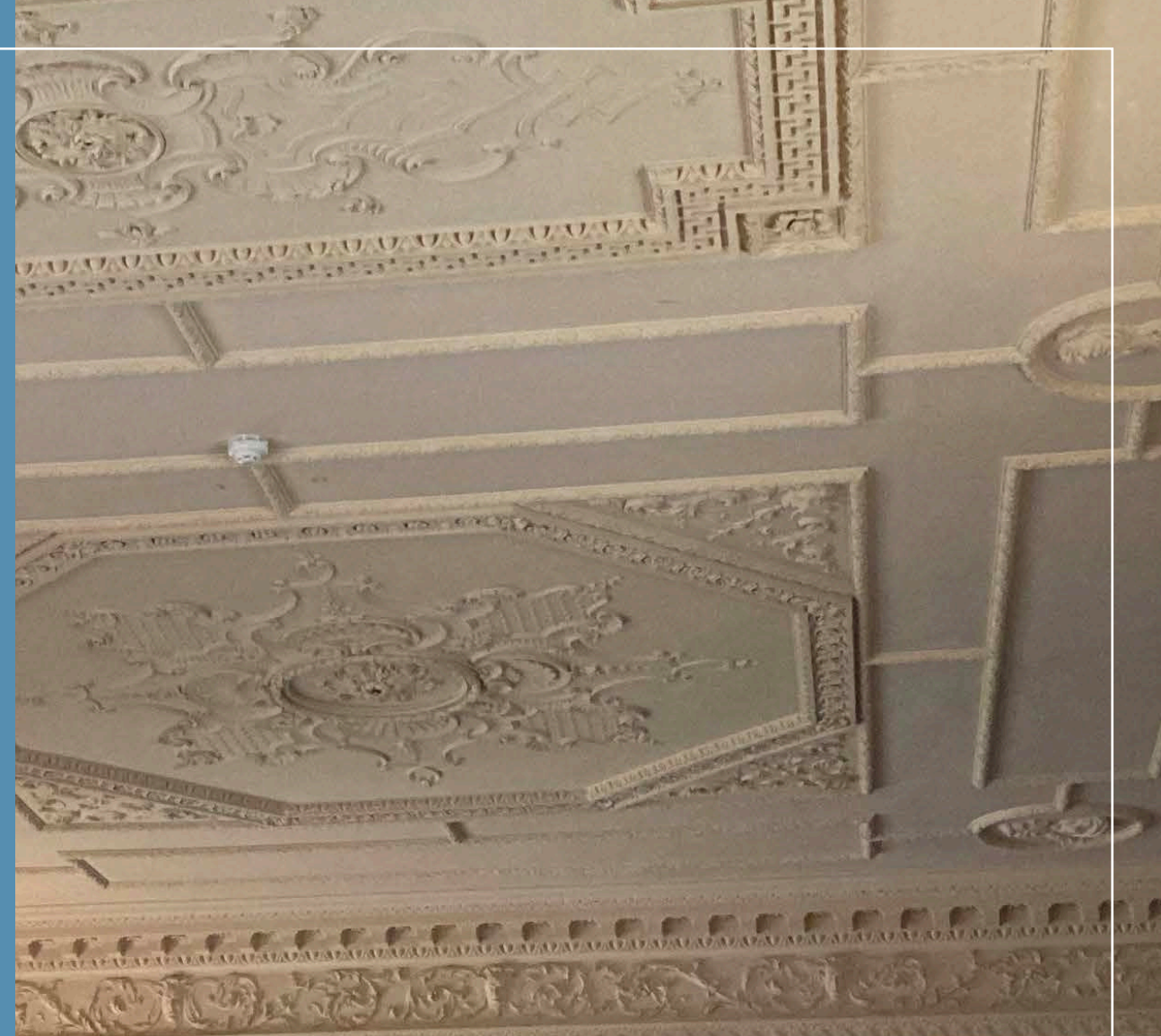
The conference, which attracted 80 delegates (museum practitioners, academics and funders), explored the distinctiveness (or otherwise) of historic house museums in the care of local authorities. The conference also looked at where challenges and opportunities might lead the sector, based on historic and contemporary custodianship.

