



Hull Museums & Gallery

High Performing
Community Driven
World Class Culture

23/24 Annual Summary

High Performing

A Year in Numbers

More people continue to visit Hull Museums and Ferens Art Gallery than before the Covid-19 Pandemic.

2023/24 visitor figures are up **13%** on 2019/20.

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- > **383,720** visitors through our doors.
- > **£5,887,508.95** spent by our visitors in the local economy.
- > **395,546** visitors to **17** exhibitions.
- > **15,182** school children visited our sites.
- > **178,011** visited during school holidays.
- > **27,229** people took part in events and activities for families and under 5's.
- > **121,000** people enjoyed our family trails and activity books.
- > **1,003** people took part in SEND and accessible activities.
- > **1,109** people attended talks and tours.
- > **77** volunteers supported our programme delivery at the Museums Quarter and Ferens Art Gallery.
- > **129,644** visitors see collections loaned to national museums.
- > **4,352** object records updated and made accessible.
- > Winners of **5** local and national awards.
- > **£1,136,188** of grant funding has supported our sites and programme this year.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Delivering on Hull City Council's Community Strategy

Our Culture, Our Heritage, Our City

Our collections underpin the culture and identity of our city, celebrating our history and heritage and sharing new stories and perspectives.

Our museums and gallery are for everyone, championing accessibility for all.

We celebrate and reflect diverse stories and experiences, co-creating permanent displays, temporary exhibitions, events and engagement programmes.

We collaborate with local, national and international cultural partners, contributing to Hull's vibrant cultural offer. We support grassroots creativity whilst bringing world class collections and exhibitions to the city.

Safe and Welcoming Neighbourhoods

- > Community engagement with marginalised or vulnerable communities.
- > City Centre Green Spaces.

A Healthier and Fairer Hull

- > Access and inclusion development work with community partners.

Reaching our Potential

- > Early years activities and partnership work.
- > School visits, outreach and membership schemes.
- > Young people's creative skills development.
- > Accessible activities for people at every stage of life from babies into older age.

Economic Growth that Works for All

- > Multimillion pound cultural funding for Hull and the Humber region as Humber Museums Partnership NPO lead and Hull Maritime project.
- > Training and professional development, volunteering, placements and internships.
- > Attracting footfall to the city centre, contributing to the visitor economy.

Responding to the Climate and Nature Emergency

- > New energy efficient lighting across our sites.
- > Use of environmentally sustainable materials for exhibitions and activities.
- > Work with partners to highlight the environment and climate emergency through our programme.

Context

The Hull Maritime project is providing significant investment in city infrastructure and cultural programming, helping drive the future vision for our service.

As lead partner in the Humber Museums Partnership ACE National Portfolio Organisation, the Let's Create outcomes and investment principles are key drivers in our strategic plan.

We are contributing to the development of a new Cultural Strategy for Hull, setting the vision with key cultural partners in the city.



The new Community Strategy sets the direction of travel for Hull. Devolution offers opportunities for culture, further strengthening regional partnerships.

Vision

“By 2026 our Museums and their collections are celebrated for their local significance and international connections.

We contribute to the regeneration of our city by improving lives and being a successful visitor destination.

Our museums and gallery are welcoming, safe places where communities can come together through shared cultural experiences.”





An Award Winning Team

2023-24 has seen our work recognised with a five local and national awards.

- > **Museums Association, Museums Change Lives Award for Decolonising Museums:** Winner Wilberforce House Museum for our partnership work with the University of Hull and Wilberforce Advisory Board.
- > **PraxisAuril Award for Supporting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion through Knowledge Exchange:** Winners at local and national level, University of Hull in partnership with Wilberforce House Museum for Homelands: Engaging with Migrant Communities to Challenge Perceptions of Africa in the UK’.
- > **Hull City Council Team Hull Awards, Respect Award:** Winner Streetlife Museum and York Traveller’s Trust for their commitment to co-production and creating a new gallery increasing representation of Gypsies and Travellers’ voice and experience within our displays and narratives.
- > **Hull BID Awards, Customer Service Excellence Award:** Hull Museums and Gallery Front of House team, for their commitment to making every visitor feel welcome.

