Annual Review

2025/26



Leeds Museums & Galleries

Quarterly Report



2025/26 Q1

Leeds Museums & Galleries

Q1 2025/26

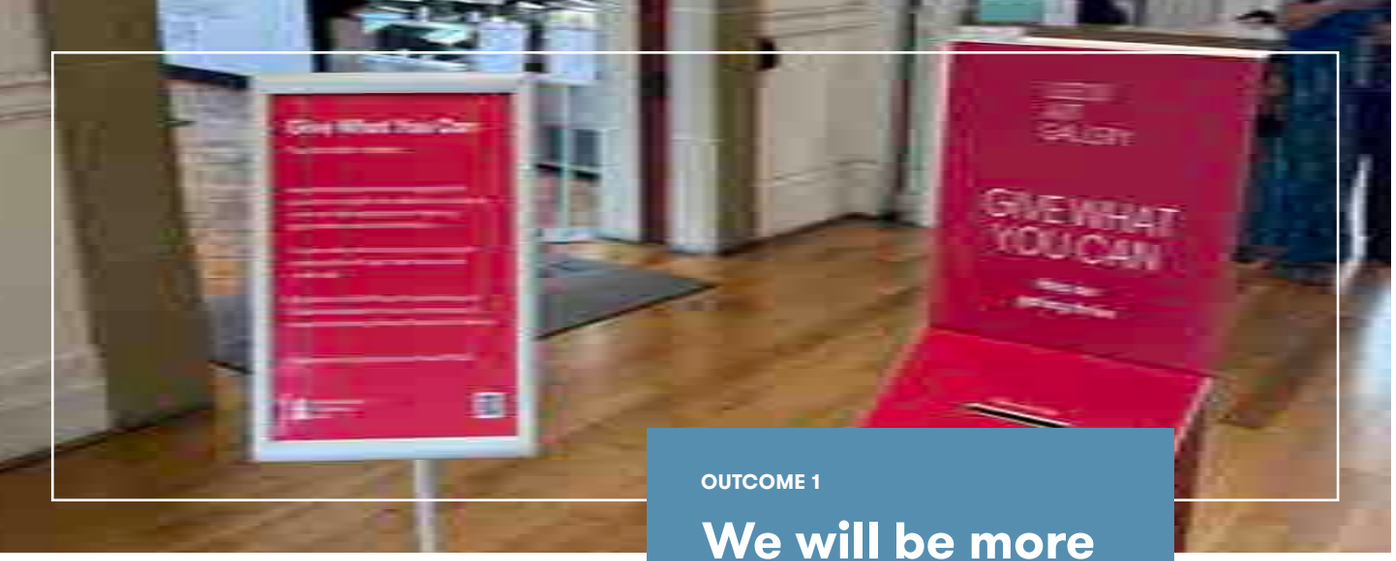
This document celebrates achievements and summarises key activity from Leeds Museum & Galleries (LMG) over the period April to June 2025.

It is structured in line with our 5-year strategy **Deepening Connections, Widening Impact**, which has been developed with colleagues, partners and Arts Council England's core investment principles in mind. Throughout the document where activity and achievements meet Arts Council England Investment Principles they are referenced under each heading in order to report progress for our National Portfolio Organisation status.

Data comparisons are made with the same period of the previous year unless otherwise stated.

Leeds Museums & Galleries' Strategic Outcomes

1. We will be more sustainable and responsible, financially and environmentally
2. We will provide higher quality audience engagement and experiences, both physically and digitally
3. We will continue to be a leader in collaborative, sustainable, accessible cultural learning and creative skills development
4. We will have an audience and workforce that is representative and reflective of the city
5. We will have collections and heritage assets that are better known, better understood, and better cared for
6. We will have international reputation and reach



OUTCOME 1

We will be more sustainable and responsible, financially and environmentally

ACE IP MET
Dynamism
Environmental Responsibility

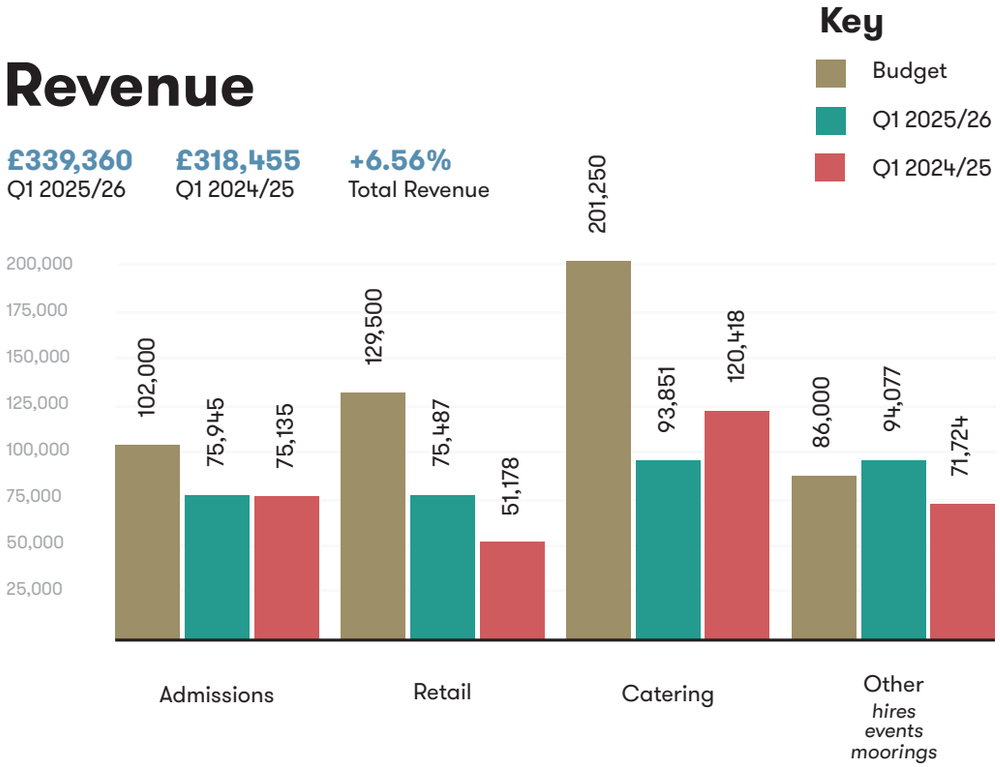
At a glance

Admissions, retail and commercial hire are all up compared with the same period in 2024-25.

Retail and commercial hire have had a particularly positive start to the year with most sites benefitting from a strong Easter period. The installation of an air source heat pump at Leeds Industrial Museum continues our commitment to environmental sustainability.

Revenue

£339,360 Q1 2025/26
£318,455 Q1 2024/25
+6.56% Total Revenue



Q1 25/26 are draft figures due to new LCC finance system.

Headlines

A new Give What You Can donations model has been introduced across Leeds City Museum, Leeds Art Gallery, Leeds Discovery Centre and Kirkstall Abbey. It is hoped that the scheme increases revenue from donations while ensuring our venues remain accessible to all.

Retail income has risen by 116% compared to the same period last year, with significant growth across multiple sites during the Easter holiday period.

The retail offer connected to Leeds City Museum's *miffy's 70th birthday* exhibition continues to perform well. Miffy products contributed to 81% of total sales during Q1.

At Leeds City Museum exhibition related programming has boosted revenue through ticket sales and Give What You Can donations.

Leeds Industrial Museum had a 18% rise in income and a 30% increase in profit in Q1 compared to last year, with an additional 24% increase in average transaction value.

The online shop successfully generated £486 of retail income and an additional £145 through the sales of Picture Library memberships and donations.

