



National
Museums
Scotland

National Programme 2022/2023



National Programme Across Scotland 2022/2023

Introduction

In this report we share the work we have undertaken during 2022/23 to meet the core objectives of our National Programme – to engage and inspire people through sharing Scotland’s collections with communities across the country, to help build capacity at local level, and to support staff and volunteers in Scottish museums to strengthen their skills and expertise. National projects, loans, touring exhibitions, community engagement projects, support from the National Fund for Acquisitions and our free National Training Programme have all contributed to this work.

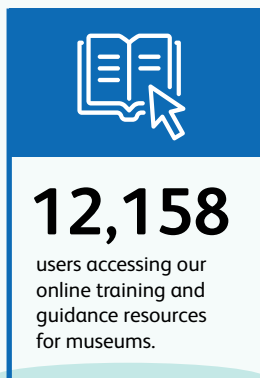
Our focus over this time has been working with our colleagues and communities across Scotland to target our national support where it was most needed as the country emerged from the Covid-19 pandemic. This included the partial return of face-to-face advice, training and resources for our sector, combined with loans of high-profile objects from the National Collection, alongside maintaining impactful in-person and online experiences for audiences across the country.

The Galloway Hoard touring exhibition travelled to Kirkcudbright Galleries and Aberdeen Art Gallery, attracting a total audience of 98,000. Maths Week Scotland 2022 saw its largest programme of activity so far with 83,562 pupils from 308 schools in every local authority across Scotland participating. Two national projects, *Exchange* and *Reveal and Connect*, developed our shared approach to working with communities to better understand and interpret collections with colonial and imperial histories. Additional support and inclusive programmes helped to open up our collections to wider audiences. Our National Training Programme provided 300 learning experiences for staff and volunteers in 64 museums across Scotland and the National Fund for Acquisitions supported collections development at 31 Scottish museums by contributing to the purchase of objects worth over £700,000.

Following consultation with museum colleagues across Scotland, we produced our fifth National Strategy, covering the period 2023 to 2027. Through this renewed Strategy we will continue to deliver and develop our national programmes to increase engagement with the National Collection for the benefit of people, places and communities across Scotland.

National Programme in Numbers

In 2022/2023, our National Programme activity extended to all 32 local authority areas in Scotland and included the following:



Sharing Scotland's Collections

Touring Exhibition

The Galloway Hoard: Viking-age Treasure

With support from the Scottish Government, this exhibition toured to Kirkcudbright Galleries (9 October 2021-12 July 2022) and Aberdeen Art Gallery (30 July-23 October 2022), attracting a total of 98,000 visitors. It was the most popular exhibition to date at Kirkcudbright Galleries, with 40,523 visits. Buried around AD900, the Galloway Hoard was discovered in 2014 and acquired by National Museums Scotland in 2017 with funding from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, Art Fund and the Scottish Government as well as a major public fundraising campaign. It is the richest collection of rare and unique Viking-age objects ever found in Britain or Ireland. The exhibition revealed the detailed conservation work carried out, exciting research discoveries, and some of the mysteries of the collection that scholars are working to solve. A £1 million three-year research project, *Unwrapping the Galloway Hoard*, led by National Museums Scotland in partnership with the University of Glasgow, commenced in 2021 with funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

We developed a marketing and communications toolkit to support promotion of the exhibition at partner venues and handling kits, replica objects and teacher guidance notes for a wide range of programming for local audiences. A total of 1,163 pupils from 36 schools visited the exhibition or benefited from outreach visits using handling boxes. Workshops and activities with community groups attracted 2,793 participants and an online lecture series was attended by 1,816 people with a further 3,627 views on our YouTube channel. The Galloway Hoard will eventually be displayed at the National Museum of Scotland with a significant and representative portion on long-term display at Kirkcudbright Galleries.



Sharing Scotland's Collections

Loans

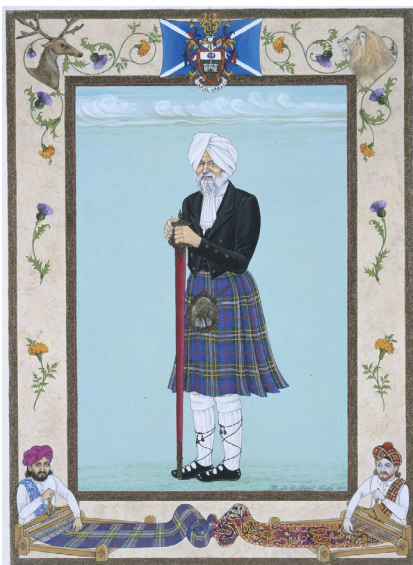
In 2022/23, 2,617 objects were on loan from the National Collection to 48 organisations in 21 local authorities across Scotland.