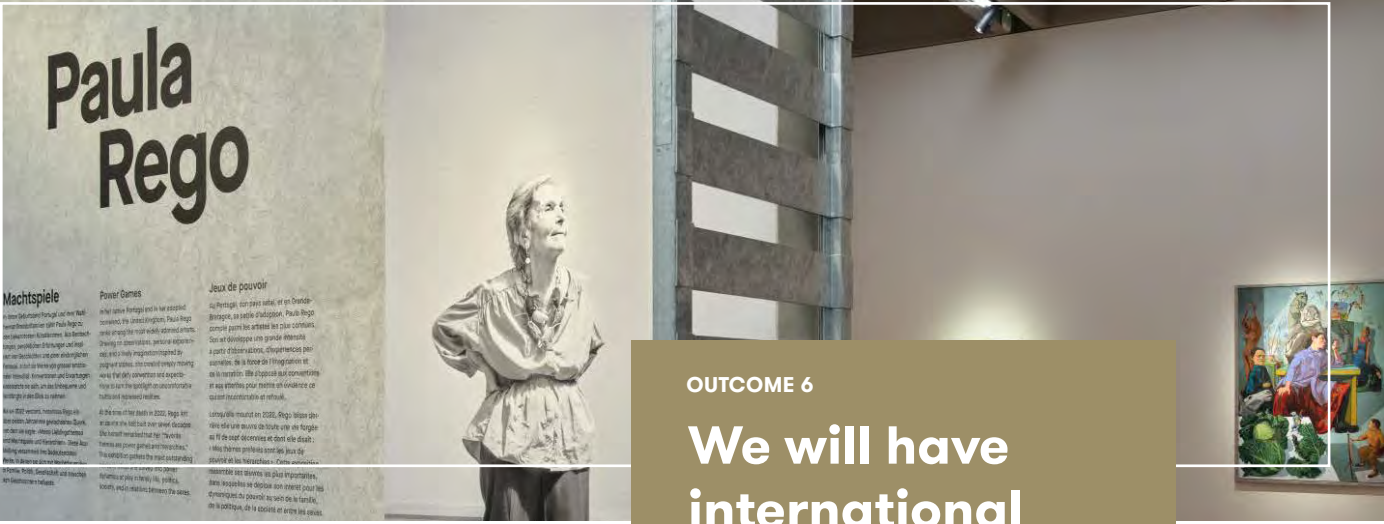
It was the first conference of its kind and comes at an important time for local authorities and the heritage sector

more widely. The conference found that as custodian of some of the most significant historic houses in the UK, in predominantly urban locations, and working closely with other council services, civic museums are uniquely well placed to make their offer more relevant to more people.

However, those same museums are also exposed to strong economic headwinds and those that have diversified least are, arguably, most vulnerable to closure.

A community of practice has been formed by attendees and another conference is being planned for 2026. A final report will be available in February 2025.





OUTCOME 6

We will have international reputation and reach

At a glance

Welcoming national and international visitors to Leeds and making global connections has continued to be a feature of this quarter’s work.

Headlines

Members of the Audience Development team attended the **Group Leisure and Travel Show** to promote our offer to group and coach bookers for 2025 onwards, reaching a wider, more international audience.

Links forged between Leeds and Ghent in Belgium continue to be fostered – advice shared from our long-running Hyde Park Source-partnered Colour Garden Project at Leeds Industrial Museum is now being put into action in Museum Dr Guislain with their communities meeting and growing from December 2024.

Members of the Digital Preservation Working Group presented at the **October 2024 Museum Next Digital Collections Summit**.

Art consultancy offered by Leeds Art Gallery to a global law firm based locally has resulted in them acquiring works by artists based in the city, creating income for artists in Leeds and for the gallery, alongside developing our relationship with a leading business in the city.

Headlines

LMG was represented at the inauguration of the first Dutch Honorary Consul, Professor Julia Bennell, Executive Dean of Leeds University Business School. The event was hosted by the Ambassador of the Netherlands to the United Kingdom.

In this quarter, international loans have been to venues in Lanuvio, Italy; Basel, Switzerland and Barcelona, Spain.

Several case studies shared with colleagues within EuroCities have now been published to demonstrate how culture in Leeds is delivering on the Eurocities / Lille Call to Action for low carbon and more inclusive culture.

The Community Engagement Manager has contributed to a paper published in The International Journal of The Arts in Society’s issue on Engagement Curating.

ACE IP MET
All



In Focus

In November the Museums Association annual conference was hosted at the Royal Armouries bringing delegates from museums across the UK and internationally to Leeds.

The opening event was hosted in the Tiled Hall Cafe at Leeds Art Gallery and the Hip Hop Historian Society welcomed delegates to Leeds City Museum with performances of deejaying, emceeing and breakdancing as part of the closing night conference.

During the conference sessions, a number of colleagues presented including the Community Engagement Manager and three community partners who spoke about the joy of people in museums. The Head of Operations & Enterprise presented about decarbonisation of museum buildings on a panel discussion focused on climate justice. Leeds Discovery Centre hosted a meeting of over 40 directors from across the sector. A number of LMG venues also hosted tours for delegates who stayed in Leeds for the final day, including Temple Newsam, Leeds Discovery Centre and Leeds City Museum.

Involvement on the conference planning group and social committee meant LMG was thoroughly embedded in the organisation of the event and it gave us an excellent opportunity to showcase our work to the sector.

