****

**Conference 2021: Brave New World**

**Programme**

**SUNDAY 7 NOVEMBER**

1800-2000

**Opening party**

Merseyside Maritime Museum

Merseyside Maritime Museum, Royal Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AQ

Start off your conference experience by networking with colleagues at our opening night drinks reception in the Merseyside Maritime Museum. Delegates will be able to explore the new Life on Board gallery, which tells the story of the city’sseafarers and passengers. Masks are not required at the party but we kindly request that they are worn inside the exhibition space unless exempt.

**MONDAY 8 NOVEMBER**

0820-0850

**Making the most of conference**

**Room 12**

Join Tamsin Russell and Simon Brown who will welcome you to day one of conference and share their hints and tips about making the most of it.

Speakers

Tamsin Russell, Workforce Development Officer, Museums Association

Simon Brown, Vice President, MA Board; Project Curator, National Justice Museum and Curator, Newstead Abbey

**Online delegate welcome**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAmkHUtWP_A>

Our workforce development officer Tamsin Russell welcomes our online attendees to this year's conference.

Speakers

Tamsin Russell, Workforce Development Officer, Museums Association

0900-0920

**Conference introduction**

**Hall 1**

Hear from our hosts about what to expect over the next few days and how to make the most of your time at conference.

Sahar Beyad is PR & Communications Officer at National Museums Liverpool. She has been at the organisation for just over two years, having joined from the National Portrait Gallery in London. Now in her third year within the museum sector, this will be Sahar’s first Museums Association conference.

Ruben Doyle is undertaking a Kickstart placement with National Museums Liverpool as a Historic Photographs Assistant. He has been working on researching, cataloguing and conserving the extensive Stewart Bale photographic collection. This is Ruben’s first Museums Association conference.

Laura Pye has been the Director of National Museums Liverpool since 2018. Before this she was the Head of Culture in Bristol, with responsibility for the five museums in the city. Laura was born in Liverpool and started her career in museum education.

Speakers

Sahar Beyad, PR & Communications Officer, National Museums Liverpool

Ruben Doyle, Historic Photographs Assistant, National Museums Liverpool

Laura Pye, Director, National Museum Liverpool

0920-1010

KEYNOTE PANEL

**African cultural restitution – who is being left behind?**

**Hall 1**

The past year has seen numerous cases of restitution of objects from museums to African nations. From Germany to Ireland, museums and governments have committed to a proactive approach to building relationships with communities of origin and returning cultural objects. Three years on from the publication of the Sarr-Savoy Report, an expert panel discusses restitution as an essential part of museum practice and investigate where progress has been made and where work still needs to be done.

Chair

Bryan Knight, Journalist and Oral Historian

Speakers

Monica Hanna, Archaeologist, Egypt

Mary-Ann Middelkoop, Researcher, Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford

Ciraj Rassool, Professor of History, University of the Western Cape

Onyekachi Wambu, Executive Director, African Foundation for Development

1010-1040

**Break**

1040-1110

**In Practice**

**Queering the museum: Celebrating LGBTQ+ at RAMM**

**Room 4**

The Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery (Ramm) in Exeter shares how it has worked with the University of Exeter and the LGBTQ+ community to address a lack of representation of LGBTQ+ voices, histories and heritage in its collections. This session examines what it means to queer museum collections, how to ensure this work is embedded and visible, and how to engage with different audiences to improve understanding of gender and sexual diversity.

Speakers

Ellie Coleman, Engagement Officer, Ramm

Jana Funke, Associate Professor of English and Sexuality Studies, University of Exeter

Natalie McGrath, Writer and socially-engaged artist

**In Practice**

**Career interruptions**

**Room 12**

Careers can be interrupted for many reasons – you might have experienced furlough or redundancy, taken parental or carer leave, or temporarily left the sector. This session shares practical ways you can get back to museums and resume your career.

Speaker

Tamsin Russell, Workforce Development Officer, Museums Association

1040-1140

**Launching Supporting Decolonisation in Museums**

**Hall 1**

Over the past two years, the Museums Association’s Decolonisation Guidance Working Group has been collaborating to produce advice for the sector on this critical area of museum practice. Join members of the working group to explore the thinking, advice and practical steps that shape this new document.

Chair

Zandra Yeaman, Curator of Discomfort, The Hunterian

Speakers

Navjot Mangat, Senior Interpretation and Participation Producer, V&A

Laura van Broekhoven, Director, Pitt Rivers Museum

Miranda Lowe, Principal Curator, Natural History Museum

**Digital skills for digital futures**

**Room 3**

Do we have the right skills to collect our digital culture – and what might we need to unlearn in our current practice to make this new collecting possible? What are the new skillsets needed for online communication today – and who can help us develop these new competencies, capabilities and literacies? How has online media changed how we think about managing our brand – and what does that mean for the digital skills we now need? How are we changing the way we think about digital work in the museum workplace – and how might we need to change this thinking even further? Confronting these questions with open and creative minds, four early career professionals discuss ways for progressing digital skills in museums. Drawing on their own new approaches and original research, they share fresh ways of using and thinking about digital to manage communications, collections and brand. Their aim is to frame an inclusive conversation, from some new starting points, with a range of perspectives intended to provoke but also to start the work that now needs to be done.

Chair

Sophie Frost, Research Associate, One by One UK-US, School of Museum Studies, University of Leicester

Speakers

Maria Arias, Lecturer, Manchester Metropolitan University

Nia Evans, Digital Editor, Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales

Arran Rees, Research Associate, University of Leeds

**Through a new lens: Are Sites of Conscience everywhere in the UK?**

**Room 11**

Recent reports, heated debates and new museums have demonstrated the need for museums and historic sites in the UK to move forward with new ways of engaging the public with the past to create a more just future for all. In 2021, the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience has partnered with Newcastle University to explore the meaning and potential of Sites of Conscience in a UK framework. In this informal conversation, representatives from Newcastle, the coalition and two UK sites (one physical, one virtual) discuss museums’ role in developing positive memory practices relating to situations of historical violence, inequalities, oppression and suffering, in pursuit of equal justice in the present.

Chair

Linda Norris, Senior Specialist in Methodology and Practice, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

Speakers

Joanne Sayner, Co-director, Centre for Heritage at Newcastle University and Senior Lecturer in Cultural and Heritage Studies, School of Arts and Cultures, Newcastle University

Adrian Kerr, Manager, Museum of Free Derry

Emily Miller, Head of Learning and Partnerships, Migration Museum

1120-1140

**Sponsor session | No barriers: The art of creating an inclusive museum visitor experience**

**ERCO Lighting**

**Room 4**

Unpacking the toolkit for inclusive experiences within museums, we look at one of the fastest growing museum visitor groups, namely older people and people with visual impairment. According to The Economist between 2000 and 2025, the number of people over the age of 65 will double. There are many important aspects to consider including, having the right light, not only so visitors can see and enjoy the artworks, but also to ensure the right preservation of collections. Traditionally this was challenging to achieve. Now both the needs of conservation and having the right light for visitors, for example with Bluetooth control can be achieved.