V&A Dundee

A total of 18 objects were loaned to the V&A Dundee for the exhibition *Tartan*, which opened on 1 April 2023. The first major exhibition in the UK to explore this theme, it considered design and identity, surveying the history and use of Scotland's iconic fabric from the earliest tartan to its role in contemporary fashion. Loans from the National Collection included patterns and documents from Wilsons of Bannockburn, the first large scale commercial producers of tartan cloth; four fragments of tartan said to have belonged to Prince Charles Edward Stuart, part of the cult of relics which supported the Jacobite cause; and a games table dating from c1850 covered in varnished tartan paper, an early example of the use of tartan beyond its original conception as woven cloth.

Grampian Transport Museum

Two 19th-century coach lamps, made by Croall & Croall of Edinburgh and Kelso, went on long-term loan to Grampian Transport Museum. The lamps were originally part of the Museum's Hero stagecoach and this loan enabled them to be reunited with the vehicle before it went on display. This rare 'four-in-hand' stagecoach went into service on the Edinburgh to Dumfries route in May 1847 but in a few years was rendered redundant by the rapid advance of the railways. It was used at the Beltane Festival until the 1950s before St Cuthbert's Cooperative Society repurposed it for ceremonial use in Edinburgh.



National Fund for Acquisitions



National Museums Scotland administers the National Fund for Acquisitions, an annual grant of £150,000 provided by Scottish Government to help museums throughout Scotland to acquire objects for their collections. The Fund normally offers grants of up to 50%, while the Special Funding Scheme supports museums unable to raise match funding with grants of up to 100% of purchase price. In 2022/23 the Fund contributed 50 grants worth over £204,000, helping to develop and enhance the collections of 31 organisations in 19 local authorities across Scotland. The total purchase value of the objects to which the Fund contributed was over £700,000. By 31 March 2023, a further 17 grants with a total value of almost £80,000 had been committed and were awaiting payment. Acquisitions supported include:

- **£5,985** to Glasgow Museums to acquire at auction a rare silk and cotton collar designed and made by Ann Macbeth, c1901-02. One of the group of artists known as the Glasgow Girls, Macbeth's work was exhibited internationally. She was an inspirational teacher at Glasgow School of Art and an active member of the women's suffrage movement.
- **£20,000** to Aberdeen Archives, Gallery & Museums to support the acquisition of a portrait in oils, *Vessie Owens*, painted in 1940 by Aberdeenshire-born James McBey while living in America during the Second World War. The Museum holds one of the largest collections of artworks and other material relating to McBey.
- **£3,352** to Montrose Air Station Heritage Centre to support the cost of transporting a Tornado aircraft donated by Royal Air Force Heritage. The aircraft came into service with the RAF in the 1990s and was flown by No 2 Squadron until 2017. Now at RAF Lossiemouth, from February 1913 the Squadron was based at Montrose Air Station as part of the Royal Flying Corps.

More information can be found on the [National Fund for Acquisitions webpage](#).

Engaging and Inspiring People



Maths Week Scotland

Funded by the Scottish Government and co-ordinated by National Museums Scotland, Maths Week Scotland is a focused week of events and activities, supported by a year-round programme, encouraging engagement with maths. The theme of Maths Week Scotland 2022 (26 September-2 October) was *'The Beauty of Maths'*, highlighting the creative and inspiring aspects of maths and encouraging exploration of maths in the expressive arts. In its sixth year, Maths Week saw its largest programme of activity so far with 54 live online and in-person events and 27 online resources and activities. Our grant funding programme distributed £69,000 of funding to 53 projects. Fifty collaborators and contributors were involved, including museums, science centres, local authorities, interest groups and individuals. A total of 83,562 pupils from 308 schools in every local authority in Scotland joined in activities. Following a session on Maths in Museums as part of our National Training Programme, the number of museums taking part in Maths Week Scotland more than doubled from six in the previous year to 13 in 2022. Activities included trails, family days and workshops for schools, exploring and sharing the maths in their collections.

More information can be found on the [Maths Week Scotland website](#).