Quarterly Report

2024/5 Q3

Cover image:
Curtis Holder, *Carmen*
Webbe, 2024 ©
Curtis Holder

Quarterly Report

2024/25 Q4



Q4 2024/25

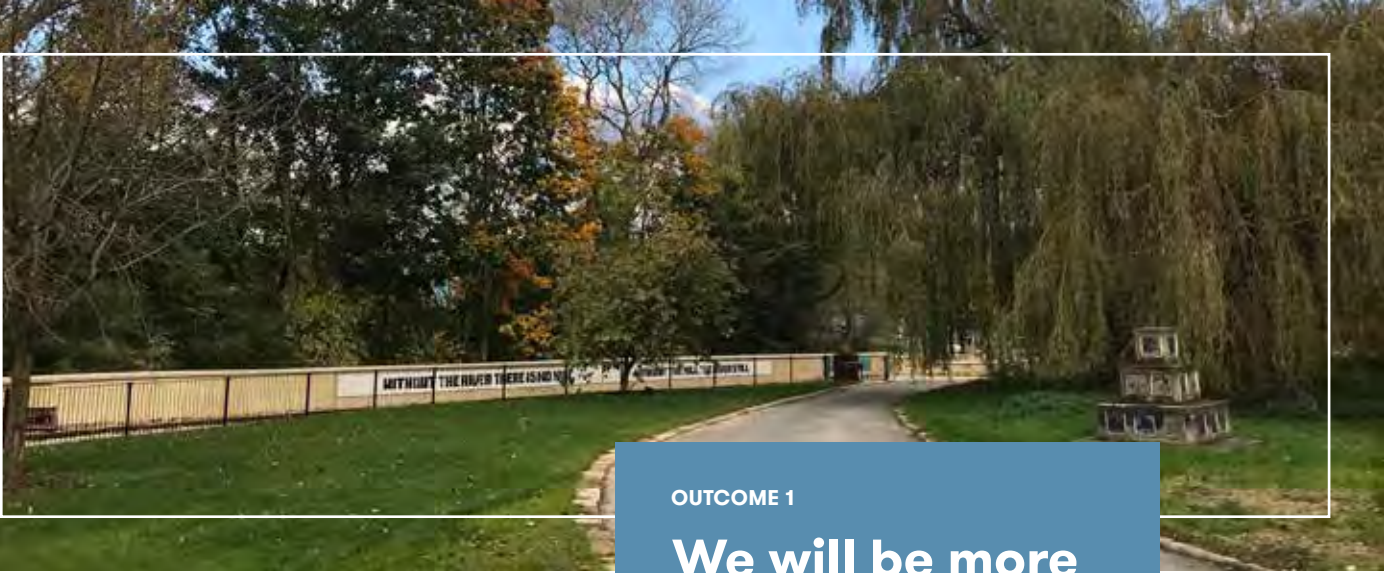
This document celebrates achievements and summarises key activity from Leeds Museum & Galleries (LMG) over the period January to March 2025.

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

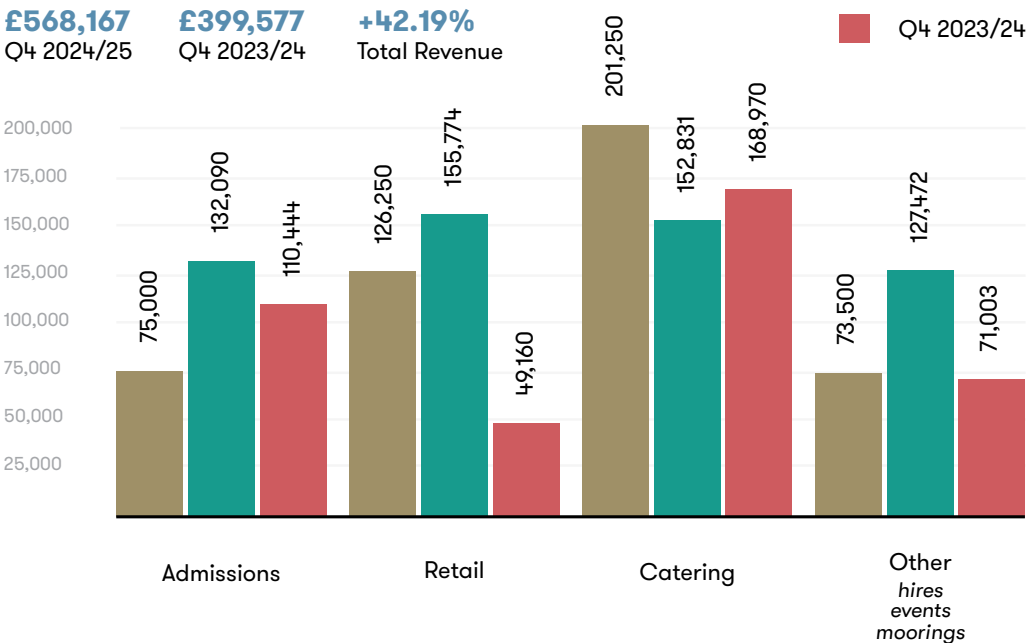


At a glance

Earned income continues to be a focus and has significantly increased during this quarter compared to Q4 23/24.