Speaker

Matthew Cobham, Global Cluster Manager, Culture, ERCO

1140-1150

**Break**

1150-1220

**In Practice**

**How to write a carbon management plan – and tap into environmental grants**

**Room 4**

Dundee Museum of Transport is creating Europe's first fully carbon neutral transport museum in Dundee by retrofitting its Grade B-listed Maryfield Tram Depot. This practical session shares the benefits of creating a carbon management plan, the framework and support needed to get started, and some of the environmental grants available to help fund this work.

Speaker

Alexander Goodger, Museum Manager, Dundee Museum of Transport

**In Practice**

**Paying for it: Sustainable and fair participatory practice**

**Room 12**

Museums are increasingly working with their communities to inform and sometimes lead practice – but how can we make these relationships fair? How can we make it worth participants’ efforts and ensure we are not utilising a free workforce? In this session, two MA funded projects share how they have approached this issue and discuss some of the considerations that are needed to find the best solution for participants to ensure equity.

Speakers

Danika Parikh, Research and Engagement Fellow, University of Cambridge Museums

Jenny Bull, Engagement Coordinator, University of Cambridge Museums

Andrew Fowles, Learning and Access Manager, Birmingham Museums Trust

Sarah Briggs, Collections Development Officer, Museums Association

1150-1250

**What next for learning and engagement?**

**Hall 1**

One year on from the launch of the Learning and Engagement Manifesto, what has changed in museum learning and engagement? The sector has been hit hard by cuts and redundancies but our communities need us now more than ever. This session explores radical learning and engagement practice, what hybrid inclusivity means in our museums and how to enact change so we can be the museums that our communities need.

Chair

David Anderson, Director-General, Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales

Speakers

Victoria Hollows, Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Leisure

Nat Edwards, Chief Executive, Thackray Museum of Medicine, Leeds

Catherine Hemelryk, Director, CCA Derry

**Why you need to know about NFTs**

**Room 3**

Non‐fungible tokens (NFTs) have taken off in the art world with Beeple, Damien Hirst and Jeremy Deller all selling digitally‐native original works, and now museums are in on the game with the Whitworth and the British Museum producing their own. But what implications do NFTs have for the sector? Could it mean a simpler or less dear way of expanding collections? Are they sustainable? Can cryptocurrency ever be good? Can NFTs be commissioned more easily than a physical work? Can an old master painting ever be non‐fungible? This session looks at what NFTs are, how they’ve been used and the opportunities and challenges they hold for museums.

Chair

Vid Simoniti, Director of MA Art, Aesthetics and Cultural Institutions, University of Liverpool, and BBC New Generation Thinker

Speakers

Linda Spurdle, Digital Development Manager, Birmingham Museums Trust

Frances Liddell, PhD researcher, University of Manchester

Alistair Hudson, Director, Whitworth and Manchester Art Gallery

**Collections with feelings**

**Room 11**

Museum collections are missing feelings, dreams, hope, love, hate and heartbreaks. The stories can be quite one‐sided, the objects can be dry. In this session we hear from colleagues around the world that are trying to sprinkle more feeling in museums by collecting love, breakups and dreams, but also from those that are trying to unveil and uncover stories of love from their collections. Our speakers look at how museums can open up collections to not only engage new audiences but to rethink what and how we collect. They discuss how collecting with the help of our audiences can create more emotional and relatable collections. They explore how curating more humane narratives can help improve health and wellbeing and provide inspiration and hope for the future.

Chair

Foteini Aravani, Curator, Museum of London

Speakers

Dražen Grubišić, Co-founder, Museum of Broken Relationships

Sharon Sliwinski, Creator and editor, Museum of Dreams/Professor of Information & Media Studies, Western University in Canada

Vicky Iglikowski-Broad, Principal Records Specialist – Diverse Histories, National Archives

1250-1340

**Lunch break**

1300-1345

**Transatlantic Slavery and Legacies in Museums Forum launch**

**International Slavery Museum, Royal Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AQ**

Join this session for the launch of the Transatlantic Slavery and Legacies in Museums Forum, the first national network of its kind to share current discourse and create a narrative thread to fully represent slavery and its legacies in the UK. The launch event will be an opportunity to find out more about the forum's plans and activities, and for those who might be interested, how to become a member.

Capacity is limited, so please [book your free place](https://tickets.liverpoolmuseumstickets.org.uk/webstore/shop/viewItems.aspx?CG=TSL&C=FOR) via the National Museums Liverpool website.

1340-1450

KEYNOTE

**Annual General Meeting, including Museums Change Lives Awards**

**Hall 1**

Gillian Findlay, president of the Museums Association and Acting Cultural Venues Manager at Edinburgh Museums, delivers her vision for the future of the museum sector and the MA’s role in that vision.

Museums Association Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting is an opportunity to find out more about the work of the MA in the last year and our plans for the year ahead. Hear from key board members and staff about the campaigns and activities that your professional association has undertaken as well as reviews of major projects, financial performance, membership subscriptions and a celebration of those awarded the Associateship (AMA) and the Fellowship (FMA). Non-members are welcome to attend, but only members can vote.

Museums Change Lives Awards

The Museums Change Lives awards celebrate museums and people who have made a big impact in their communities. We’ll be awarding three institutional awards (Best Museums Change Lives Project Award, Digital Engagement Award and Best Small Museum Project Award) and one individual award (Radical Changemaker Award).

1350-1420

**In Practice**

**Curating conflict**

**Room 4**

Museums are often tasked with collecting and interpreting conflicts and controversies from history and the present day. In this session, Hannah Crowdy explains how National Museums NI has approached curating conflict through an ethical lens and offers advice on how your museum can approach similar issues.

Speaker

Hannah Crowdy, Head of Curatorial, National Museums NI

**In Practice**

**Museum Ethics 101**

**Room 12**

From managing collections to working with audiences, museum workers are regularly asked to make ethical judgements in the course of their work. Find out how to navigate the rights and wrongs of museum practice and learn how you can use the Code of Ethics for Museums and the Ethics Committee to support ethical decision-making in your museum.

Speaker

Michael Terwey, Ethics Committee Chair and Head of Heritage Services and Consultancy, National Trust for Scotland

1430-1450

**Sponsor session | Desktop AR: Connecting museums with schools**

**Room 4**

**Perception Codes Ltd**

Perception and partners are set to discuss desktop-AR, a technology that enables museums and galleries to roll out their exhibits and stories to audiences worldwide. Desktop-AR offers a practical tool to digitise collections and, through semi-immersive technology, provides an unforgettable experience to museum-goers, at a fraction of the cost. Speakers will discuss the practicality of the technology, referring to the Holo-MUSEUM project with the Imperial War Museum.