Engaging and Inspiring People



Schools

Digital Schools Sessions

Our free Digital Schools Sessions were introduced during the pandemic to bring our collections to the classroom virtually at a time when school visits were not possible. Research has shown that transport costs and distance are the primary barriers for teachers from state schools who want to bring a class to our museums, and we have seen an increase in bookings for our digital sessions by schools located in areas with the highest levels of deprivation. Many teachers said they believe participation in the sessions has contributed to narrowing the attainment gap. Digital sessions are continuing to help us to reach new audiences across Scotland. In 2022/23, 125 schools in 29 local authority areas interacted with National Museums Scotland for the first time since 2018 by booking a digital session. The sessions, which are designed to support delivery of the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence, give pupils opportunities to see our collections, take part in quizzes or challenges and ask questions. During the 2022/23 school year, 23,000 pupils from 496 schools across every local authority in Scotland participated in digital sessions.

Engaging and Inspiring People



Community Engagement

Additional support and inclusive programmes

Pilton Youth and Children's Project in North Edinburgh participated in outreach sessions from January to March 2023, engaging in outdoor learning and art workshops. The theme was climate change and sustainability in advance of their involvement in artist George Nuku's installation *Bottled Ocean 2123* for the exhibition *Rising Tide: Art and Environment in Oceania* at the National Museum of Scotland. To engage with new and diverse families with early years children, we brought three *Magic Carpet* sessions to community settings across Edinburgh, working with multi-cultural families and children with additional support needs in their own settings before welcoming them to the National Museum of Scotland for further engagement sessions.

Our monthly Museum Socials, supporting people and carers living with dementia, returned to on-site delivery from June 2022 with monthly themed sessions, activities, handling objects and curator-led talks. Friday Friends, supported sessions for D/deaf and visually impaired children in partnership with Edinburgh Zoo and Holyrood Palace, provided children with even greater access to exciting topics, handling objects and diverse collections. We piloted three new access evenings for exhibitions at the National Museum of Scotland, *Anatomy: A Matter of Death and Life* and *Doctor Who: Worlds of Wonder*. They included audio description for visually impaired audiences, British Sign Language tours for D/deaf audiences, and relaxed sessions for neuro-diverse audiences. Our monthly Relaxed Mornings supported neuro-diverse audiences through visual stories, a quiet space and supportive resources and we delivered relaxed versions of our core family workshops for February half term. Working in partnership with Mercat Tours, we supported vulnerable adults with the Grassmarket Project through a combination of Scottish history handling collections off-site and tours of the National Museum of Scotland.

Engaging and Inspiring People

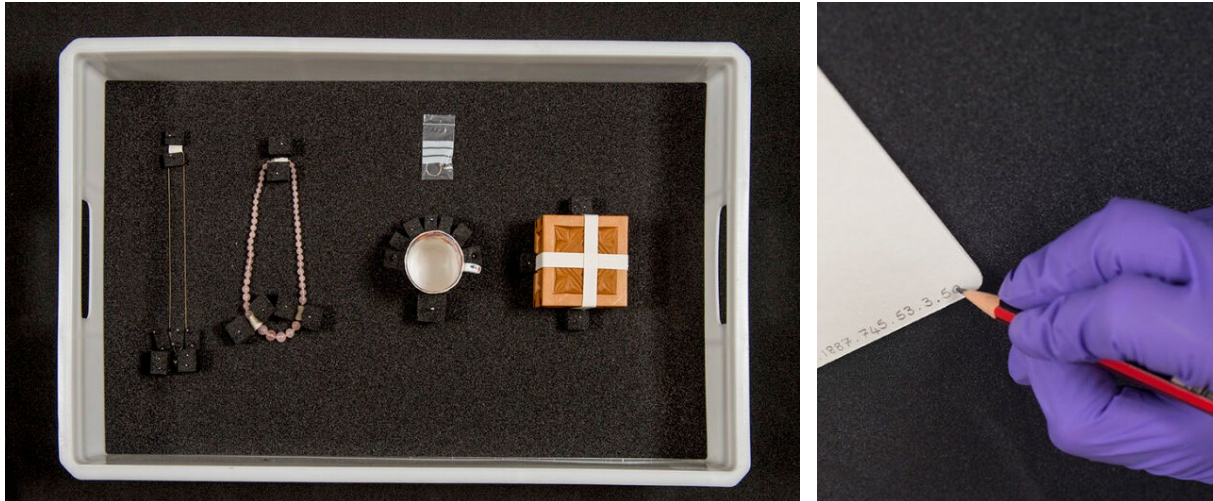


From November 2022 to March 2023, we worked with LGBT Youth Scotland and arts organisation Sanctuary Queer Arts to engage young people in creative responses and reflections around the *LGBTQIA+ Hidden Histories* trail at the National Museum of Scotland. A short film was created to document their reflections for Edinburgh Pride in June 2023.