Admissions and room hire are trending upwards, whilst catering fell due to a high turnover of staff. Retail has performed brilliantly, particularly at Leeds City Museum, due to the popularity of the Miffy exhibition. The gardening groups continue to maintain and improve the green spaces across venues, including a new community orchard at Leeds Industrial Museum.

Revenue



OUTCOME 1

We will be more sustainable and responsible, financially and environmentally

ACE IP MET
Dynamism
Environmental
Responsibility

Headlines

Retail and admissions income at Leeds Industrial Museum are up on Q4 2023/24, with overall income budget exceeded.

The new online shop's conversion rate has increased by 66% compared to last year, in its first 3 months. Redesigning the website and changing the platform to Shopify has made products easier to find and easier to sell.

Leeds City Museum has increased commercial room hire income by 40% for the year. This is through developing ongoing relationships with repeat clients.

Leeds City Museum retail income increased by 237% for the year. This is due to the success of the current temporary exhibition miffy's 70th birthday.

A number of commercial improvements have been made, including the installation of a new coffee machine at the Tiled Hall Cafe at Leeds Art Gallery, the development of a retail space at Leeds Discovery Centre, redecoration of the meeting room at Leeds Industrial Museum, and fresh marketing for weddings at Temple Newsam.

A community orchard project at Leeds Industrial Museum saw over 30 volunteers coming together to plant trees in the grounds. This project was in partnership with Hyde Park Source, TCV, and Fruitworks; supported by a grant from Fruitworks to encourage urban orchards around Leeds.

LMG's website carbon rating is now two grades above the global average.

A number of sustainable adult craft workshops have been held at Abbey House Museum to support the Revive, Repair, Re-Use: Stories of Sustainability exhibition. These included making spring equinox wreaths from 100% foraged foliage found in the local area and assembling felt flower bouquets using material from Scrap, a local social enterprise.

The appointed contractor for a major capital scheme at Leeds Industrial Museum has committed to purchasing 80% of all the required materials and supplies locally. This includes procurement of a steel frame for a new roof from a Sheffield supplier.



2024/25 Q4

In Focus

In March, Lotherton's Garforth In Bloom volunteers returned from their winter break to continue their conservation work on the Terrace Garden.

They are recreating the original Scottish garden planted by Gwendolen Gascoigne in 1903. Over the past four years the volunteers have removed the old rose bushes, fed and fertilised the tired soil, and replanted the borders with the original heathers. This March, they have continued the planting of new vivid purple heathers. They are protecting these baby plants from Easter bunnies with arches of chicken wire.

Garforth In Bloom will continue watering and tidying until it's time to plant the snapdragons that go in the middle of the beds, for summer colour. These are being grown at Temple Newsam from seeds harvested from last year's plants. The winter colour comes from the Winter Jasmine growing up trellises at the corner of each bed.





OUTCOME 2

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

ACE IP MET
All

At a glance

This has been a busy and successful quarter for audience development.

Visitor figures rose sharply, we opened a brand new exhibition at Lotherton Hall, Miffy continues to do very well, and *Living with Death* is shortlisted for a top award. We are reaching audiences in different ways with phenomenal growth in the uptake of our newsletter, and an increase in social media followers.

Press Highlights

[‘Extraordinary’ Leeds inventor’s superbike displayed in tribute at Leeds Industrial Museum after death aged 102](#)
- Yorkshire Evening Post

A new Miffy exhibition opens at Leeds City Museum features in [Yorkshire Post](#), BBC Look North, [Yorkshire Evening Post](#), BBC Radio Leeds and BBC Breakfast national news.

A huge collection of historic plants are being studied for a new community project in Leeds, as featured on [BBC national online](#) and [Fox Weather \(USA\)](#), and in Yorkshire Post and Yorkshire Evening Post.



Visitors

211,965
2024/25

178,897
2023/24

+18%
Venue
visitors



Socials

356,396
2024/5

339,298
2023/4

+5%
Social media
followers



Website

232,893
2024/25

181,755
2023/24

+28%
Website
visitors



Views

1,956,741
2024/25

687,227
2023/24

+185%
Webpage
views

Headlines

Leeds City Museum’s Sociable History Club attendees have almost doubled to over 60 attendees a session and Abbey House Museum’s 1152 Club attendees have reached pre-Covid levels.

Over 40 volunteers are regularly engaging in the development of a music exhibition at Leeds City Museum, which opens in the autumn.

Wellbeing Wednesdays have been delivered to residents of Leeds City Council’s Care Homes and the Assistant Community Curator at Leeds Art Gallery has delivered a pilot project at Calverlands Complex Needs Day Centre.

A record number of wellbeing surveys were collected over this quarter, including youth engagement groups, volunteers, and craft workshops attendees. The average score was 4.6 out of 5 based on feedback around measures including: feeling safe, happy, welcome, and enjoying the company of others.