The online shop saw 24,000 page views which is a 202% increase on Q1 23/24.

Leeds Art Gallery's exhibition *Peter Mitchell: Nothing Lasts Forever* toured to the Photographers' Gallery in London, generating income and being seen by over 34,000 visitors.

Leeds Industrial Museum has taken part in research by University of Leeds to explore how people interact with waterways and engage with environmental change. The project, *Waterways: Living with the River – comparing the River Aire in West Yorkshire and the Brahmaputra in India* runs until May 2028.



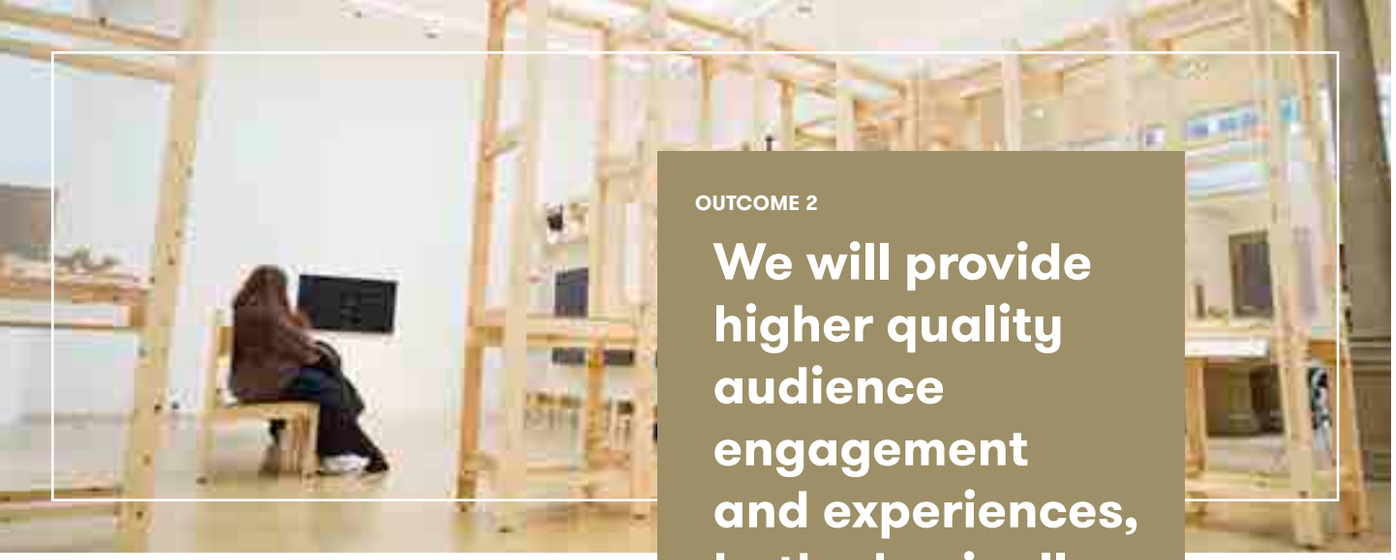
In Focus

Leeds Museums and Galleries are enhancing environmental sustainability across their sites by securing external funding to support green initiatives.

In spring 2025, an air source heat pump was installed at Leeds Industrial Museum, replacing gas boilers and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. This project, funded through national decarbonisation grants, also improved environmental conditions for collections by providing more consistent temperature and humidity levels.

The heat pump is visible to visitors, linking the museum's energy evolution - from waterwheels to steam engines and now modern heat pumps - into the site's interpretive narrative with the aim of informing visitors about decarbonisation and inspiring climate-conscious behaviour.

This initiative complements other capital works, including the ACE-funded MEND scheme at Leeds Industrial Museum and similar decarbonisation efforts at Temple Newsam House, as well as city centre sites via the Leeds Pipes heat network.



OUTCOME 2

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

ACE IP MET
All

At a glance

This quarter we saw an increase in online engagement, some very positive findings in a study of community engagement and wellbeing, recognition for exhibition programming at national sector awards, and more fun with Miffy!

Press Highlights

Rich Seam of Culture - Yorkshire Evening Post, frontpage print edition

Children's outlandish dress showcased in Leeds display - BBC News

Goddess work displayed at Leeds Art Gallery after restoration - BBC News

Leeds museum visitors asked to 'give what you can' - BBC News

Discovery Centre vintage clocks stand the test of time - BBC News

To Improvise A Mountain curated by leading contemporary artist Lynette Yiadom-Boakye received great press coverage with coverage in the Sunday Times, Guardian, Art Rabbit and EFlux.

1,200 year old Saxon cross acquisition makes international news in the Miami Herald, Archaeology Magazine and more.

Visitors

272,119
2025/26

231,230
2024/25

+18%
Venue visitors

Socials

357,482
2025/26

341,336
2024/25

+4.73%
Social media followers

Website

233,751
2025/26

157,945
2024/25

+48%
Website visitors

Views

2,022,899
2025/26

563,055
2024/25

+260%
Webpage views

Headlines

Karanjit Panesar's exhibition *Furnace Fruit* at Leeds Art Gallery was highly commended by the reviewing panel of the Association for Art History in their annual curatorial prize for exhibitions.

The Preservative Party launched season 2 of 'Whose Power?', a podcast that explores participatory practice in museums in collaboration with Prof. Abigail Harrison Moore.

Leeds Community Choir performed at the Kirkstall Abbey Wellbeing festival.

To celebrate the re-opening of Lotherton's medieval chapel, a series of community-led events took place over Easter. Volunteers from the community delivered 17 events, ranging from concerts, tours, talks and crafts with 4,105 people attending.

During this quarter we had the highest amount of wellbeing surveys completed from community engagement programme, results show that the average score out of 5 for statements such as 'I felt welcome' (4.81) 'I felt safe' (4.92), and 'I felt happy' (4.71) were up again on last quarter.

At the national Museums and Heritage Awards in May, *Living with Death: An exhibition exploring death, dying and bereavement*, was highly commended in Temporary or Touring Exhibition of the Year (Budget under £80K).

***To Improvise a Mountain: Lynette Yiadom-Boakye Curates* in partnership with Hayward Gallery Touring opened at Leeds Art Gallery,** including Walter Sickert paintings and drawings from the collection.

In June, Leeds City Museum held an after-hours event for adults themed around their current temporary exhibition *miffy's 70th birthday*. The sold-out event included exhibitions tours, adult crafting, face painting, and food and drink.

Miffy's official birthday was celebrated at Leeds City Museum in June with a family fun day. The free, ticketed event included the opportunity for visitors to meet Miffy herself along with other family-friendly activities across the day.



In Focus

Throughout the month of May for Mental Health Awareness Month we ran a series of Wellbeing Walks themed around a different artist from our exhibitions and collections each week.

The sessions focused around the five ways to wellbeing; offering the opportunity for people to **connect** with one another, be **active** exploring different walking routes, slowing down to **take notice** of the city, **learning** a new artistic approach and technique meanwhile **giving** time to support and encourage one another.

Alongside members of the public, the walks were offered out to staff at the gallery, encouraging people to invest in their own wellbeing and guest artists such as Hannah Platt shared their own practice and process through their curated routes of the city. The sessions were so warmly regarded that we are looking at extending this offer to a monthly workshop through summer, autumn and spring.

“My mental health feels better, getting outdoors and walking together has lifted my spirits, this was a really good day”

– Participant





OUTCOME 3

We will continue to be a leader in collaborative, sustainable, accessible cultural learning and creative skills development

ACE IP MET
Dynamism
Environmental Responsibility
Inclusion & Relevance

At a glance

We have continued our national research with Early Years, neurodiverse practice and sector evaluation, run family activities during school holidays and weekends, engaged schools, and continued to support the sector through conferences and mentoring.