We worked in partnership with the University of Dundee's early years research project, *Art at the Start*, exploring the connections between art-based early interventions, cultural settings and parental attachment. With neonatal support organisation Crossreach, we supported 12 artist-led parental attachment sessions at the National Museum of Scotland. A public drop-in event for babies and parents in the *Imagine* gallery in January 2023 was attended by over 300 people.

We worked with the local South Asian community through the organisation NKS (Networking Key Services) to bring over 200 participants to the National Museum of Scotland for tours of South Asian and other relevant collections in their home languages, Urdu/Hindi, Punjabi and Bengali. Smaller groups worked with curatorial staff on a co-created webpage and trail, based on research and participants' own lived experience. During Black History Month, October 2022, we celebrated a recent acquisition from the Lord Iqbal Singh estate, including an Asian tartan. The event was aimed primarily at the local and national Sikh community who came to hear more about this exciting cross-cultural collection. In February 2023 we piloted a series of tours for new migrants, working in partnership with Help Ukraine Scotland and The Welcoming to engage recent migrants, refugees and asylum seekers with the National Collection.

Strengthening Skills and Expertise



National Training Programme

Our National Training Programme offers free collections knowledge and skills training for staff and volunteers in museums across Scotland. In 2022/23 we delivered 10 training events, providing 300 learning experiences to staff and volunteers in 64 museums across Scotland. Our online [training and guidance resources](#) for museums were accessed by 12,158 users during the period of this report.

Introduction to Scottish Archaeological Human Remains Collections

This online workshop on 21 September 2022, delivered in partnership with Historic Environment Scotland, explored the research potential of archaeological human remains in museum collections and addressed issues of collection management. A series of video presentations included experts from National Museums Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland, the Francis Crick Institute, the Universities of Aberdeen and Glasgow, City of Edinburgh Council and the British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology. Topics included dealing with chance finds of human remains, best practice in sampling human remains and the methods available for studying them, ranging from osteological study to cutting-edge scientific techniques such as ancient DNA (aDNA) and isotopic analysis. The workshop also explored ethical debates around the appropriate management of human remains. A [legacy resource](#) is available on our training and guidance webpages, including the workshop presentations and a wide range of online resources covering all aspects of human remains collections.

Strengthening Skills and Expertise



Introduction to Integrated Pest Management

This online workshop on 16 November 2022 aimed to help participants to identify and monitor pests and prevent and deal with infestations at their sites. Led by Katie Haworth, Preventive Conservator at National Museums Scotland, the session looked at how damage to collections can be avoided by responsible action on the part of museum staff. Participants were encouraged to read our online pest management web resource in advance and there were opportunities to ask questions relating to their own collections.

More information can be found on our [training and guidance webpages](#)

Strengthening Skills and Expertise

Collecting the New Past: Developing representative collections of the present for the future

This symposium on 21 November 2022 explored building contemporary collections that represent our social, cultural, political and natural world. The event was organised by Georgia Vullings, Curator of Modern and Contemporary History at National Museums Scotland. Speakers included representatives from National Museums Scotland, Aberdeen Archives, Gallery & Museums, Leisure and Culture Dundee, the National Football Museum and the Museum of London. Recent acquisition case studies explored and identified themes important to 21st-century Scotland and further afield and considered the role of community partnerships in shaping collections. Collections management questions posed by contemporary materials and contexts for acquisition were also covered. The event took place at the National Museum of Scotland and was streamed online.

Maths in Museums

This online workshop on 1 March 2023, organised in conjunction with Maths Week Scotland, explored how museums can use their collections to create maths-focused programmes and events to engage school and family audiences. Yvonne Somerville from Education Scotland discussed maths and numeracy in the Curriculum for Excellence while Thomas Briggs, Mathematics Educator and Museum Learning Consultant, showed participants how to find and tell the maths stories in their collections. Liz Conacher, National Galleries of Scotland, and Carl Ronan, Surgeons' Hall Museums, presented case studies of their own experience of participating in Maths Week Scotland. The afternoon session provided an opportunity for participants to work together to develop a maths resource.