Our new website is able to track more granular data and allows us to be more dynamic with our content. This means we’re able to be more strategic with the information hierarchy, capitalise on SEO, and direct audiences to more powerful call to actions.

Our Digital Development Officer attended the Ticketing Professionals conference and their learning will inform decisions on ways to increase digital audiences.

There has been a 400% growth in LMG’s newsletter mailing list, expanding our reach and audience with a strong open rate of 38%, far surpassing the industry average of 25%. It has a consistently low unsubscribe rate of 0.05%, a testament to the value our emails provide.

Fashion at Play: Children’s Clothing Through the Ages opened at Lotherton Hall. As part of the exhibition members of the Leeds community shared their own memories and experiences of maternity and baby dressing in modern times through a series of in-situ films. Lotherton’s Youth Fashion Curators also created a teenage fashion display case as part of the show.

Leeds City Museum’s *Living with Death* exhibition closed on Sunday 6 January and attracted a total of 66,209 visitors over its eight-month run (total museum visitors during this time 142,404 – 46% conversion rate). The exhibition has since been shortlisted for the Museums & Heritage Temporary Exhibition of the Year (under £80k) Award.



In Focus

On the 1 February 2025, we celebrated the Chinese Lunar New Year, *Echoes of Spring – Year of the Snake*, at Temple Newsam House in partnership with Leeds Chinese Community School (LCCS).

It was the result of a year-long endeavour in developing and strengthening Temple Newsam's ties with LCCS. The full day of events, co-curated by the Assistant Community Curator with the LCCS, included various workshops - a piano marathon in the Great Hall, a traditional Chinese dance workshop, and a calligraphy and Chinese painting workshop. It was an inclusive and accessible event that was open to the wider public with 'Pay

What You Feel' entry, as well as information and signage available in both Mandarin and Cantonese.

The culmination of the celebration was a live performance in the stunning surroundings of the Picture Gallery. A wide range of local artists and performers, of all ages and from different parts of the performing arts scene in Leeds, as well as students and staff of LCCS, took part in its production. It was widely attended by LCCS board members, students, staff, volunteers and families, the general public, as well as the Lord Mayor of Leeds.

As an intergenerational event that was enjoyed by families from across the city, it was a celebration and reflection of the vibrant and diverse culture of Leeds.





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 work included starting the second cohort of Mini Wonders, the Nesta and Art Fund Early Years research programme for parenting and school readiness. We also delivered the first national Access in Museums conference for cultural learning professionals and concluded the Explore: Urban Nature programme with the Natural History Museum.



Pupils

10,612
Q4 2024/5

11,872
Q4 2023/4

-4%
Engaged through workshops, self led and outreach



Family

10,923
Q4 2024/25

11,362
Q4 2023/24

-4%
People engaged in family activities



SEND

23
2024/5

27
2023/4

-15%
Workshops differentiated for pupils with SEND needs

MyLearning
69,880

Unique Users
Q4 2024/25

229,880
Page Views

1,245
Downloads

1,738
Watched Videos

Headlines

Leeds Art Gallery with Coop Academy Brierley (LS9, Burmantofts and Richmond Hill) and the Henry Moore Institute, worked with neurodivergent young adults to think about 3D art and made individual and collaborative sculptures from reclaimed everyday objects.

The second cohort of families from Armley ward started the NESTA and Art Fund Mini Wonders Early Years parenting and school readiness research programme at Leeds Industrial Museum. Initial findings suggest museum spaces build trust to enable developmental conversations to happen. LMG is receiving £64,000 of funding for the programme.

The Explore: Urban Nature programme concluded with the Natural History Museum London in February. The four year programme increased science capital in young adults and biodiversity within the local environment. LMG received £30,000 of funding to deliver the programme.

We presented at the Museums Association Future of Schools one-day online conference to 150 delegates, hosted a Yorkshire Accessible Museums Network meeting for 25 delegates, and spoke at both the Mini Wonders launch and Explore Urban Nature conclusion events.

We concluded the NPO funded, 15-month Assistant Learning and Access Officer role, a museum learning training post with the employee getting a next step job in the sector.

An LMG journal article published in The International Journal of Arts Education, ‘How Can Developing Object-Based Learning Skills During Primary Initial Teacher Training Influence the Trainee’s Approach to Classroom Teaching and Learning?’ which won an Award for Excellence with the highest peer review score for the volume.

Members of Leeds Art Gallery’s Youth Collective have been delivering workshops to each other, supported by the Youth Engagement Curator: “For four years I’ve wanted to deliver a workshop to the Youth Collective, but never had the confidence. Through you encouraging me, I thought why not, go for it. I was incredibly nervous beforehand, but shouldn’t have worried. I really enjoyed it and ten minutes in, I felt confident. Thank you for the opportunity Angie, I want to deliver more within this safe environment. Plus it helps me secure employment, especially after graduation.”

*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

LMG initiated and hosted the first national two-day Access in Museums conference at Leeds City Museum, in March 2025.