Speakers

Dr Sirisilp Kongsilp, Founder and CEO, Perception Codes Ltd

John Glancy, Executive Producer for Schools and Families, Imperial War Museum

1450-1500

**Break**

1500-1530

**In Practice**

**How to create blended museum learning programmes**

**Room 4**

Following the development of online learning delivery throughout the pandemic, this session, organised by the Group for Education in Museums (GEM) and Engage, explores the potential of blended learning as an approach for museum, gallery and heritage educators in the future. This session enables participants to learn from practical examples, build ideas and approaches for new models of interactive delivery. With examples of practice from National Museums Scotland and the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, the session addresses what types of digital learning we want to continue, what the challenges are and how can we move towards a blended delivery model in the future.

Speakers

Sarah Cowie, Engagement Manager, National Museums Scotland

Vicky Sturrs, Head of Learning and Civic Engagement, Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art

Rachel Tranter, Director, GEM

**In Practice**

**Career crossroads**

**Room 12**

Thinking about your future during times of uncertainty can be hard. This session explores your wants, needs and next steps by showcasing 10 self-directed exercises to help you refine your thinking and provide you with clarity for your next chapter.

Speaker

Tamsin Russell, Workforce Development Officer, Museums Association

1500-1600

**Waiting for the Great Leap Forward – what could the post-Covid museum look like?**

**Hall 1**

If the new normal ever comes, will museums retreat to pre-pandemic ways of working or can they embrace hybrid inclusivity and embed radical new practice? At last year’s MA conference a panel of UK sector leaders discussed the future of museums in light of the pandemic, the Black Lives Matter movement and the climate crisis. The intervening 12 months have continued to be challenging for our museums and the communities we serve. This reconvened panel explores the theories and research landscape in museums and the ways in which the sector is facing contemporary challenges and how we might do more to tackle issues of social justice.

Chair

Sharon Heal, Director, Museums Association

Speakers

David Anderson, Director General, Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales

Melanie Keen, Director, Wellcome Collection

Christopher Smith, Executive Chair, Arts and Humanities Research Council

Esme Ward, Director, Manchester Museum

**The classless museum**

**Room 3**

Museum as Muck brings together leading academic voices and game-changers on socioeconomic diversity in the cultural and creative industries to discuss the provocation: “What would a classless museum look like?” This challenging session examines the barriers to overcome and asks if we are ready for a classless museum. It also offers examples of real change happening in the cultural sector, and addresses strategies to get organisation‐wide buy‐in to tackle oppressive systems within our museums. This session provides insight into the class equity journey for museums from a strategic, activist and academic perspective.

Chair

Fran Riando, Steering group member, Museum as Muck

Speakers

Neil Griffiths, Managing Director, Arts Emergency

Catriona West, Director, Powell‐Cotton Museum

Mark Taylor, Senior Lecturer, University of Sheffield

**The ethics of contemporary collecting**

**Room 11**

Recent events have led to a resurgence in contemporary collecting projects, many addressing complex and nuanced subjects. This workshop gives delegates the chance to get to grips with some of the major ethical issues, including collecting trauma; collecting safely from social justice movements; collecting in a climate emergency; collecting born‐digital ethically; and collecting hateful/harmful material. Group discussions interrogate each of these issues and are facilitated by the editors of the contemporary collecting toolkit and members of the contemporary collecting group.

Chair

Susanna Cordner, Senior Research Fellow: Archives, London College of Fashion, University of the Arts, London

Speakers

Rosamund Lily West, Curator, Kingston Museum, and Documentary Curator, London Transport Museum

Ellie Miles, Documentary Curator, London Transport Museum

1540-1600

**Sponsor session | The Liminal Space - Mindsets + Missions**

**Room 4**

Interested in taking part in conversations that will direct the future of the museum sector? Join The Liminal Space as they outline the Mindsets + Missions programme, and find out how you can input and take part.

Speaker

Sarah Douglas, Director, The Liminal Space

1600-1630

**Break**

1630-1700

**In Practice**

**Game On: Creating playful and participatory online activities**

**Room 4**

The Covid pandemic has forced museums to shift to a more active and engaging online presence. In this session, the Newark Museum of Art and Birmingham Museums Trust share how they have developed online games aimed at a younger and more diverse audience. They address the challenges and lessons, and discuss how digital technology can be used to create meaningful experiences beyond the pandemic.

Speakers

Silvia Filippini Fantoni, Deputy Director Learning & Engagement, Newark Museum of Art

Linda Spurdle, Head of Digital, Birmingham Museum Trust

**In Practice**

**Building inclusive educational resources through contemporary collecting**

**Room 12**

The Jewish Museum London showcases how it has worked collaboratively with community partners to create inclusive and representative resources for teachers and students about Judaism and the Jewish community. Learn more about its partnership approach to create anti-racism resources, including an online image library and seminar series.

Speakers

Shereen Hunte, Learning Programme Manager, Jewish Museum London

Frances Jeens, Interim Museum Director, Jewish Museum London

Kathryn Wright, CEO, Culham St Gabriel’s Trust

1630-1730

**International exchange: Reimagining the museum of the future**

**Hall 1**

Museums across the globe have had to face the unprecedented challenge of the pandemic over the past 18 months. In conversation with Elaine Heumann Gurian, a panel of international museum leaders share their experience and knowledge to suggest examples of new opportunities and advances over long-standing unresolved problems in museums today. Amidst a sea of well-meaning rhetoric about change in the sector, the panel explores where authentic examples of change give cause for optimism and how can we use these examples to multiply the museum justice we are hoping for.

Chair

Elaine Heumann Gurian, Museum Consultant

Speakers

Jette Sandahl, Chair of the European Museum Forum

Zak Mensah, Joint CEO, Birmingham Museums

Melanie Adams, Director, Anacostia Museum

Margo Neale, Head: Centre for Indigenous Knowledges, Senior Indigenous Curator and Adviser to the Director, National Museum of Australia

**Museums Save Lives**

**Room 3**

Thanks to the Covid crisis, the UK’s medical museums have never been more relevant to people’s lives. Almost literally overnight, these venues became immersed in history in the making. Whether directly serving urgently needed medical education, collecting Covid-related material, hosting public vaccination centres and clinical trials or working to create potentially life‐saving trusted information channels for anxious and sceptical communities, medical museums find themselves on a new front line. A panel drawn from medical museums who have risen to the challenge delves into how we make sense of the biggest shared story of our time, engaging the audience in a lively discussion about what we can learn from our collective experience of the pandemic – and how we can transform from Museums that Change Lives to Museums that Save Lives.

