

News Release

Monday 11 November 2013

£5m of great news for museums, libraries and archives

HLF's strategic collecting programme back by popular demand

Today, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) is announcing an investment of £5m which aims to make a real difference in helping the UK's museums, libraries and archives develop their collections.

This initiative – *Collecting Cultures* - builds on the achievements of the original *Collecting Cultures* programme which ran six years ago following extensive consultation with a wide range of museums, libraries and archives. Grants of between £50,000 and £500,000 will be available for developing collections over time through targeted purchases with an emphasis on enhancing knowledge, skills and public engagement.

Fiona Talbott, HLF Head of Museums, Libraries and Archives, said:

“*Collecting Cultures* has been part of an on-going dialogue and commitment about how the Heritage Lottery Fund can best help museums, libraries and archives to secure acquisitions and build-up curatorial knowledge for the future. We're delighted to have had such a positive response to this area of our funding and to be offering further opportunities to foster a true culture of collecting.

“HLF's *Collecting Cultures* was a ground-breaking scheme when it was launched in 2007. It enabled applicants for the first time to purchase what they needed to develop collections strategically. Initially designed for museums, *Collecting Cultures* is back and has been extended to include archives and libraries.”

The programme has three aims: to develop collections through acquisitions; to encourage a culture of collecting through research and increased curatorial skills; and to create greater public engagement with collections. It has a requirement to spend at least 50% of the grant on purchases. One innovative feature is that applicants will have a sum of money in advance so that they can collect as and when the opportunity arises. They will not need permission to buy individual items and so will be able to move faster on potential purchases.

Collecting Culture applications must be received by 2 May 2014 for decisions in September 2014. An online application pack is available at: www.hlf.org.uk/collecting

Success stories from the first *Collecting Cultures* programme include:

- The Jurassic Coast Museums Partnership in Dorset purchased a number of fossils, including a Jurassic Turtle - “one of the most important fossils in the world” - from the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site;
- The National Museums Northern Ireland added to their current collections on *HMS Titanic* and the White Star Line. This enabled them to tell the personal stories of survivors in connection to last year's centenary.

- The Museum of English Rural Life in Reading acquired over four hundred objects reflecting post-war rural England including: Glastonbury Festival programmes; Corgi toys; Arts & Crafts furniture; and a Series 1 Land Rover.
- London's Garden History Museum collected nearly 80 works of art illustrating aspects of gardens and gardening. Items included pictures by the photographer Martin Parr, prints by Anthony Gross and Harold Gilman's *Portrait of a Black Gardener*.

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- Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) aims to make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities across the UK and help build a resilient heritage economy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported 35,000 projects with £5.6bn across the UK. www.hlf.org.uk.

Further information

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