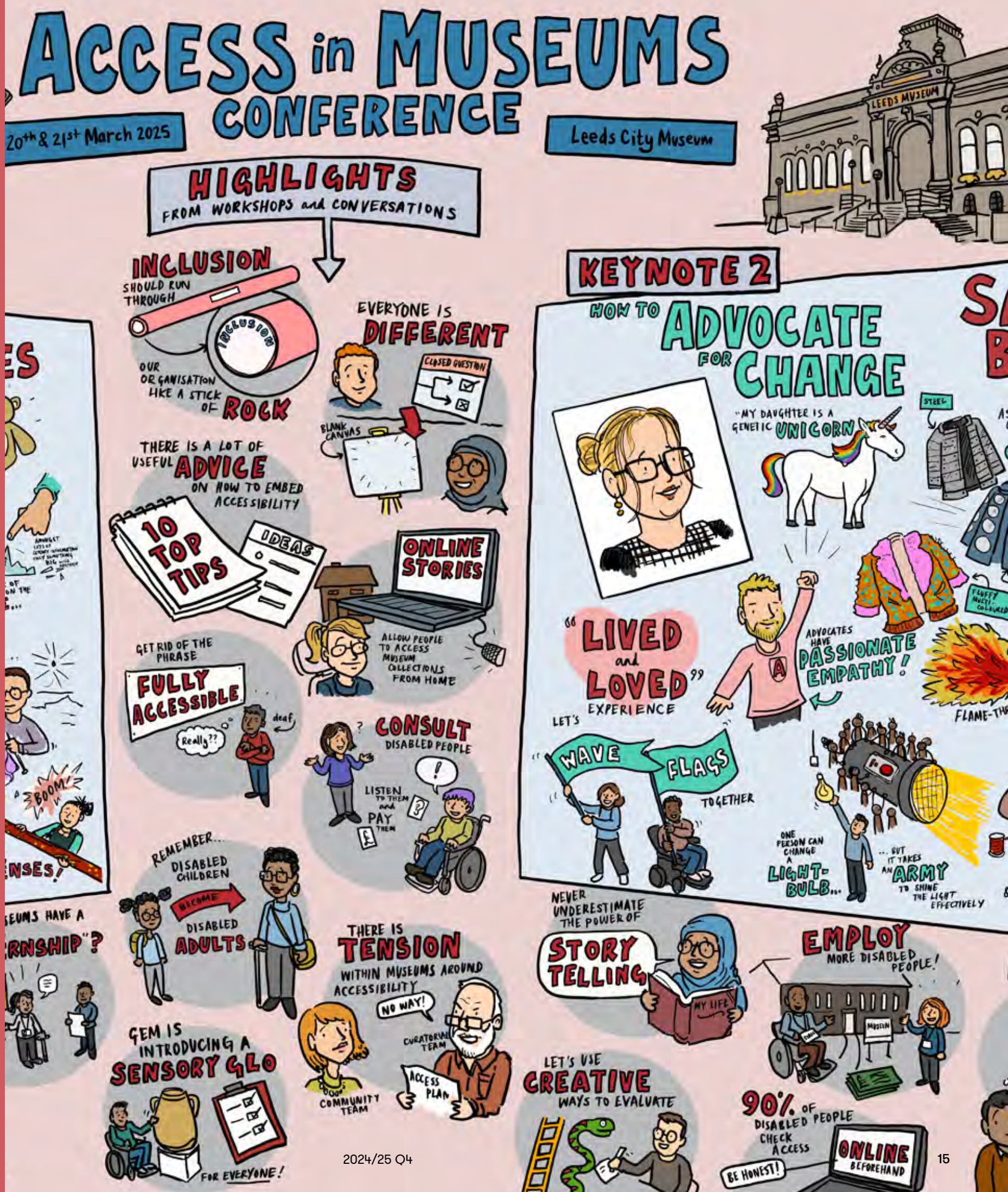
The conference had 70 delegates and 17 speakers, with keynotes from Joanna Grace and Sam Bowen, both nationally renowned within arts inclusive practice. Delegate numbers were kept below the room capacity to make the conference as inclusive as possible for those attending with disabilities and neurodivergence. For access, Stagertext delivered live closed captions and a graphic notes illustrator provided extra support.

'It was very moving and has given me a new sense of purpose to really make the changes needed in my department. I liked the fact that the event was about all needs, not just focused on one or two. Made some good contacts and am looking forward to hearing more!'

– Attendee

The conference was supported by the Group for Education in Museums (GEM) through financial sponsorship and the Yorkshire Accessible Museums Network (YAMN) in kind. This enabled the conference to cover its costs. We plan to make this an annual event, alternating between in person and online conferences for access.

LMG chairs the Yorkshire Accessible Museums Network (YAMN). The network supports cultural learning professionals across the UK with increasing accessible practice. There are four online meetings a year showcasing best practice and reaching 120 professionals.