Pupils

11,027
Q1 2025/6

9,695
Q1 2024/5

+13%
Engaged through workshops, self led and outreach

Family

32,300
Q1 2025/26

22,255
Q1 2024/25

+45%
People engaged in family activities

SEND

51
2025/6

31
2023/4

+65%
Workshops differentiated for pupils with SEND needs

MyLearning

82,174
Unique Users
Q1 2025/26

145,081
Page Views

1,305
Downloads

1,389
Watched Videos

*MyLearning analytics: The apparent drop in user numbers is due to a shift in how we report analytics, moving from total event counts to meaningful metrics like active users and page views. This change avoids inflated figures caused by tracking minor interactions such as scrolling or clicking.

Headlines

Abbey House Museum has been shortlisted for the national Kids in Museums Family Friendly Award in the Best Museum category. The winner will be announced in October.

We have been assisting in the national inclusive redevelopment of the Generic Learning Outcomes (GLOs).

MyLearning.org exhibited at the Museums and Heritage Show and hosted two talks on use of AI and the inclusive Generic Learning Outcomes.

We contributed to the Art Fund roundtable around engaging teachers, presented at Next Steps for Cultural Education and the Sensory Public History Conference. We mentored three people nationally and internationally.

330 pupils from Whitkirk and Colton Primary Schools have been developing art skills and building cultural capital at Temple Newsam House, leading to an intervention of pupil work within the house. This is the first year of a programme funded by Arts Scholars Enriching Lives Grant from the Group for Education in Museums.

Lotherton Hall have concluded Year 1 of a longitudinal research programme with Blueberry Academy, a specialist college for young adults in York with learning differences, autism, social, emotional and mental health needs.

The Primary School Membership scheme opened for academic year 2025-26 in April. We have 19 member schools signed up, generating £20,800.

Leeds Art Gallery is working in partnership with Launchpad to provide open mic opportunities for young adults in Leeds known as The Sound Gallery.

The Youth Engagement Curator at Leeds Art Gallery supported three young artists from the Youth Collective into their first art shows, internships and art residencies.



In Focus

Leeds Industrial Museum is a lead museum with Nesta and Art Fund on the Mini Wonders Early Years Innovation in Museums two-year research programme.

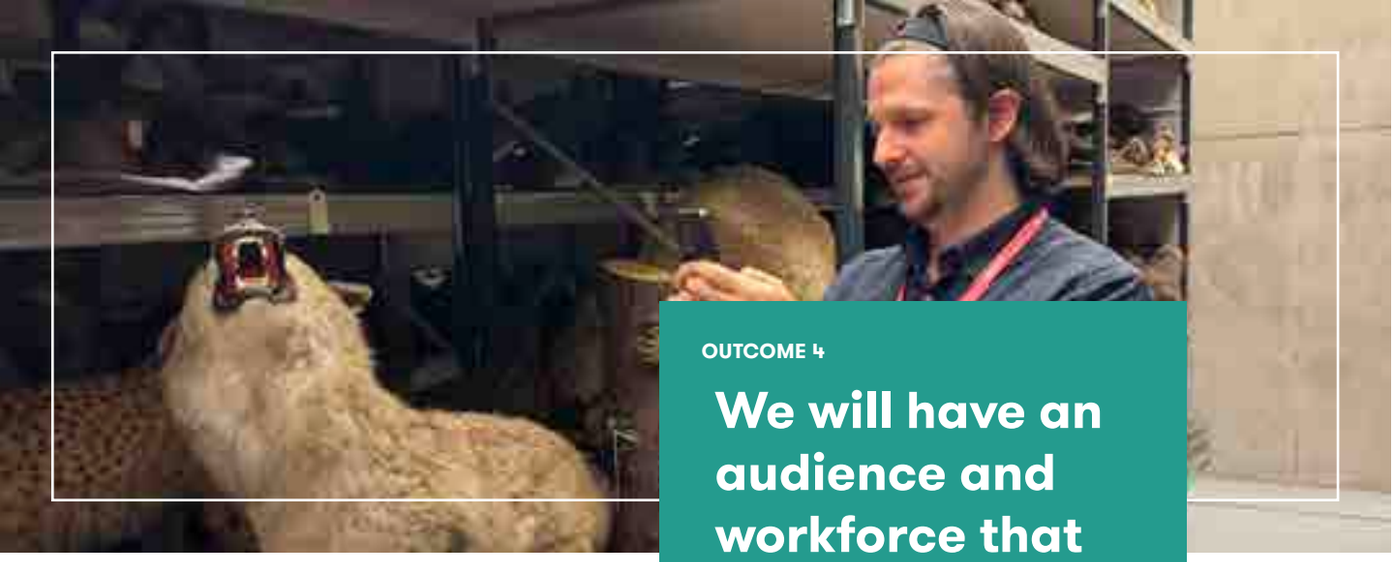
We have worked with the Children's Centres, libraries and nurseries in Armley (LS12) to support three cohorts of eight families through an eight-week programme to develop parenting support, deepen family connections and prepare children for school. Families have done bug hunts, made wet felting and played with magic sand. The first cohort had a high proportion of participants with English as an additional language, who were using the parenting classes as a way of making connections and accessing wider services. The second cohort had a high proportion of families awaiting neurodiversity diagnoses. The third cohort has focused more on parental mental and physical health alongside that of their children.

The research is confirming that museums give people a sense of place, a sense of trust and the programme provides a sense of regularity. Families have said they feel grounded, connected and welcome, and they feel comfortable enough to try stuff out (which some have said is unusual for them) and they feel there's no judgement, just support.

The research builds on our universal and targeted Early Years programming for families and settings including Playground and Atelier Leeds Art Gallery, Little Lotherton and Tiny Tigers at Leeds City Museum. We are restarting under-fives work at Abbey House Museum in autumn 2025.







OUTCOME 4

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

ACE IP MET

Ambition & Quality

Inclusion & Relevance

At a glance

New volunteers have joined LMG this quarter and recent placements have gone on to new steps in their development. We've collaborated with communities on a range of events and hosted a conference supporting the wellbeing of community participation colleagues in the sector.

	Volunteers	Hours
	134 2025/6	**2,300** 2025/26
	73 2024/5	**1174** 2024/25
	+45% Volunteers	**+96%** Hours contributed by volunteers

10 **-10%**
Co-curated displays

150 **+10%**
Community creative sessions

116 **+50%**
Generous hostings

86 co-produced events with our community partners



Headlines

We hosted the GLAM Cares national conference at Leeds City Museum on 26 June 2025 for 75 delegates. The network supports the wellbeing of community participation staff. LMG staff are on the GLAM Cares board.

Over 40 volunteers, aged between 17 and 70, with a diverse range of experiences are co-curating a display about music in Leeds at Leeds City Museum. Several have applied for other volunteering or paid roles within LMG or more widely in Leeds.

A new installation at Leeds City Museum, *Pride and Place*, with Swarthmore College celebrates South Leeds through art practice. With 18 months' work resulting in a creative display and a launch event which celebrated their achievements across the project with choir performances, art installations, creative workshops and presentations.

Leeds Industrial Museum is working closely with Migration Yorkshire to welcome Refugees and Asylum Seekers to the city and its heritage. In June around 200 free admissions were taken up, including translated tours and opportunities for 'panel members' from within their own communities to come together.

Former Leeds Art Gallery volunteer Madeline Brace has been appointed Exhibition Assistant at Ferens Art Gallery, Hull and former Leeds Art Gallery Visitor Assistant, volunteer, project placement and Trainee Registrar Nicola Christoforou has been appointed Assistant Registrar at the Royal Armouries.