Chair

Nat Edwards, Chief Executive, Thackray Museum of Medicine, Leeds

Speakers

Caroline Hamson, Heritage Manager, Anaesthesia Museum, London

Dean Paton, Chief Executive, Big Heritage

Frances Reed, Events and Exhibitions Coordinator, Royal College of Nursing Library and Heritage Centre

**Where does it hurt? Exploring workforce wellbeing**

**Room 11**

The world in which we live is dynamic, but the last 18 months have seen change, challenges and catastrophe at a pace that many of us have not experienced in our lifetime due to the impact of the pandemic, the climate crisis and movements such as Black Lives Matter. These have raised big questions of ourselves, others and society as a whole. The role museums play within this is huge and, in this session, we will hear from different experiences and perspectives that have workforce wellbeing at their heart.

Chair

Dianna Djokey, Communities Curator, John Hansard Gallery

Speakers

Tamsin Russell, Workforce Development Officer, Museums Association

Victoria Ryves, History, Health and Happiness Manager, Doncaster Museums

1730-1740

**Break**

1740-1830

**Keynote: Kehinde Andrews**

**Hall 1**

Kehinde Andrews, a professor of Black Studies at Birmingham City University, will give a keynote addressing decolonisation and anti-racism in museums. His latest book is The New Age of Empire: How Racism and Colonialism Still Rule World. He has also written Black to Black: Retelling Black Radicalism for the 21st Century and Resisting Racism: Race, Inequality and the Black Supplementary School Movement. Kehinde is editor of the Blackness in Britain book series with Bloomsbury. He has written opinion pieces for a wide range of organisations including the Guardian, Independent, Washington Post and CNN. He is the founder of the [Harambee Organisation of Black Unity](http://www.blackunity.org.uk/) and is the editor-in-chief of [Make it Plain](https://make-it-plain.org/), the online editorial wing of Harambee.

1900-2100

**Conference party**

Museum of Liverpool

Museum of Liverpool, Pier Head, Liverpool Waterfront, Liverpool L3 1DG

Join us at the Museum of Liverpool for our main conference party. Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, this magnificent waterfront museum offers a chance to explore the city’s diverse history. You’ll also have the opportunity to explore the brand new mobile museum, House of Memories on the Road – the latest part of National Museums Liverpool’s Museums Change Lives Award-winning programme for elders and people living with dementia. Masks are not required at the party but we kindly request that they are worn inside the exhibition spaces unless exempt.

**TUESDAY 9 NOVEMBER**

0900-0920

**Conference introduction**

**Hall 1**

Hear from our hosts about what to expect over the next couple of days and how to make the most of your time at conference.

Sahar Beyad is PR & Communications Officer at National Museums Liverpool. She has been at the organisation for just over two years, having joined from the National Portrait Gallery in London. Now in her third year within the museum sector, this will be Sahar’s first Museums Association conference.

Ruben Doyle is undertaking a Kickstart placement with National Museums Liverpool as a Historic Photographs Assistant. He has been working on researching, cataloguing and conserving the extensive Stewart Bale photographic collection. This is Ruben’s first Museums Association conference.

Laura Pye has been the Director of National Museums Liverpool since 2018. Before this she was the Head of Culture in Bristol, with responsibility for the five museums in the city. Laura was born in Liverpool and started her career in museum education.

Speakers

Sahar Beyad, PR & Communications Officer, National Museums Liverpool

Ruben Doyle, Historic Photographs Assistant, National Museums Liverpool

Laura Pye, Director, National Museum Liverpool

0920-1010

**Keynote: Kevin Young and Malik Al Nasir**

**Hall 1**

Kevin Young, the Andrew W. Mellon Director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture, shares his vision for the future of this landmark museum.

Young, an accomplished poet and writer who follows in the footsteps of the museum’s first director, Lonnie Bunch, discusses how he will build on the impact that the Washington DC venue has made since opening in 2016.

“I look forward to directing the National Museum of African American History and Culture in this next phase of leadership, after its founding, opening and dynamic exhibitions and events,” Young said when he joined the Smithsonian in 2020. “Having visited the museum myself with my family, I know what a powerful place it is, transforming visitors both in-person and online, and revealing the centrality of African American culture to the American experience. I am eager to engage further directions in the museum’s mission, embracing our digital present and future while furthering conversations around Black history, art, liberation and joy.”

Young joined the Smithsonian from the New York Public Library’s Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, where he was the director for five years. He began his career in museums and archives at Emory University in 2005, first as the Curator of the Raymond Danowski Poetry Library and later as the Curator of Literary Collections, while serving as Candler Professor of English and Creative Writing.

Young, an award-winning author of 14 books of poetry and prose, holds a Bachelor of Arts from Harvard College and a Master of Fine Arts in poetry from Brown University. He has held a Stegner Fellowship in Poetry at Stanford, a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, and a NEA fellowship. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Society of American Historians, and was named a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets in 2020.

NOTE: Kevin Young will be pre-recording his keynote address.

Malik Al Nasir is an author, performance poet and filmmaker from Liverpool. He was born in Toxteth in the mid-1960s and grew up facing a range of hardships that saw him enter the care system in the 1970s.

A chance encounter with the musician, poet and civil rights activist Gil Scott-Heron changed Malik’s life. At the time he was a traumatised and semi-literate street kid, but Gil took him under his wing and mentored him through to a master’s degree.

Malik’s body of work from that time, entitled Ordinary Guy, was published in 2004 under his former name, Mark T Watson, and is dedicated to Gil Scott-Heron. It features a foreword by Jalal Nuriddin, from hip hop pioneers The Last Poets, who introduced him to Islam and named him Malik.

Malik has produced and appeared in several documentaries with Gil Scott-Heron, The Last Poets, Benjamin Zephaniah, Public Enemy and many other spoken-word luminaries.

His book about his remarkable relationship with Gil Scott-Heron and his traumatic childhood in the care system, Letters to Gil, has just been published by HarperCollins. Malik started tracing his roots back through slavery over 15 years ago and has made some remarkable discoveries. His next book covers his investigation of his ancestral links to the slave plantations of Demerara, Guyana, the same subject as his PhD, which he started at the University of Cambridge in 2020.

1010-1040

**Break**

1040-1110

**In Practice**

**Your new audience engagement plan**

**Room 4**

The 21st-Century Visitor Attractions programme supported five museums through a 12‐week journey examining how to foster real change and develop meaningful audience engagement strategies. This session, aimed at smaller museums with limited audience research, examines what being vision‐led and audience‐focused truly means – and supports you to create your own strategy.

Speakers

Guy Turton, Director, Morris Hargreaves McIntyre

Sian Booth, Cultural Services Manager, Mansfield District Council

**In Practice**

**Meaningful ways to measure digital impact**

**Room 12**

In 2017, the Museums Association produced a toolkit for measuring socially engaged practice, encouraging the sector to think more deeply about evidencing how their museum is changing lives. Over the past 18 months, the sector has rapidly adapted many of its engagement approaches to online audiences – but have we adapted our evaluation to match? In this session we explore some ways museums can show more than just the log-on figures of their online engagement and discuss why it’s important we do this.