Visit England Quality Assured Visitor Attractions

Mystery shopper visits in January rated our sites and staff highly once again, with most areas assessed rated as very good or excellent and maintaining our accredited status for all sites as Quality Assured Visitor Attractions. We received an 83% average overall score with all sites maintaining or increasing their previous year’s assessment.



Individual Site Scores

- > Wilberforce House Museum – 86%
- > Ferens Art Gallery – 88%
- > Hull and East Rising Museum of Archaeology – 82%
- > Streetlife Museum – 87%
- > Hands on History Museum – 76%

Average Scores for Key Areas Assessed Across our Sites

- > Staff – 93%
- > Attraction – 84%
- > Cleanliness – 90%
- > Retail – 75%



We Value Volunteers and Placements

2023-24 has seen our work recognised with a five local and national awards.

Internship Success

Our two internships were completed in May 2023, giving Emily Pearson and Jason Lok valuable insights, training and experience in the museums sector. Jason has been successful in securing further employment as a Documentation Assistant with the Hull Maritime project.

White Badge Accredited Volunteer Tour Guides

Working in partnership with Visit Hull and East Yorkshire, we have trained 17 volunteers and 2 staff to deliver tours at Wilberforce House Museum, Streetlife Museum and the Ferens art Gallery. Tours will start from May 2024.



Community Driven

Community Curation: Our City, Our Heritage, Our Culture

30 people from the Gypsy and Traveller community attended the launch event for a new permanent gallery exploring Gypsy and Traveller heritage at the Streetlife Museum.

This work won Hull Museums and partner, York Traveller's Trust, Hull City Council's Team Hull Award for Respect.

A new permanent display on Clive Sullivan and rugby in Hull opened at the Streetlife Museum. Hull's two Rugby League teams, Hull Kingston Rovers and Hull FC, where Clive Sullivan played are featured, alongside Hull Roundheads, a local inclusive team welcoming people of all genders and sexuality.

Wilberforce House Advisory Board are continuing to support the development of the museum and its programme. Members of the group attended the Museums Association conference and accepted the Decolonising Museums award at the ceremony in November 2023.



"I think it's great to have a part of the museum dedicated to the traveller community who are under-represented in our society. Thank you!"

Families Love Hull Museums

Our family focussed activity programmes and larger events in the Museums Quarter continue to draw large crowds.

178,011 people visited our museums and gallery over the school holiday periods.

22,848 people attended Medieval Mayhem and Victorian Christmas.

98% rated their visit very good or good.



- > **17,000** children and families enjoyed our easter, summer and winter trails.
- > **4,381** people took part in regular under 5s and family activities.
- > **104,000** Magical Museums activity booklets printed and distributed to vulnerable families across the city.
- > **70** children attended our Summer Archaeology Club as part of the Holiday Activities and Food programme.

Accessible and Inclusive Experiences

Access support such as relaxed activity sessions, quiet spaces, wheelchair viewing areas, BSL for performances and access maps is embedded into our programmes.

92% of surveyed visitors with a disability rated us as good or very good at making them feel welcome and comfortable.

95% of surveyed disabled visitors rated their overall experience as good or very good.



- > **1,003** people attended **16** accessible talks and events.
- > **725** children and young people took part in **48** accessible activity sessions.
- > **592** people attended **53** dementia friendly activity sessions.
- > **127** disabled and neurodivergent children and young people took part in regular Flourish with Ferens sessions with **10** different artists.
- > **8,909** people visited the sunflowers Travelling exhibition by disabled and neurodivergent young people.
- > **96** staff across all teams undertook access and inclusion training with local partner organisations.



Hull's Museums Inspire Teachers and Children

70% of Hull schools are engaging with Hull Museums and Gallery.

15,182 school children visited our sites.