A student from Pinc College completed a six-month Careers for All placement, which are designed to provide opportunities for young people with SEND. The placement with the archaeology collection was used to to support the student's successful UCAS application.

In June, Kirkstall Abbey Chapter House saw the launch of a zine made by the Trans Saints Project, created by a group of artists who were exploring the history and legends of saints and figures who may be interpreted as trans today. The event was kindly supported by the Kirkstall ward councillors and drew 218 attendees.

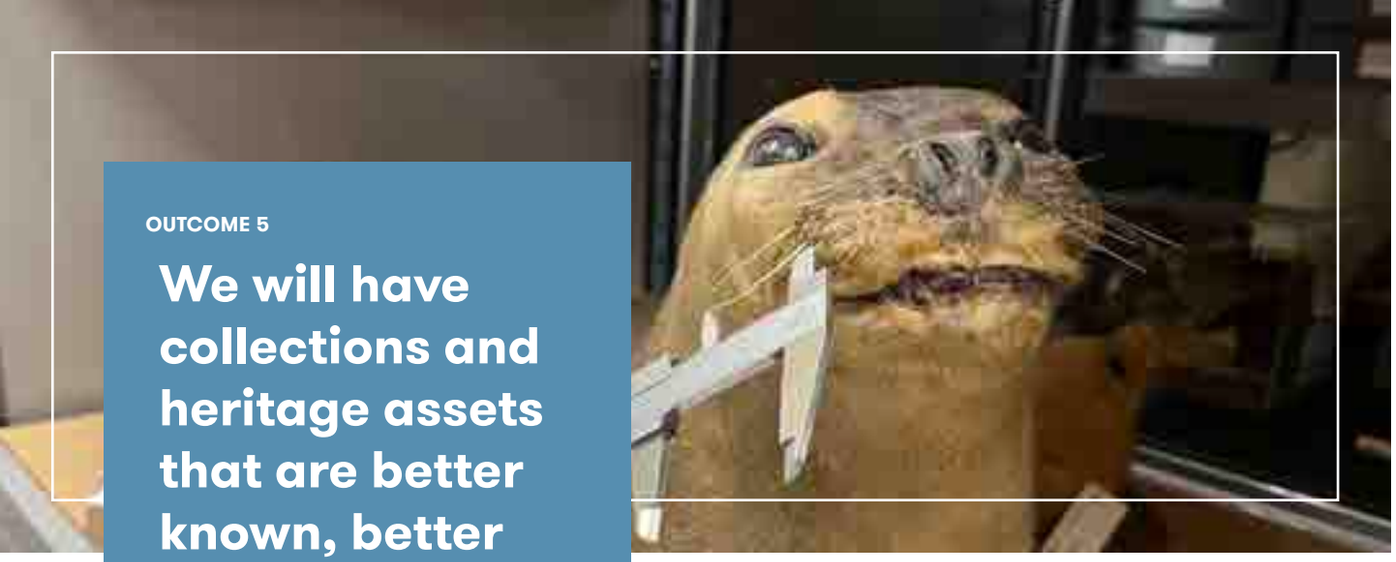


In Focus

The International Goth Day pop-up market and redevelopment of the Who's Who wall at Leeds City Museum was a wonderful showcase of how powerful it can be to hand over the controls of curating to our community partners.

Working with partners from the community, the museum was able to give them space to share their experiences and voices to create a Who's Who wall curated entirely by the community themselves, through nominations and an expert panel of peers. The launch day was widely attended and acted as a celebration of the sub-culture and recognising how pivotal Leeds was to the emergence of Goth music and culture. It was also about making people feel special and valued. High-profile guests including members of Sisters of Mercy, Jim Keenan and local heroes including Claire Shearbsy and the Blogging Goth. The event was reported by various news outlets including BBC Radio, local BBC News and Look North.





OUTCOME 5

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

ACE IP MET
All

At a glance

It's been a busy quarter for collections work across conservation, database records, enquiries, researchers and projects. Over 800,000 people have seen LMG's collections on loan.

155 +55%
Objects conserved

299 +2%
Objects condition checked

504 +41%
Enquiries answered

7340 +52%
TMS records updated

257 +57%
Records amended as a result of community input

1199 +100%
New records created

92 +138%
Researchers accessing collections

Visitors to objects on loan out

811,134
Q1 25/26

436,500
Q1 24/25

+86%

Long Loans (12 months+)

182 out +0%

1001 in from 70 lenders +1%

Short Loans (up to 12 months)

283 out to 31 venues, 3 international +177%

1135 in from 151 lenders -27%

The Picture Library

Members	Loans
442 2025/26	567 2025/26
389 2024/25	492 2024/25
+14% Members	+15% Artworks on loan

Headlines

Leeds Discovery Centre hosted sensory biologist Dr Robyn A Grant from the University of Manchester to undertake research into whiskers. Dr Grant said, "We are looking at hippo whiskers for the very first time. Working with zoos and museums such as Leeds Discovery Centre, we are trying to understand how the whiskers are arranged, and what the animals use them for."

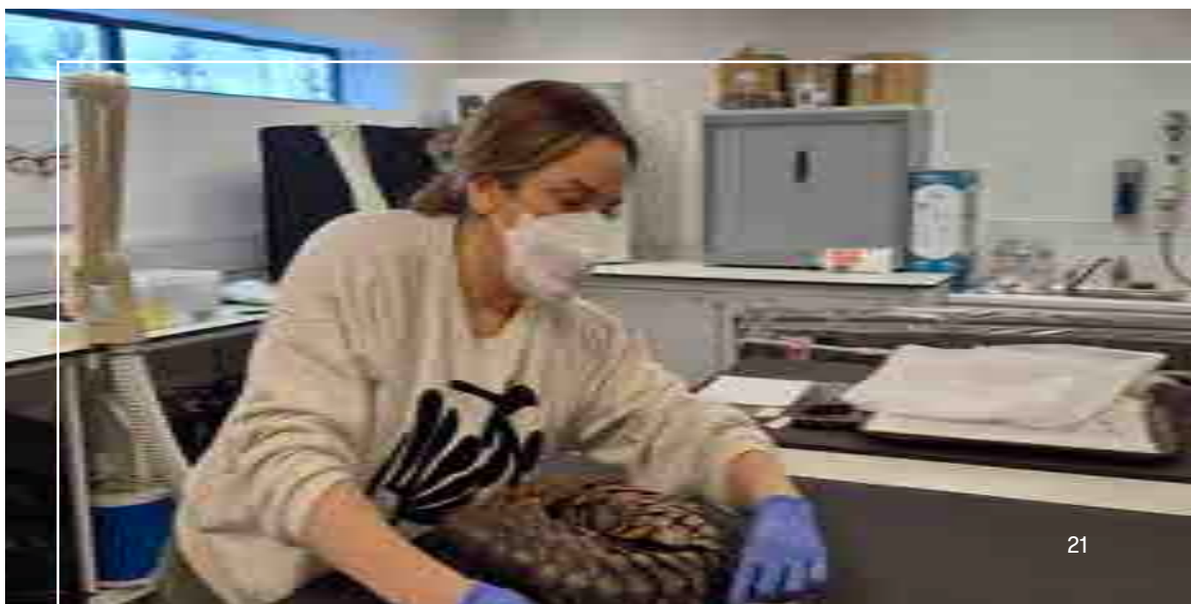
Visits to Temple Newsam and Lotherton led by the Curator and Assistant Curator of Decorative Art, formed part of a three-day study visit by members of the Furniture History Society in May.

Environmental conditions at Leeds Industrial Museum have been improved through new heating systems, with further collections storage improvements planned to be funded through the facilities improvement allocation from ACE NPO funding.