Speaker

Sarah Briggs, Collections Development Officer, Museums Association

1040-1140

**In + Visible**

**Hall 1**

Last year marked the 25th anniversary of the Disability Discrimination Act which made it illegal for employers and service providers to discriminate against someone on the basis of disability; and yet disabled people are still chronically under-represented in the museum workforce, on boards and in our audiences. Although a growing number of museums across the UK have sought to tell stories linked to disability through their collections and displays, the lives, contributions and perspectives of disabled people are still under-represented across the sector. As a side effect of the pandemic, we have seen a shift towards flexible working patterns and a growth in online events – changes that have highlighted the potential for museums to be more accessible as both employers and as public spaces – but there is mounting concern that these gains are temporary and that more radical change is needed. This session will bring together a panel of experts to explore what needs to be done to create genuine and lasting equity for disabled staff and audiences.

Chair

Tony Heaton, Consultant

Speakers

Teresa Cisneros, Inclusive Practice Lead, Wellcome Collection

Esther Fox, Head, Accentuate UK

Liz Johnson, Director, Museums and Cultural Property, Arts Council England

**Community‐led recovery in Australian museums**

**Room 3**

‘You came to our country and didn’t turn black’ references those who came to Australia but did not observe the laws of the land and turn “black”, or turn back, when they found the land occupied. In Australia, Aboriginal communities from remote regions survived the pandemic without incident. Why? Because they retreated to the safety net of Country and reconnected with age‐old values about how to care for Country and each other, in concert with nature. These teachings are explored in the ground breaking, community‐led exhibition Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters which, after breaking records at the National Museum Australia and the new Western Australian Museum Boola Bardip, goes global in 2021. It erects new structures demonstrating how museums can thrive by fusing ancient sagas and augmented reality through transformational digital experiences to create a brave new world where indigenous cultural values occupy museums.

Chair

Alec Coles, Chief Executive Officer, Western Australian Museum

Speakers

Nigel Hurst, Contemporary Arts Consultant, The Box, Plymouth

Margo Neale, Head: Centre for Indigenous Knowledges, Senior Indigenous Curator and Adviser to the Director, National Museum of Australia

**Contemporary artists and decolonising European narratives**

**Room 11**

Three international artists talk about their work and how they present ideas of decolonisation and why museums should remain at arm's length. Lisa Reihana discusses her experiences of working with museums willing to share power and the cultural impact her video work *in Pursuit of Venus [infected]* has had on collections. Rosanna Raymond will explore the *performative body* based on the Samoan concept of vā (reciprocal and sustained relational space) to develop tools for current museum practice related to the Moana Pacific. It focuses mainly on the museum practice of *conservation* and puts Moana Indigenous ontologies, epistemologies, and methodologies at the centre of creative research. Barby Asante speaks about her work concerning the politics of place, space memory, and colonialism's histories and legacies.

Chair

Paula Orrell, National Director, England, Contemporary Visual Art Network

Speakers

Barby Asante, Artist, curator, educator and occasional DJ

Rosanna Raymond, Artist

Lisa Reihana, Multi-disciplinary artist

1120-1140

**Sponsor session | The importance of artefact and heritage preservation**

**DeepStore**

**Room 12**

This presentation is by DeepStore: a partner for providing secure, regulated and specialist heritage/artefact storage. It will cover a range of considerations including: appreciation of funding difficulties museums are experiencing; the need for museums to be able to trust in the preservation of material and have clear lines of accessibility and audit​; reopening of the world – what schools and public visiting museums again means for preservation; museum space problems, such as having to  store in basements, the associated costs, and issues of storage areas that are not fit for purpose​; and museum refurbishments.

Speaker

Chris Heywood, Commercial Director, DeepStore

1140-1150

**Break**

1150-1220

**In Practice**

**Climate Beacons: Developing lasting public engagement with climate change**

**Room 4**

Developed to coincide with the Cop26 climate change conference in Glasgow, Climate Beacons pairs organisations in the arts, culture, heritage, climate science, policy, the public sector, and civil society to develop lasting public engagement with climate change. This session offers you highlights of what they have created and discusses the legacy of this work.

Speakers

Rachael Rowley, Head of Resources, Museums Galleries Scotland

Lewis Coenen-Rowe, culture/SHIFT officer, Creative Carbon Scotland

Sadie Young, Director, Timespan

Victoria Robb, Education Manager, National Mining Museum Scotland

**In Practice**

**Decolonising museums**

**Room 12**

In 2019 the Museums Association established a Decolonisation Guidance Working Group to produce advice for the sector on how to bring decolonising into all areas of museum practice in the UK. In this session, we share the steps we can take as practitioners and organisations in decolonising museum practice.

Speakers

Antonia Canal, Policy and Campaigns Officer, Museums Association

2nd Speaker TBC

1150-1250

**We are all complicit in systemic oppression: What can a museum worker do?**

**Hall 1**

Teresa Cisneros and Selene Burn from the Wellcome Collection share their experiences of working to achieve the organisation’s commitment to embed access, diversity and inclusion across the museum. They focus on enabling staff to learn to become more inclusive and to embed a critically reflective practice by creating opportunities for everyone to develop a deep understanding of access, diversity and inclusion. They share what it is like to work in this way with a specific focus on the Social Justice Curriculum, a significant personal, professional and collective mandatory learning journey for staff, with modules focusing on anti‐racism and anti‐ableism developed with external professionals.

Chair

Natasha Trotman, Equalities Designer, Researcher and Lecturer

Speakers

Selene Burn, Access Lead, Wellcome Collection

Teresa Cisneros, Inclusive Practice Lead, Wellcome Collection

**Covid-19 as a catalyst for change**

**Room 3**

This session brings together a mix of public and independent funders to explore their responses to funding museums and cultural institutions during the Covid‐19 pandemic. They reflect on whether creativity, resourcefulness and responsiveness drove their thinking at the time and what they might do differently now with the benefit of hindsight. Panellists consider what more must be done on the road to recovery and renewal, and share what they are prioritising now as part of their response to this brave new world.