- > **6,706** children took part in **262** activity sessions led by museum staff.
- > **8,476** children took part in teacher led school visits.
- > **1,096** children took part in 17 members' outreach projects using Museums in a Box and Hull Curriculum pop-up exhibitions in school.
- > **756** children from member schools took part in 11 exhibition programme linked special projects.
- > **435** children from 3 member schools took part in Hull Curriculum exhibition, **28,700** people visited.

A new schools focussed Egyptian gallery opened at Hands on History Museum

Ferens Artists In Residence are working with member schools

Hull Curriculum members' projects were showcased in Our City Our Story, an exhibition at the Streetlife Museum



"Fab! Really good, definitely couldn't replicate this in the classroom."

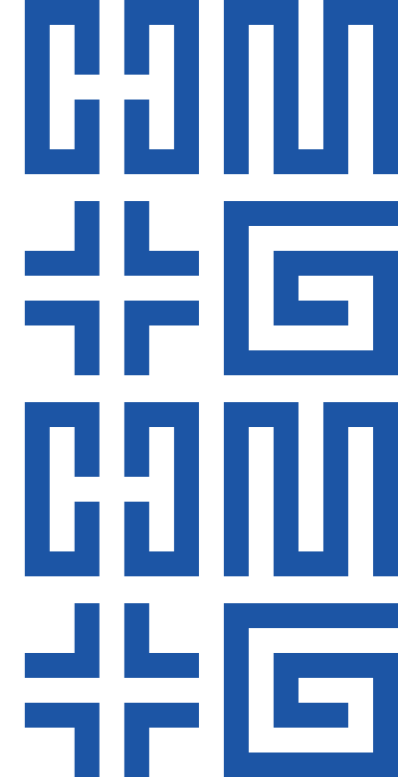
Y6 Teacher from St Vincent's VC Primary School



Young People are Developing Creative Skills

Our partnership between The Institute of Arts, Hull College, the Ferens Art Gallery and the National Saturday Club continues to deliver inspirational experiences for young people aged 13 – 15.

- > **33** young people took part in **30** weekly sessions over the 22-23 academic year programme.
- > **7** young people achieved Bronze Arts Award.
- > **69%** from a Widening Participation background.
- > **38%** live in the **30%** most deprived areas in England (IMD).
- > **46%** do not have a parent who has been to university.
- > **15%** receive free school meals.
- > **8%** speak English as an additional language.
- > **8%** are from a Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, Showman or Boating community.



Young People are Co-creating our Programme

Our Future Ferens young volunteers (aged 18 – 25), have played an active role in the Ferens programme for 2023-24 co-curating two exhibitions a programme of events at the gallery.

- > **42,173** visitors saw Rediscovering Ferens exhibition co-curated by the Future Ferens and the Warren Youth Project.
- > **60,054** visitors saw Hull on the Rise as part of the Art and Environmental change season.
- > **6** young people were commissioned to create work in response to flooding for the Hull on the Rise exhibition.



World Class Culture



Frans Hals, Portrait of a Young Woman, c.1655-60 © Ferens Art Gallery

National Exposure for Hull's Collections

- **37,091** visitors saw Gwen John's The Seated Woman at Pallant House.
- **92,553** visitors saw Frans Hals Portrait of a Young Woman at the National Gallery.
- **40,000** people saw John Lavery's The Family of Lord Duveen at the National Gallery of Ireland.
- A bible from William Wilberforce's library has been loaned for long-term display at the new Faith Museum in Bishop Auckland.

4,352 object records updated in 2023-24

Work has continued on our collections audit, updating records with accurate documentation and high-quality digital images.

Since 2021, **9,190** objects have been audited and made accessible on our collections database.

National Partnerships bring Great Exhibitions to Hull

Hull Museums and the Ferens Art Gallery partner with Britain's foremost museums, galleries and cultural providers.

54,287 people visited **Egyptian Hieroglyphs: Unlock the Mystery.**

Partner: British Museum - 17 March - 18 June 2023

Marking 200 years since the interpretation of the Rosetta Stone, The British Museum launched their national tour in Hull.