Karanjit Panesar's *Double Fruit*, 2024 has been acquired from his exhibition *Furnace Fruit* with support from Leeds Art Fund.

Thanks also to support from Leeds Art Fund, Temple Newsam was able to acquire a group of watercolours painted by former owner Emily Meynell Ingram (1840–1904) and her sister-in-law, Lady Mary Wood, documenting a trip down the River Nile in 1889/90.

Leeds' historic collection of critically endangered pangolins is being used to help their wild counterparts. Researchers from the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre are using isotope analysis of scales from these mammals in our collection to help curb the trade in them. This research will help develop a robust system to determine the locations from where confiscated scales were poached, and work towards putting an end to the plight of the pangolin, the most trafficked mammal in the world.



In Focus

LMG's collections have been at the heart of inspiration for new creative outputs this quarter with Leeds Fine Artists at Temple Newsam and Leeds Irish Health and Homes poetry anthology, *The Holdings*, at Leeds Industrial Museum.



Inspiring Temple Newsam showcases 13 artists presenting 15 new artworks made in response to the house, landscape and collections. The themes covered range from childhood memories to highlighting historical colonial legacies.

Some quotes from visitors include, "was well put together; the contemporary art with the old was very well done"; "very impressed with the portraits of the of the enslaved people, uncovers the connections with slave trade (shares in South Sea Company & East India Company) a fact that is covered up"; "a marvellous take on Temple Newsam House and its wealth & history".

At Leeds Industrial Museum, we partnered with Leeds Irish Health & Homes (LIHH), an organisation providing culturally sensitive support to the Irish and wider community. With generous financial support from LIHH, award-winning poet Ian Duhig was recruited to lead a series of poetry workshops at Leeds Industrial Museum with people of Irish heritage who live and work in Leeds.

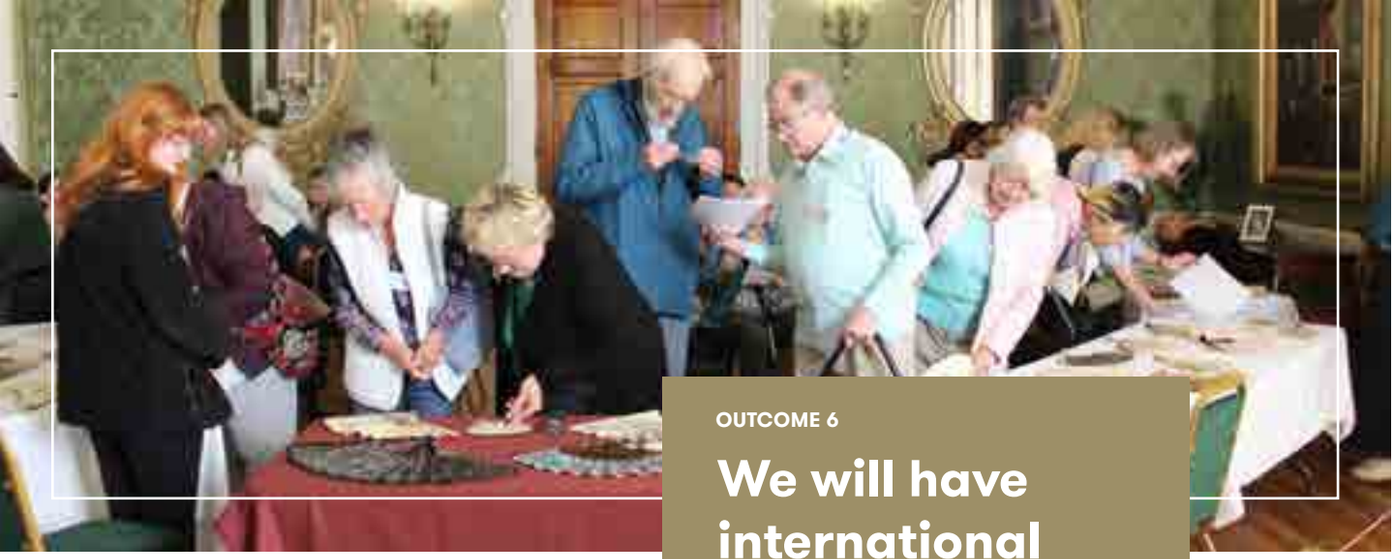
LMG curators selected a range of Irish heritage collection objects for inspiration at one of the workshops. These included 19th century cartoons, an Orange Order sash and a cosh reputedly taken from 'an Irish rioter' by a Leeds police officer. Participants also drew on their personal experiences in creating poems.

An anthology of the poems 'The Holdings', edited by Laura McDonagh and Ian Duhig, was published in May 2025 with a launch event at Leeds Industrial Museum. The launch was attended by Sarah Mangan the Consul General of Ireland for the North of England. The publication of the anthology was featured in the Irish Times.

A copy of the 'The Holdings' anthology and a hand-written copy of Ian Duhig's poem 'Beater' have been acquired for the Leeds Museums & Galleries permanent collection. Ian's poem is, in part, a cultural reclamation of the 'Irish rioter' cosh in our collections. A copy of the anthology has also been requested by the National Library of Ireland for inclusion in their catalogue.







OUTCOME 6

We will have international reputation and reach

ACE IP MET
All

At a glance

We have welcomed international visitors to research our collections and a VIP visitor to *miffy's 70th birthday* exhibition alongside the continuation of our international loans out programme.

To Improvise A Mountain, our latest exhibition at Leeds Art Gallery has brought work by renowned international artists to the city.

Headlines

Members of the Fan Circle International made a study visit to Lotherton Hall in May to see fans in the collection with the Curator of Dress and Textiles.

A PhD candidate at the University of Technology Sydney in Australia came to Leeds Discovery Centre, in June, to look at garments from the dress collection for her research on the dressing of the dead for burial.

The Head of Department Culture, Health, Education and Communication from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the UK visited the Miffy exhibition at Leeds City Museum with the Head of Collections & Programmes.

Headlines

Three international loans out this quarter, to Italy, Germany and USA:

The Head of LMG visited our loans in Lanuvio, Italy, in June. Eight sculptures excavated at the Sanctuary of Juno Sospita in the 1880s and gifted shortly afterwards to Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society, are now on display nearby the excavation site. As part of an ongoing partnership with Leeds, the Head of LMG was shown around the Museo Civico Lanuvio sites and found out about their plans for development.

***European Realities: Realism Movements in Europe in the 1920s and 1930s* at Museum Gunzenhauser in Chemnitz, Germany** features three paintings from the collection: The Resting Acrobats (1924) by Glyn Warren Philpot, The Jazz Party (The Dance Club) (1921) by William Roberts and The Sisters (c.1940) by Stanley Spencer.

Henry Scott Tuke's The Bathers (1889) is included in The First Homosexuals at contemporary art gallery Wrightwood 659 in Chicago.



In Focus

To Improvise a Mountain: Lynette Yiadom-Boakye Curates, Leeds Art Gallery's major international exhibition opened in May. Yiadom-Boakye, one of the most important figurative painters today, has selected an exhibition of works critical to her way of seeing and thinking, inviting audiences on a personal journey through art past and present.

The exhibition features both historic and contemporary international artists including, Bas Jan Ader (1942-1975, Netherlands) Pierre Bonnard (1867-1947, France), Lisa Brice (born 1968, South Africa), Barbara Chase-Riboud (born 1939, United States) Samuel Fosso (born 1962, Franco-Cameroonian), Peter Hujar (1934-1987, United States), Zoe Leonard (born 1961, United States) Toyin Ojih Odutola (born 1985, Nigeria), Jennifer Packer (born 1984, United States), Walter Sickert (1860-1942, Germany) and David Wojnarowicz (1954-1992, United States). Loans for the exhibition have come from Amsterdam, Switzerland, France, Netherlands, New York and Chicago and feature alongside works from the Leeds collection and UK-based loans.