Chair

Virginia Tandy, Arts and Heritage Consultant and Director of CADA the Creative Ageing Development Agency

Speakers

Dorothée Irving, Head of Grants, John Ellerman Foundation

Sarah Philp, Director of Programme and Policy, Art Fund

Gillian Simison, Grants Development Manager, Museums Galleries Scotland

**Brave New World? When cars are burning on your street, what use are museums?**

**Room 11**

This session was proposed at a time of rioting in Northern Ireland, with the events blamed on the “perfect storm” of Brexit, Covid-19 and boredom. It seemed that the country was retreating to its politically vulnerable and tribal pasts, with four nights of civil unrest demonstrating the fragility of the peace process and fear of what the coming months and years could hold. In order to resist such a breakdown, once again every sector needs to pull together with the shared goal of building a resilient society that can navigate challenge peacefully. This session brings together the perspectives of three local councillors representing different political parties, each with an interest in museums, to consider the purpose, value and contribution of museums, with a particular focus on identity issues that challenge and lead to conflict between communities.

Chair

Elizabeth Crooke, Professor Heritage and Museum Studies, Ulster University

Speakers

Yvonne Boyle, Alliance Party and Alderman of Causeway Coast and Glens District Council

Rory Farrell, Social Democratic Labour Party and Councillor Derry City and Strabane District Council

Keith Turner, Ulster Unionist and Councillor Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

1230-1250

**Sponsor session | Automating collections management workflows**

**Axiell**

**Room 12**

Learn how to do more with less by automating collections management processes for efficiency and consistency. Axiell’s new workflow engine handles administrative tasks to give museum, archive and library staff more time to focus on their areas of expertise. Join us to find out how Axiell Flow can help you!

Speaker

Malcolm Howitt, VP Sales, Axiell

1250-1350

**Lunch break**

**Speed mentoring**

**Room 14**

An opportunity to connect with a range of museum leaders at a speed mentoring session, with short 1:1 sessions that focus on a particular issue, need or question that the participant may have. This is run by Women Leaders in Museums, there will be representatives from across the UK who bring a wealth of experience. Anyone in the sector at all stages of their career are welcome.

1350-1420

**In Practice**

**Connecting with audiences via digital tours**

**Room 4**

In March 2020, the National trust for Scotland and YourTour collaborated to create a 360 video ‘VirtualVisit’ of Culloden battlefield – with surprising results and applications. Join the partners for a frank discussion about the project, its metrics and the lessons learned.

Speakers

Raoul Curtis-Machin, Operations Manager, Culloden Battlefield

Brett Harding, CEO, YourTour

**In Practice**

**Workforce wellbeing**

**Room 12**

Wellbeing can be both individual and collective. This session explores key triggers that may affect wellbeing and shares some of the ways to take control or minimise the impacts.

Speaker

Tamsin Russell, Workforce Development Officer, Museums Association

1350-1450

KEYNOTE PANEL

**From words to action: Museums and anti-racism**

**Hall 1**

The tumultuous events that followed the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May 2020 shone a bright light on all forms of racism and anti-Blackness and the relationship between Western museum collections and colonialism. In the aftermath, many museums in the UK issued statements of solidarity and committed to anti-racism activity. Culture& and the Museums Association bring together a panel of experts to reflect on what happened last year and to explore what museums need to do next to address diversity in their workforce, collections and public programmes.

Chair

Sara Wajid, Joint CEO, Birmingham Museums Trust

Speakers

Nasir Adam, Black History Curator, Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales

Errol Francis, Artistic Director and CEO, Culture&

Miles Greenwood, Curator (Legacies of Slavery & Empire), Glasgow Life

1430-1450
 **In Practice**

**Discovering the AMA**

**Room 12**

Professional development ensures that we remain up-to-date and contributing to the sector, as well as (for some) helping us to realise our career ambitions. The AMA programme develops well-rounded museum professionals through bbvcmentoring, peer support and opportunities for critical reflection and thinking. In this session, discover what you can expect from the programme and hear about the benefits.

Speaker

Tamsin Russell, Workforce Development Officer, Museums Association

**Sponsor session | Using photogrammetry and 3D models to enhance your museum’s digital experience**

**Purpose 3D**

**Room 4**

Purpose 3D specialise in the creation of digital 3D models of historical clothing. Adam will talk you through how Purpose work with museums to digitise your archive and present in an innovative way to your customers. He also shows examples (video) of working with UK museums.

Speaker

Adam Tindall, Commercial Director, Purpose 3D Ltd

1450-1500

**Break**

1500-1530

**In Practice**

**Creating and sustaining equitable partnerships**

**Room 4**

How can museums and galleries develop lasting, equitable partnerships, creating real change with communities, impacting on people’s lives for the better? Consultant Mark O’Neill starts this session with a call for a strategic approach to explore the potential for engagement work to democratise museums and reduce inequalities in museum attendance. The London Museum of Water and Steam and Ty Pawb in Wrexham then demonstrate how community participation can be achieved, sharing the challenges as well as opportunities of working towards long-term equitable relationships with communities.

Chair

Jane Sillis, Director, Engage

Speakers

Mark O’Neill, Museum Consultant

Liz Power, Director, London Museum of Water and Steam

Jo Marsh, Creative Director, Ty Pawb

1500-1600

**Sponsor session | Art That Made Us Festival**

**BBC**

**Room 12**

In February 2022 to coincide with the broadcast of a major BBC Two series the BBC along with museums, galleries, archives and libraries are holding a 10-day festival to celebrate the amazing creativity housed in our cultural organisations throughout the country. The aim is to showcase events based around museum collections in a celebration of creativity. It will be an opportunity to spotlight some of the treasures in your collections and remind the public that art and creativity are at the heart of all our lives. Come and hear from the programme makers and festival producers about how your organisation can get involved.

Speakers

Joey Amoah, BBC R&D

Russell Barnes, Executive Producer, Art That Made Us, BBC Arts

Mary Sackville-West, Producer, Art That Made Us Festival, BBC Arts

1500-1600

**Disposal is not a dirty word**

**Hall 1**

Covid-19 has reframed how we think about and work with collections and communities. A lack of physical access has been countered with creative and innovative digital use of collections. And museums across the UK want to collect what is happening now, not just to record the pandemic, but to better represent society. However, full museum stores and poorly understood collections could put this work at risk. There is also an urgent need to work on both environmental and economic sustainability. In this context it is vital that disposal becomes a normal part of dynamic collections management. So, what’s stopping us? This session explores some of the psychological and practical barriers to disposal and provides solutions for dealing with the D word.

Chair

Michael Terwey, Ethics Committee Chair and Head of Heritage Services and Consultancy, National Trust for Scotland

Speakers

Sarah Briggs, Collections Development Officer, Museums Association

Hannah Crowdy, Head of Curatorial, National Museums NI

Jack Kirby, Associate Director of Collection Services, Science Museum Group

**Swiping right: Finding and maintaining lasting partnerships**

**Room 3**

What do you look for in your partners and why are they interested in you? Strong partnerships make for sustainable organisations – especially post‐pandemic. The more we understand our partner’s needs, the better our chance of success. Since 2018, the team at the UK’s children’s museum Eureka! has been developing a new science and discovery attraction for 8–14‐year‐olds opening in Mersey Ferry’s Seacombe Terminal in 2022. Throughout, we have been building three‐way partnerships between our experts in playful learning; children and young people; and partners working in STE(A)M – science, technology, engineering, arts and maths – from multi‐national corporations to universities and local businesses. When three partners recognise their mutual needs, we build a stronger, more resilient future for everyone involved. Inspired by the world of online dating, this session guides delegates through the stages of finding partners, first dates and keeping things fresh.