Collaboration and Capacity Building

Exchange: Community-Led Collections Research

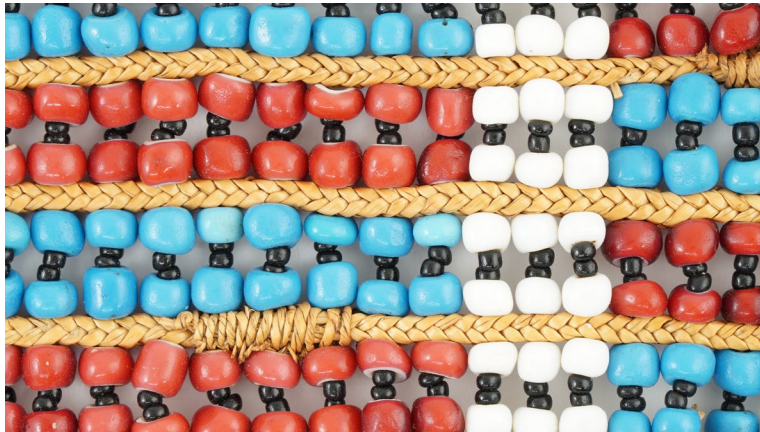
This joint project with Royal Museums Greenwich and museum and community partners across England and Scotland was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). Museums and South Asian, African and Caribbean diaspora communities were supported to undertake community-led collections research. The project was extended from December 2022 for six months to support four partners, including Glasgow Life and David Livingstone Birthplace Museum, to broaden access to their research and to provide training and knowledge exchange opportunities for museums and community partners to sustain this work.

The project resulted in a publication, *Exchange: Community-led Collections Research Recommendations for more equitable participation*, supplemented by four online events during March 2023. *Sharing Learning from Exchange* introduced the project and explored how participants could approach their own community-led collections research project. *Removing Barriers* considered the obstacles museums may present and actions that can be taken to remove them. *Working Towards Safer Spaces* explored the importance of creating safer, supportive spaces and the ways in which museum and community partners can achieve this. The final event, *Demystifying Collections Research*, considered how collections research can be interpreted for community members and explored ethical standards and procedures in community-led collections research.

More information, including the publication, can be found on the [project webpage](#).



Collaboration and Capacity Building



Reveal and Connect: African and Caribbean Collections in Scottish Museums

Supported by a £60,000 grant from Museums Galleries Scotland until December 2024, this project will publish a national review of African and Caribbean collections in Scottish museums and establish a collaborative network with museums in Africa, the Caribbean and descendant communities in Scotland. The project is led by National Museums Scotland in partnership with Glasgow Life; The Hunterian, University of Glasgow; and University of Aberdeen Museums and Special Collections. Representatives on the Steering Group include diaspora communities in Scotland and heritage organisations in Uganda, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Jamaica and Barbados. Project Curator, Nikki Grout, visited collections across Scotland to compile the review, studying objects acquired through colonial occupation and missionary activity and drawing out connections between collections and areas for further research. The next phase of the project will produce guidance and training materials to support museums and communities to work with African and Caribbean collections.

More information can be found on the [project webpage](#).

National Museums Scotland National Strategy 2023-2027

Consultation with partners and stakeholders on our fifth National Strategy 2023-2027 was undertaken during December 2022 and January 2023. A combination of in-person and online focus groups, interviews and an online survey resulted in around 100 individual responses. The resulting Strategy, supported by a new National Programme Implementation Plan, was launched in October 2023.

The new National Strategy continues long-standing programmes delivered by National Museums Scotland across Scotland in support of our sector, including loans, touring exhibitions, participation in national projects, community engagement, funding for acquisitions and free knowledge and skills development opportunities. A particular focus during this period will be on increasing the impact of the support we provide around collections knowledge and skills and maximising our national partnership working to increase engagement with the National Collection for the benefit of people, places and communities across Scotland.

Credits

- Cover:** Mixed media *TingaTinga installation*, c2018, by Josie KO, acquired by David Livingstone Birthplace with support from the National Fund for Acquisitions. © Josie KO. Image courtesy of David Livingstone Birthplace
- Page 5** Poster paint, gouache and gold dust on mountboard, *Laird Singh's His Tartan's Praises*, 2000, by The Singh twins. © The Singh Twins
- Page 6** Embroidered collar, c1901-02, by Ann Macbeth. © CSG CIC Glasgow Museums Collection
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