The project is a Hayward Gallery Touring exhibition developed in partnership with Leeds Art Gallery, MK Gallery, and Nottingham Castle, with Leeds being the opening venue. By working in partnership, we have been able to bring an exhibition to the city which we would not otherwise have been able to deliver.



Quarterly Report

2025/6 Q1

Leeds Museums & Galleries

Quarterly Report



2025/26 Q2

Leeds Museums & Galleries

Q2 2025/26

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

It is structured in line with our 5-year strategy **Deepening Connections, Widening Impact**, which has been developed with colleagues, partners and Arts Council England's core investment principles in mind. Throughout the document where activity and achievements meet Arts Council England Investment Principles they are referenced under each heading in order to report progress for our National Portfolio Organisation status.

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OUTCOME 1

We will be more sustainable and responsible, financially and environmentally

ACE IP MET

Dynamism

Environmental Responsibility

At a glance

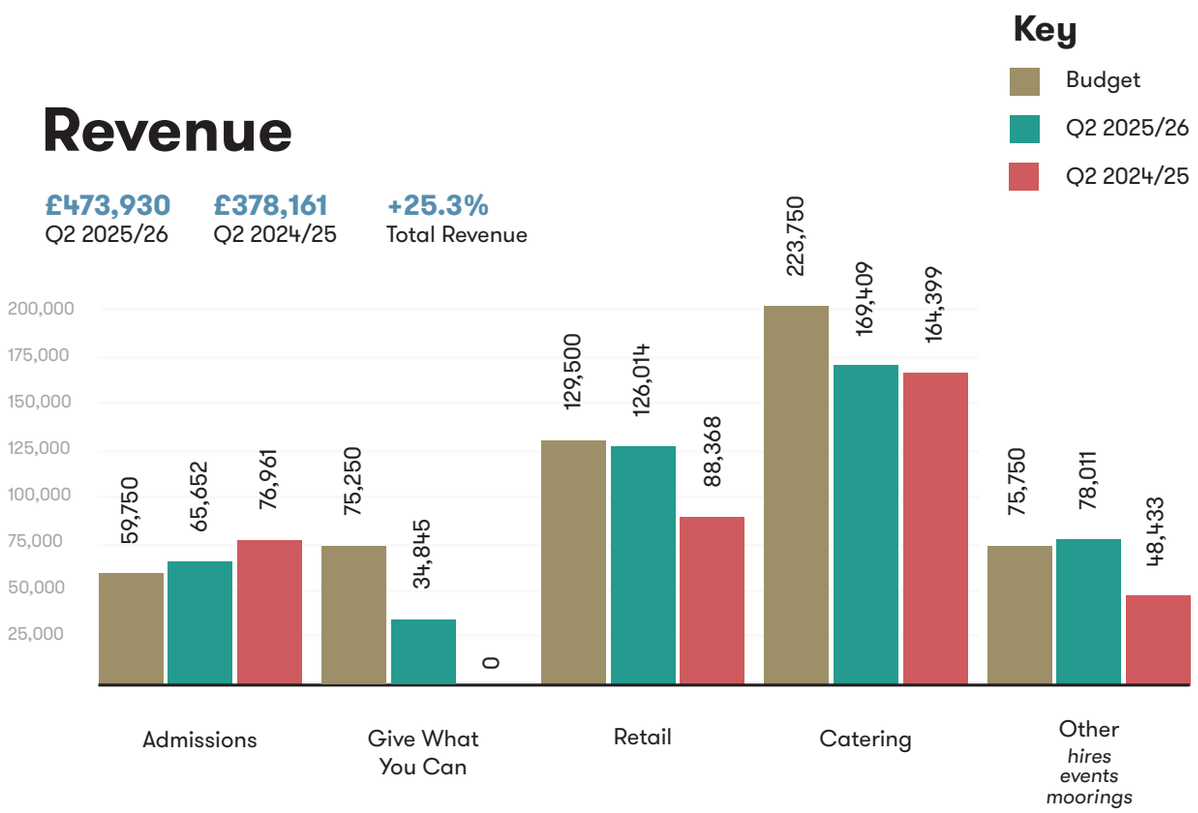
Earned income continues to be a focus, with retail performing well due to strong sales at Leeds City Museum. Admissions remain stable, and a new Give What You Can approach has been introduced at several venues.

Revenue

£473,930 Q2 2025/26

£378,161 Q2 2024/25

+25.3% Total Revenue



Q2 25/26 are draft figures due to new LCC finance system.

Headlines

LMG applied for Museum Renewal Fund (MRF) support and was successful with an initial award of £702k. We subsequently applied for a top up and the final award was £952k. Two thirds of the funding will meet current budget shortfalls as well as delivering ten projects to support future sustainability.

We have started consulting key stakeholders for LMG's strategic review and have appointed a consultant to support this process funded by MRF.

At our service wide all-staff morning colleagues took part in a fundraising workshop run by Good Fundraising.

Leeds Industrial Museum has decarbonised heating infrastructure, removing gas connections – reducing carbon footprint and standing order costs.

Leeds City Museum worked with partners across the city to secure funding or in-kind support for the new Music Leeds Us exhibition, to the value of approximately £25,000.

Retail has remained strong at Leeds City Museum due to the success of the Miffy exhibition, with both Leeds Industrial Museum and Abbey House Museum improving.

Assistant Community Curator at Leeds City Museum worked with local primary schools and SEND provision to recycle the playful build from the Miffy exhibition.



In Focus

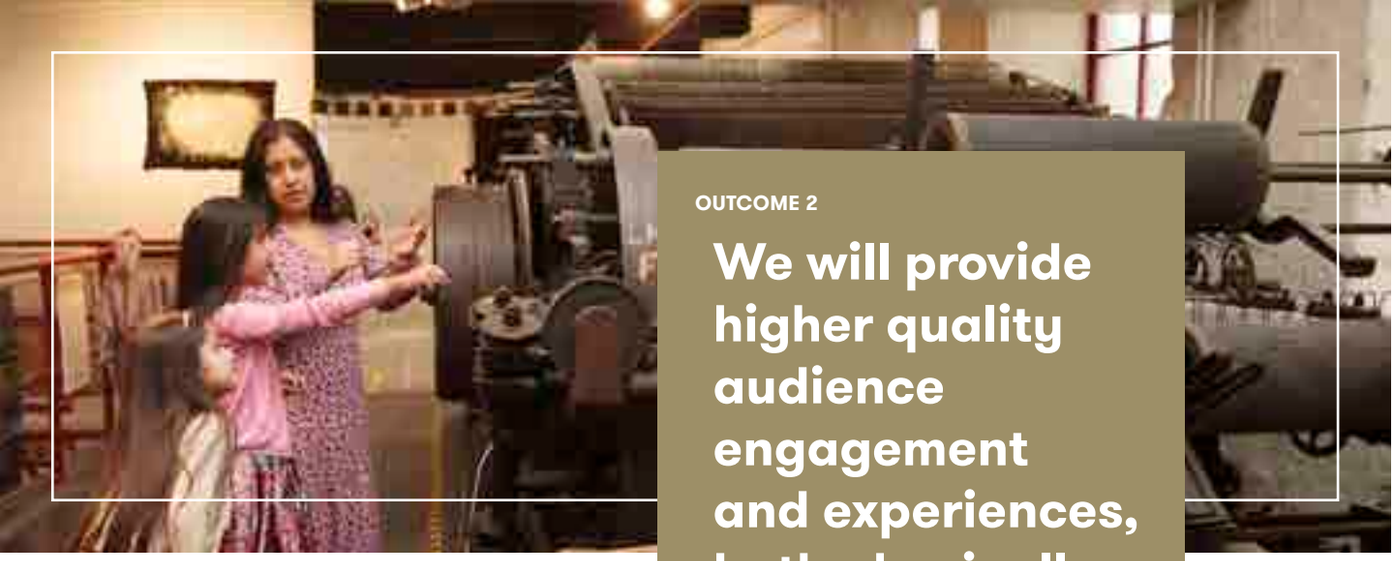
On the 17 June we launched our new Give What You Can (GWYC) scheme at four of our venues, Leeds City Museum, Leeds Art Gallery, Leeds Discovery Centre and Kirkstall Abbey (replacing the current admission charge for non-Leeds residents).