Speakers

Jael Williams, Deputy Director, MB Associates

Lucy Harland, Director, Lucidity Media

Liz Peniston, Content and Experience Director, Eureka!

**The shifting landscape of curation and engagement**

**Room 11**

Being a curator is no longer a linear profession, it has become a loaded word with multifaceted meanings. In this session, we discuss the landscape of curation, and how engagement and activism are now at the forefront, of what it means to be a curator in society today.

Chair

Dianna Djokey, Communities Curator, John Hansard Gallery

Speakers

Letty Clarke, Curator of Public Programmes, Artes Mundi

Ashara S Ekundayo, Creator, Curator, Cultural Strategist/CEO, AECreative Consulting Partners

Péjú Oshin, Curator, Tate/Lecturer

1600-1630

**Break**

1630-1700

**In Practice**

**Participation post-Covid: What do audiences really want?**

**Room 4**

This session shares insights from two pieces of research from the Audience Agency into how audiences engaged during the Covid pandemic – and their intentions for visiting museums in the future. Discover how museums and galleries can use these insights into audience behaviour for future planning in the new post‐pandemic world and gaining a deeper understanding of the importance of audience data.

Speakers

Anne Torreggiani, Chief Executive Officer, The Audience Agency

**In Practice**

**Embedding anti-racism in cultural arts organisations**

**Room 12**

2020 saw an urgent focus on anti-racism across society. Many museums responded to this call for change, but it remains vital that organisations take sustained action for anti-racism. In this session, Laurent John and Natalya Best-Forbes (Co-Chairs of the Anti-Racism Task Force) share their experience leading change as part of the Somerset House Anti-Racism Task Force.

Speakers

Laurent John, Studios Coordinator, Somerset House

Natalya Best-Forbes, Inclusive Talent Programmes Manager, Somerset House

1630-1730

**Building community engagement through outdoor spaces**

**Hall 1**

This session explores how museums can use their public outdoor spaces to actively engage in and help build community. Melanie Adams, director of the Anacostia Museum, the community museum that is part of the Smithsonian, discusses how she converted her exhibition on Black "Men of Change" to an outdoor exhibition because the museum was closed. Dianna Djokey shares her experience of working as the project manager on Safe Spaces Soton, a scheme to reclaim unused spaces in Southampton as part of her role at the city’s John Hansard Gallery. This new initiative seeks to encourage the reactivation and rehumanisation of seemingly forgotten ‘in-between’ areas. Tricia Austin, the former head of the Narrative Experience course at Central St Martins, has extensive knowledge of creating outdoor art spaces in public areas that build community as a process and an outcome.

Chair

Dianna Djokey, Communities Curator, John Hansard Gallery

Speakers

Melanie Adams, Director, Anacostia Museum

Tricia Austin, Academic, Design Consultant and Author

Matt Turtle, Co-founder, Museum of Homelessness

Jess Turtle, Co-founder, Museum of Homelessness

**Museum ethics in a changing world**

**Room 3**

For decades, the Code of Ethics for museums has been a core document that underpins ethical good practice in the sector. But in a fast-changing world, can the code and the Museums Association’s Ethics Committee respond effectively to the ethical challenges of the present? In this session, members of the Ethics Committee consider if and how our sector’s approach to ethics needs to change in light of major current ethical issues such as restitution, disposal, and independent decision making.

Chair

Michael Terwey, Ethics Committee Chair and Head of Heritage Services and Consultancy, National Trust for Scotland

Speakers

Neil Curtis, Head of Museums and Special Collections, University of Aberdeen

Victoria Hollows, Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Leisure

Chanté St Clair Inglis, Head of Collections Services, National Museums Scotland

**Back to the Future of workforce**

**Room 11**

In this session we look back at the impact and legacy of Covid-19 on the workforce and look to see how we can apply this learning for the future benefit of the sector – workforce, collections, and the communities we serve. Hearing from leaders in the fields of front of house and inclusion, we explore what we need to hold on to build improvement back into the sector for sustained and embedded change. We tackle the following questions:

* What good practice evolved as a function of lockdown?
* How is this a benefit to the sector?
* What would you say to organisations in terms of their next steps?

Chair

Tamsin Russell, Workforce Development Officer, Museums Association

Speakers

Esther Fox, Head of Accentuate Programme, Screen South

Mendi Cogle Wingfield, Engagement Officer, National Gallery of Art, Washington

Will Tregaskes, Museum Manager, Cynon Valley Museum

1710-1730

**Sponsor session | How Art Fund can help you engage new audiences**

**Room 4**

Find out how Art Fund can help your museum engage with new audiences, get to know your existing audiences better and plan for the future. This session will provide an overview of Art Fund’s marketing support, products and funding streams.

Speaker

Merrin Kalinowski, Museum Marketing Relationship Manager, Art Fund

1730-1740

**Break**

1740-1830

KEYNOTE PANEL

**Reimagining museums for climate action**

**Hall 1**

Museums have been grappling with their climate and environmental responsibilities for years. But with Cop26 taking place in the UK this year and the problem growing ever more urgent, what is the role for the museums sector? What interventions make a positive contribution? And how can museums learn from other sectors to reduce their own environmental impact while mobilising communities to take action? This session hears from the Museum for Climate Action project as they take their work to Cop26.

Chairs

Rodney Harrison, Professor of Heritage Studies, UCL

Henry McGhie, Founder, Curating Tomorrow

Speakers

Walter Francisco Figueiredo Lowande, Adjunct Professor of History, Universidade Federal de Alfenas, Brazil

Miranda Massie, Director, Climate Museum, New York

João Francisco Vitório Rodrigues, Vice-Director, Museum of Memory and Heritage, Universidade Federal de Alfenas, Brazil

Emma Woodham, Climate Change Programme Manager, Glasgow Science Centre

Colin Sterling, Assistant Professor of Memory and Museums, University of Amsterdam

1845-2045

**Closing party**

Walker Art Gallery

Walker Art Gallery, William Brown St, Liverpool L3 8EL

Celebrate the end of your time at this year’s conference by socialising with sector colleagues at the Walker Art Gallery, surrounded by beautiful paintings, sculpture and decorative art from the 13th century to the present day.

**Wednesday 10 November**

**Museum tours**

**Digital content from our tour partners**

**Bluecoat contemporary arts centre**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lp8hKbnt82c>

A video introduction to the Bluecoat contemporary arts centre, its architecture, and how it ties into the history of Liverpool. Narrated by Bryan Biggs, the director of cultural legacies (19.09 mins, subtitled).