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

It has been a busy quarter for volunteering at LMG alongside co-curated events and creative sessions. An innovative object access project has been piloted and one of the team has been nationally recognised for their contribution to engagement work.

6 -25%
Co-curated displays

184 +29
Community creative sessions

72 +/- 0%
Generous hostings



Volunteers

152
2024/5

95
2023/4

+60%
Volunteers



Hours

3514
2024/25

2257
2023/24

+56%
Hours contributed by volunteers

39 co-produced events with our community partners



Headlines

The Youth Engagement Curator at Leeds Art Gallery worked with the Leeds Bosom Buddies and photographer, Casey Orr. Casey photographed women who identify as young mums, LGBT+, and some as Global Majority. One of the portraits is now on display within the *Portrayals of Women* exhibition.

The Assistant Community Curator at Leeds Art Gallery supported the Lazarus project, which will produce a public artwork co-created by users of homeless charity St George's Crypt, and artists Pippa Hale and David Hawkins. By embarking on a creative journey together, the project aims to nurture and celebrate the creativity of people experiencing homelessness and change public perceptions.

Staff at Leeds Art Gallery, Leeds City Museum, Leeds Discovery Centre, Leeds Industrial Museum, and Lotherton have had 'Becoming trauma sensitive' training to support our visitors, alongside annual safeguarding training. Leeds Discovery Centre has also had Unconscious Bias training.

The Audience Development Team and the Learning and Access Team are working together with All In Access and pilot organisations across Leeds to develop and test the All In Access Scheme.

Curator of Industrial History continues to work closely with Sree Subramanian of University of York and Shaheera Pesnani of Historic England on research areas and potential storylines for our John Fowler locomotive 'Cheetal', built in 1923 for the Karachi Port Trust. Shaheera Pesnani is interrogating the Sindh Archives for the project on her current visit to Pakistan.

The Head of Operations & Enterprise has been supporting the South Yorkshire Transport Museum as their Museum Mentor with their Accreditation submission.

Angie Thompson, Leeds Art Gallery's Youth Engagement Curator, won a prestigious award for her work with the Care Creatives and wider youth engagement programme – the Marsh Award for Excellence in Visual Arts Engagement.



In Focus

In recent months we have been trialling our new tactile workshop for the Blind and Partially Sighted.

We are using 3D prints of museum objects to improve intellectual access to our collections and enable visitors who are Blind or Partially Sighted to engage with collections in a totally new way.

This workshop is based on months of consultation and will shortly be rolled out as part of a monthly, bookable and free programme at Leeds City Museum. 3D prints allow participants to handle objects in new and interesting ways. For example, a small coin can be enlarged so that someone can more accurately feel details on the 'head'/'tails' sides, and a large vase can be made smaller

so it can be easily lifted and rotated. Similarly, objects that are toxic, fragile, or dangerous, which would otherwise never be part of an object handling session, can be printed so that visitors can actually engage with them.

Participants were also given large print photographs of the original objects for reference, along with examples of the objects' original material/weight so they could 'see past the plastic'.

"We all found everything really interesting. I think it's the best solution yet, to make things behind glass accessible".

– A member of the Leeds Federation of the Blind



OUTCOME 5

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



At a glance

A project connecting East Leeds' communities with the botany collection secured funding. At the same time, a major restoration project, the Butler's Pantry, opened to the public at Temple Newsam.



ACE IP MET
All

577 +40%
Objects conserved

395 -36%
Objects condition checked

466 +62%
Enquiries answered

8677 +63%
TMS records updated

488 +264%
Records amended as a result of community input

492 +33%
New records created

44 +2%
Researchers accessing collections

Visitors to objects on loan out

101,345

Q4 24/25

311,492
Q4 23/24

-67%

Long Loans (12 months+)

182 out +4%

1001 in from 70 lenders +1%

Short Loans (up to 12 months)

198 out to 28 venues, 3 international +153%

989 in from 145 lenders -34%

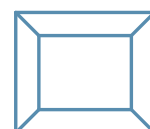
The Picture Library

Members Loans

431 **541**
2024/25 2024/25

374 **476**
2023/24 2023/24

+15% **+14%**
Members Artworks
on loan



Headlines

A carpet, originally installed at Temple Newsam by **Emily Meynell Ingram (1840-1904)**, has been restored and returned to site with support from Leeds Art Fund.

Leeds Industrial Museum has continued a collaboration with Leeds Irish Health & Homes and award-winning poet Ian Duhig. Inspired by LMG's collections, the work of ten poets will feature in a published anthology 'The Holdings' launching in May.

We received £99,690 from the Museums Association's Esmée Fairbairn Collection Fund for our Dead Plants Society project. Connecting with East Leeds communities through Space2, an arts and social change charity, we're going to explore botanical stories, biodiversity, and look at climate change with LMG's plant collection.

Two young archive volunteers have been gaining essential skills in object handling and cataloguing at Leeds Industrial Museum. This has been very successful in helping students to feel supported in applying for roles within the heritage industry and has significantly increased the amount of objects catalogued within the Hunslet Archive.