This has been a significant change both for visitors and staff and has required a small investment in the required infrastructure to accommodate contactless payments.

Progress is being monitored regularly including the impact of the locations of the podiums, donation amounts, most successful days of the week, take up of gift aid and the impact that prior booking has on this with GWYC events. Some changes have been made to the suggested donation amounts displayed on the devices to more closely reflect visitor donation patterns, along with the location of key donation points.

All frontline staff have been supported through training to give them the confidence to make the ask and to communicate key messages to encourage giving in a non-intrusive way. Uptake has been encouraging and has generated more donations than ever before. Surprisingly, 38% of all donations are cash.





OUTCOME 2

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

ACE IP MET
All

At a glance

We've had a very positive quarter with visitor numbers on the rise, fantastic press coverage and engaging activities across the board.

Press Highlights

New exhibition curated by acclaimed artist Lynette Yiadom-Boakye at Leeds Art Gallery – Yorkshire Post

Helen Chadwick stripped off inside a cooker — and changed art – The Times

Hidden industrial heritage uncovers city's history – BBC News

Murals marking city's sporting heritage unveiled – BBC News

Council-run museums and galleries bring Leeds a £47.3m boost – BBC News

Leeds Discovery Centre spiders exhibition aims to ease fears – BBC News

Venue Visitors

578,691
2025

485,031
2024

+19%
Year to date visitors

Visitors

306,572
2025/26

253,801
2024/25

+21%
Venue visitors

Socials

364,245
2025/26

344,042
2024/25

+6%
Social media followers

Website

236,244
2025/26

238,184
2024/25

-0.008%
Website visitors

Views

2,122,754
2025/26

868,811
2024/25

+144
Webpage views

Headlines

Over the summer holidays, Leeds Art Gallery got involved in the Art Fund initiative Kids Aloud – the campaign saw family-focused events programmed including a loud gallery tour and drop-in poetry workshops.

To Improvise A Mountain saw over 30+ pieces of press coverage, including favourable reviews in The Sunday Times and Yorkshire Post as well as more than 85,000 visitors (+14% on same period last year).

Using a national benchmark of 5 Ways to Wellbeing, research has shown that out of a score of five, participants gave 'I feel welcome' an average score of 4.86; 'I feel safe', 4.91 and 'I feel happy', 4.67.

Kirkstall Art Trail ran in Kirkstall Abbey's grounds featuring work by local creatives with stone carved sculptures, outdoor installations including a weather-proof mindful maze entitled 'The Labyrinth', and more.

Miffy's 70th Birthday exhibition closed on 7 September with visitor figures reaching 128,034 – the highest recorded for a special exhibition at Leeds City Museum.

Leeds Industrial Museum hosted summer family theatre performances by Wrongsemble in the recently developed picnic grounds.

The Audience Development team attended The Great Yorkshire Show with a consortium of visitor attractions which saw high levels of audience engagement with leaflets and event promotion.

The Audience Development team launched a new online form to better streamline the event publication and promotion process, this quarter they have uploaded 302 events to our website.



In Focus

This quarter saw Leeds Industrial Museum open its newest community exhibition, Reel-ise, a project that began back in January.

The project has been co-curated with fifteen volunteers and Dr Melanie Bell from the University of Leeds and the Leeds Animation Workshop. Reel-ise celebrates Leeds' long history with film making and the film industry, with a focus on women who have previously been overlooked.

This work has gained attention from BBC Radio Leeds and the National Science and Media Museum, further propelling the excellent work of volunteers.

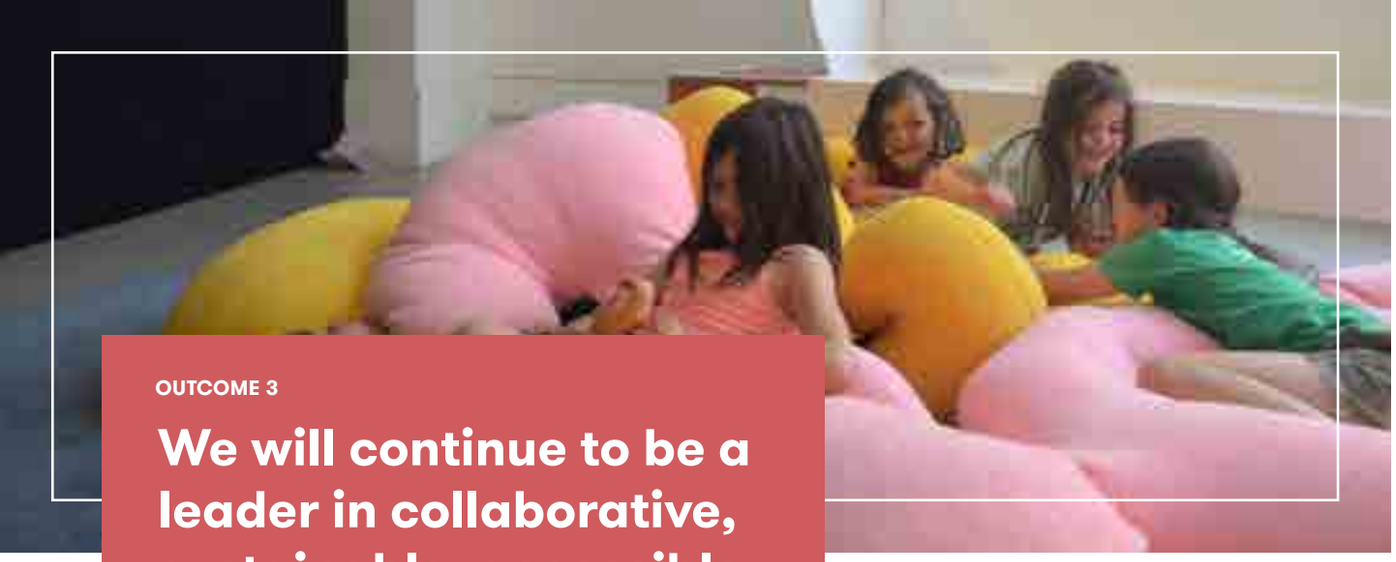
Four of the volunteers on this project went on to get volunteer or secure paid opportunities outside of LMG after the project's completion.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time volunteering with you and the Reel-ise team, and getting to experience the behind the scenes aspects of the museum and heritage space!"

– Participant







OUTCOME 3

We will continue to be a leader in collaborative, sustainable, accessible cultural learning and creative skills development

ACE IP MET
Dynamism
Environmental Responsibility
Inclusion & Relevance

At a glance

This quarter we hosted the Group for Education in Museums (GEM) national conference at Leeds City Museum and Leeds Art Gallery, welcomed families for summer holiday activities across our venues, and started the new academic year with 21 member schools and a wide range of workshops.