28,139 people visited **Canaletto: Two Paintings, One Perspective**

Partner: Royal Collection - 20th October 2023 - 28th January 2024

The culmination of a five year programme of loans to the Ferens Art Gallery from the Royal Collection Trust, Two Paintings, One Perspective brought together two works by world-renowned Italian artist Canaletto; the Ferens own View on the Grand Canal and the Royal Collection's Regatta on the Grand Canal.



Antonio Canaletto, A Regatta on the Grand Canal, c.1733-4, Royal Collection Trust/ © His Majesty King Charles III 2023

Art Highlights the Climate Emergency

Art and Environmental Change Season

Inspired by the loan of Canaletto's regatta on the Grand Canal from the Royal Collection, we dedicated a full season at the gallery to exploring how art can evidence environmental change over the centuries. The season featured a further two exhibitions, Hull on the Rise, created by the Future Ferens young volunteers, City of Water, presenting a flooded view on the Ferens collection and an artist residency.



Art and Environmental Change Artist in Residence - Anna Brass

Artist in Residence, Anna Brass, created an exciting new body of work in response to this seasons Art and Environmental Change programme. Hinterland was a response to the two Canaletto paintings of the Grand Canal that featured in our Royal Collection partnership exhibition. Anna's work was displayed alongside Canaletto's and she delivered a series of talks and events, engaging our visitors with her work.

60,054 people visited exhibitions during the season.

310 people attended talks and events.

239 took part in creative activities.



Programming in Partnership Increases Representation, Access and Inclusion

Hull Museums is committed to collaborating with local and regional culture and academic organisations on programming that will enable wider engagement with our sites and collections, especially by those under-represented in our visitor profiles.



9,991 people visited the Freedom Women Collective: Tomorrow exhibition at the Ferens Art Gallery, in Partnership with Freedom Festival Arts Trust.

This commission in partnership with Freedom Festival Arts Trust, saw artists who have survived war, conflict and persecution weave stories from Ethiopia, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Sudan using visual art, performance, poetry and photography.

Freedom Women Collective, photography by Malak



© Anthony Devlin/Almay Live News

“Taking the knee is something that's of value, it is about seeking justice and solidarity.”

Karen Okra - community activist

14,337 people visited the Taking the Knee exhibition at the Streetlife Museum, in Partnership with Wilberforce Institute.

This exhibition charted the pose from Ancient Egyptian times through its use in the campaign for the abolition of the slave trade and its contemporary use in sport to raise awareness for racial equality and fighting oppression.



140 women, non-binary people and their allies attended the Hear Them Roar event at the Streetlife Museum, in partnership with ARCADE Arts, Middlechild Theatre and The Warren Youth Project.

Following the successful Don't Wait Up event in 2022, we have continued our partnership with ARCADE Arts to deliver programming that uses our collections and sites as a springboard to highlight women's social justice.



Providing a Platform for Local Communities and Creatives

116,088 people have visited our partnership and community exhibitions across our sites.

Alongside showing exhibitions developed with our partners, our two temporary exhibition spaces in the museums quarter enable us to provide a platform for community groups and organisations.

23-24 exhibitions included:

- > Humber Modern Slavery Partnership
- > Amazing Grace – Cowper and Newton Museum
- > Making Freedom: The Life of Venture Smith – Beecher House USA
- > Why We Matter – The Warren Youth Project
- > Our Environment – Artlink Hull
- > Sunflowers Travelling – Hull Loud Mouths Young Persons Engagement Group
- > Women Who Inspire Us – The Warren Youth Project
- > Young Maritime Creatives – Sirius West Academy
- > The People's Park – Pearson Park
- > Hull Museums Art Group – Group Exhibition



33,333 people visited the Ferens Open and Young Artist Open exhibitions.

Our ever-popular Open exhibitions continue to be a highlight of the year for artists of all ages.

- > **2,147** artworks by **945** artists were entered into the Open Exhibition 2023.
- > **330** artworks selected for display.
- > **31** works sold.
- > **600** children entered work in the 2023 Young Artists Open.
- > **25** school groups entered work.





Hull Museums & Gallery

www.hullmuseums.co.uk



Working in partnership



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