**House of Memories, National Museums Liverpool**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAnp4wxkiPQ>

A video introduction to House of Memories, an immersive museum-cinema on the road, run by National Museums Liverpool (2.02 mins, subtitled).

**New waterfront transformation project, overseen by National Museums Liverpool**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpgr2qAp1dM>

The Waterfront Transformation project is a new redevelopment of Liverpool's waterfront, which is being overseen by National Museums Liverpool and an internationally-renowned team of architects and designers. This video walks you through the concept so far (2.02 mins, subtitled).

**International Slavery Museum, NML, Mythbusting slavery**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6r782KAMLg>

Jean Francois Manicom, curator at the International Slavery Museum, mythbusts slavery (2.16 mins, subtitled).

**International Slavery Museum, NML, Slave collar in focus**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oa2cV6xccz0>

Adam, on the education team at the International Slavery Museum, looks at an enslaved person's punishment collar (1.04 mins, subtitled).

1000

**Bluecoat Display Centre**

**Bluecoat Display Centre, The Bluecoat, College Lane Entrance, Liverpool L1 3BZ**

Join the Bluecoat Display Centre for a tour of its autumn exhibition, Halima Cassell and Emma Rodgers. Bringing together two of the most accomplished women sculptors from the north west in a joint exhibition for the first time, it is part of a series of curated displays highlighting the diverse, emerging and established makers working in studios across the region during 2021, the Crafts Council’s 50th anniversary year. Please note the main Bluecoat building will be closed at this time so delegates should arrive at the College Lane entrance gate to the Bluecoat Display Centre on the Liverpool One side of the building. We kindly ask delegates to wear a mask during the tours unless exempt. Tours are limited to 20 delegates each on a first come, first served basis.

1000

**Liverpool Cathedral**

**Liverpool Cathedral, St James’ Mount, Liverpool L1 7AZ**

At the end of the 19th century, Liverpool was humming and the city decided to pay tribute to this success by building England’s largest cathedral. It was built by the people, for the people, and designed by British architect Giles Gilbert-Scott (of iconic red telephone box fame). Building began in 1904 and was only completed in 1978, remaining faithful to Scott’s design (he died before it was completed). The cathedral has become one of Liverpool’s most treasured architectural gems and is Grade I listed. When you visit, join one of the cathedral’s guides telling the story of this awesome and intimate place. We kindly ask delegates to wear a mask during the tours unless exempt. Tours are limited to 20 delegates each on a first come, first served basis.

1100

**Bluecoat contemporary arts centre**

**Bluecoat, School Lane, Liverpool L1 3BX**

Housed in a 300-year-old building, Bluecoat became the UK’s first arts centre, constituted in 1927. Its director of cultural legacies, Bryan Biggs, leads these tours of the venue, revealing a rich history that takes in an eclectic mix of artists including Pablo Picasso, Yoko Ono, the composer Igor Stravinsky and the musician and artist Captain Beefheart. There is a visit to an exhibition by Rosa-Johan Uddoh and Deborah Roberts, and an introduction to Bluecoat’s arts/heritage participation project Echoes and Origins, which interrogates the former charity school building’s narratives of colonial legacies and looked-after children. There will be a Q&A after each tour. We kindly ask delegates to wear a mask during the tours unless exempt. Tours are limited to 20 delegates each on a first come, first served basis.

1100

**International Slavery Museum (slot 1)**

**International Slavery Museum, Royal Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AQ**

A curator-led tour of National Museum Liverpool’s groundbreaking International Slavery Museum, which covers the historical transatlantic slave trade as well as various contemporary forms of slavery. We kindly ask delegates to wear a mask during the tours unless exempt. Tours are limited to 20 delegates each on a first come, first served basis.

1100

**Wondrous Place Gallery, Museum of Liverpool**

**Museum of Liverpool, Pier Head, Liverpool L3 1DG**

This is your chance to hear about the development of the Wondrous Place gallery at the Museum of Liverpool, which reopens to the public in late November after a big revamp. The gallery will explore the city’s staggering roll call of entertainers, writers, poets, performers, musicians, visual artists, comedians and sportspeople. We kindly ask delegates to wear a mask during the tours unless exempt. Tours are limited to 20 delegates each on a first come, first served basis.

1200

**Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral**

**Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, Cathedral House, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5TQ**

The Reverend Paul Mannings invites you to share some time with him at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral. What is the cathedral’s history in terms of the story of a community that strove to erect an act of living witness to its faith? How can the design be interpreted through signs, symbols and images? What place does it have within a vibrant city-centre community made up of many faiths, religions and world views? Join us on our tour as we explore these questions and more. Furthermore we invite you to spend some personal space to listen, reflect and to raise any questions of your own. A warm welcome awaits at this striking structure, designed by English architect Edwin Lutyens. We kindly ask delegates to wear a mask during the tours unless exempt. Tours are limited to 20 delegates each on a first come, first served basis.

1200

**FACT**

**FACT, 88 Wood Street, Liverpool L1 4DQ**

Open since 2003, FACT multimedia arts space has two art galleries, three cinemas, a media and events space, a lab for learning and experimentation, a café and a bar. The award-winning building is hosting Radical Ancestry, a year-long exploration into the sense of belonging. In the aftermath of a global pandemic, we are more aware of how technology has changed how we think about ourselves, the people around us, and the places we call home. History, geography, biology and culture all form part of our ancestral story, but how does technology help us to explore new ways of thinking and experiment with who we are? This tour takes in the programme of exhibitions, projects, residencies and events, bringing together artists, activists, young people and local communities to change previous narratives and move towards a more inclusive understanding of what it means to belong. We kindly ask delegates to wear a mask during the tours unless exempt. Tours are limited to 20 delegates each on a first come, first served basis.

1400

**Aquarium, World Museum**

**World Museum, William Brown St, Liverpool L3 8EN**

Take a dive into the World Museum’s new deep-blue aquarium, with bigger tanks, new species, immersive projections – and Polpo the Octopus. This guided tour will take delegates behind-the-scenes to the back rooms of the Aquarium to discover more about its redevelopment and how it operates, as well as seeing some of its star inhabitants up close. We kindly ask delegates to wear a mask during the tours unless exempt. Tours are limited to 20 delegates each on a first come, first served basis.

1400

**International Slavery Museum (slot 2)**

**International Slavery Museum, Royal Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AQ**

A curator-led tour of National Museum Liverpool’s groundbreaking [International Slavery Museum](https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/international-slavery-museum), which covers the historical transatlantic slave trade as well as various contemporary forms of slavery. We kindly ask delegates to wear a mask during the tours unless exempt. Tours are limited to 20 delegates each on a first come, first served basis.