New objects acquired this quarter through community links include two special edition Xero Slingsby albums and placards from a disability rights march.

A new pilot project sees an object box loaned to Leeds Teaching Trust to be used in speech therapy sessions with people recovering from strokes.

Collections team completed the audit, documentation and management of munitions collections at Leeds Industrial Museum with the assistance of sector specialists RAMORA UK.

The final report by Dr Michael Bailey into the construction and history of our important 1812 Blenkinsop/Murray locomotive model has been completed. The process used CT scanning technology to further understand the model's construction.

A number of facilities improvements have been made including the installation of blinds in key galleries at both Leeds Art Gallery and Temple Newsam, redecoration of main circulation areas at Leeds City Museum and the redecoration of toilets at Leeds Industrial Museum. Collections storage improvements have been made to the paper and maquette store at Leeds Art Gallery and the picture store at Lotherton.

In Focus

Work started on the room two years ago, uncovering hidden fireplaces, lost decorative schemes and sinks which had been stored in the cellars for decades.

Traditionally, the Butler's Pantry was the place where the house's silver would have been stored as well as a working space for the butler and the footmen. The room was turned a technical workshop in the 1960s, removing or obscuring many original features, but it had plenty of potential to be restored to its former status.

Detailed research pieced together a picture of how the room used to appear and function. This allowed the space to

be restored close to how it would have been in the 1890s. The project was made possible by support from DCMS/Wolfson Museums & Galleries Improvement Fund, Arts Council England, Headley Trust, Leeds Art Fund and Friends of Leeds City Museums.

Now complete, visitors can experience this room. Along with exploring the stories of working people in the house, they can appreciate Temple Newsam's important collection of British silver, displayed in a fully accessible room for the first time in brand new showcases.





OUTCOME 6

We will have international reputation and reach

At a glance

Our international loans and press coverage have continued, with the major focus of this quarter being the launch of international exhibition, *miffy's 70th birthday*, at Leeds City Museum.

ACE IP MET
All

Headlines

A crumb of ancient Egyptian bread found in a previously undocumented collection of Victorian microscope slides at Leeds Discovery Centre has been news in the UK and beyond:

[Crumb of ancient Egyptian bread found in Leeds museum archive](#) - BBC News

[Volunteer finds ancient Egyptian bread crumb in UK archive](#) - Miami Herald

[Ancient bread crumb found in uncatalogued museum items](#) - Baking Business (Australia)

As part of the Intercultural Cities steering group, LMG learned about anti-rumours projects happening across Europe, including a pilot in Camden, London.

Headlines

Leeds Art Gallery has been the subject of a range of national and international press pieces, including for the waxing of its Antonio Canova sculpture, *Venus (The Hope Venus)* including in *The Times* and the British Library collaboration, *Karanjit Panesar: Furnace Fruit* including *Frieze* and *Burlington Contemporary*:

[Karanjit Panesar Refuses to Be Consumed](#) - *Frieze*

[The Best Shows to See Across the UK This Spring](#) - *Frieze*

[Furnace Fruit review by Vaishna Surjid](#) - *Burlington Contemporary*

[Karanjit Panesar: Furnace Fruit/ Empire Lines x Leeds Art Gallery](#) - *EMPIRE LINES* podcast

In this quarter, international loans have been to venues in Lanuvio, Italy; Basel, Switzerland and for *Modern Sculptors in Stone* at La Pedrera, in Barcelona, Spain.



In Focus

Leeds City Museum launched its latest temporary exhibition in February, *miffy's 70th birthday*. The exhibition is a collaboration between Leeds Museums & Galleries, Mercis bv, and Norfolk Museums Service.

Both Leeds and Norfolk have worked closely with Mercis bv on the development of the exhibition. Most of the artworks and objects in the exhibition are generously loaned from the collection of Mercis bv, the global brand owner of Miffy, many of which are housed at the Centraal Museum Utrecht.

From the launch of the exhibition to the end of Q4 Leeds City Museum welcomed 62,000 visitors to the museum, compared with 39,000 visitors in the same period in 2024. The launch event for the exhibition on Saturday 8 February was the busiest day at the museum since it opened to the public in 2008.

The exhibition has had a significant impact on retail sales, with the museum shop earning £92,000 in this period compared with £5,500 in the same period in 2024. The venue sold almost 13,000 products across the Miffy range and more space has been created in the shop for new and exciting Miffy products to be introduced during the lifespan of the exhibition.

In addition to onsite engagement, the exhibition, events and associated products have accounted for 15% of all Leeds Museums & Galleries website views. Website visitors for the Miffy exhibition and events have spanned 100 countries. Miffy product views total over half of the online shop views.

The exhibition will run until 7 September 2025 and it will then move to Time and Tide Museum of Great Yarmouth Life, Norfolk Museums from 11 October 2025 – 1 March 2026.



Quarterly Report

2024/5 Q4