Pupils

5599
Q2 2025/6

7388
Q2 2024/5

-24%
Engaged through workshops, self led and outreach

Family

42,287
Q2 2025/26

35,991
Q2 2024/25

+17%
People engaged in family activities

SEND

14
2025/6

4
2024/5

+250%
Workshops differentiated for pupils with SEND needs

MyLearning

74,000
Unique Users
Q2 2025/26

130,774
Page Views

927
Downloads

1067
Watched Videos

*MyLearning analytics: The apparent drop in user numbers is due to a shift in how we report analytics, moving from total event counts to meaningful metrics like active users and page views. This change avoids inflated figures caused by tracking minor interactions such as scrolling or clicking.

Headlines

A £4000 grant from LEGO via the Real World Science Network with the Natural History Museum enabled 12 climate-focused family activities, alongside school workshops.

Careers for All continues to make an impact: 'J' attended outreach workshops in school, volunteered at Leeds Industrial Museum, then progressed to a placement cataloguing the numismatics collections. He used these experiences to support a successful UCAS application to read History and Media at University of Leeds.

Family engagement over the summer included the sensory room at Leeds City Museum. One parent said, 'I live in Leeds and have never been to the museum before. I saw this event and thought that's a way we can visit...Both my boys (11 and 14) have autism and ADHD. This is great, coming in here first. I now feel we can explore the museum'.

Sarah-Jane Mason and Kalisha Piper-Cheddie were artists-in-residence at Leeds Art Gallery working intergenerationally with families. They noticed more adult engagement than usual: 'Not done anything since I was a child, but had so much fun today' and words that repeated in the evaluation were calm, inclusive and peaceful.

We began a partnership with the Children's Book Project, have started a conversation with Novus about education within the criminal justice system, and are an active participant in the Leeds City Council Disability Inclusive Steering Group.

Planning began for the second year and fourth cohort of families for Mini Wonders, the Early Years research programme with NESTA and Art Fund.

Leeds Industrial Museum worked with an access consultant with lived experience of neurodiversity, Emily Elsworth, to audit and improve access across site.



In Focus

We continue to support training, networking and mentoring within the cultural learning sector:

In September 2025, we hosted the annual national Group for Education in Museums (GEM) conference at Leeds City Museum and Leeds Art Gallery for 500 delegates over three days (in person and online). The conference theme was sustainability, including environmental, financial and social sustainability. We held two 'in practice' visits to Leeds Art Gallery and Leeds Discovery Centre and had speakers in three workshops and panels.

In Q2, we hosted two peer learning visits from the National Galleries of Scotland and Rotherham Museums and Galleries looking at our best practice examples for school programmes. We chair and convene the Yorkshire Accessible Museums Network, sharing practice to make museums more inclusive, hosting three workshops per year for around 30 delegates.

September's workshop focused on visual stories and accessibility welcome areas. We are actively involved in GLAM Cares, a network supporting cultural professionals working in sensitive community engagement settings. Staff are regional reps for both the GEM and Engage, representing gallery educators.

We mentor nationally for the Associateship of the Museums Association and GEM and internationally through the Network of European Museum Organisations (NEMO). In Q2, we supported five individuals. These cement our leading role in the sector.

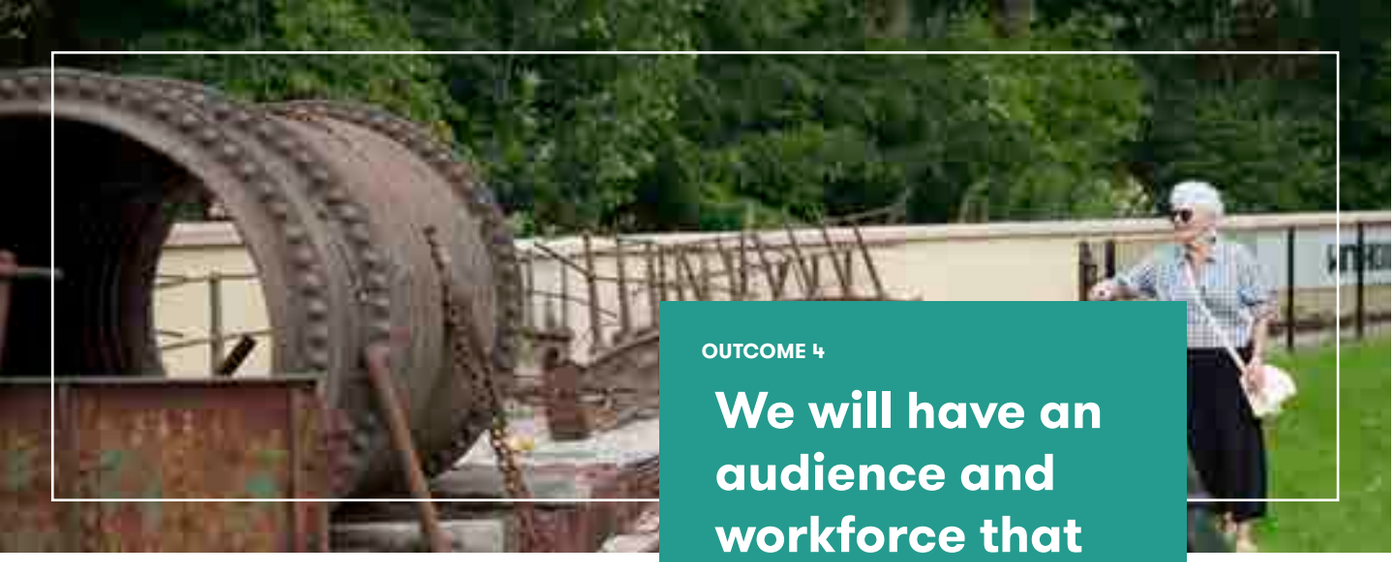








Images © GEM



OUTCOME 4

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

ACE IP MET

Ambition & Quality

Inclusion & Relevance

At a glance

We've had a busy quarter of co-curated events and community creative sessions alongside some impactful support and development work with groups and individuals.

6 **-14%**
Co-curated displays

187 **+21%**
Community creative sessions

58 **-25%**
Generous hostings

Volunteers	Hours
119 2025/6	**2641** 2025/26
117 2024/5	**2646** 2024/25
+2% Volunteers	**-1%** Hours contributed by volunteers

71 (+196%) co-produced events with our community partners



Headlines

LMG continues to provide support and mentoring to 2025's three Accelerator Bursary artists in partnership with Assembly House studios, funded by Leeds Art Fund. A second year of the scheme with three recent graduates has been recruited to in Q2 with one artist from University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett and Leeds Arts University respectively to begin from January 2026.

In September we hosted a visit from the Art Fund Vivmar trainee who is currently working with the V&A. They will be in regular contact prior to spending the final six months of the traineeship with Leeds Art Gallery from August 2026.

Colleagues from across the service marched in this year's Leeds Pride parade in July.

Leeds City Museum hosted the first Outing Leeds, a day of talks and performances about Leeds' LGBT+ history.

Leeds City Museum hosted groups from the national British Sign Language (BSL) conference, which was held in Leeds in July. The Museum arranged deaf-led tours and showcased the new BSL interpretation in the Life on Earth gallery.

New members of staff joined Leeds Industrial Museum as Visitor Assistants, having volunteered and engaged in the work of LMG previously.

Leeds Industrial Museum worked with Migration Yorkshire in July to host a meeting of 70+ refugees and asylum seekers and their families from across the north of England.

LMG's annual all-staff meeting took place at Leeds City Museum in September. Workshops included fundraising, LEGO building on the sustainable museum and painting to promote creativity and wellbeing.

In July, Leeds Art Gallery hosted the Yorkshire Sculpture International Sculpture Network 2025. Fifteen artists living and working across the region were selected for this development opportunity from an open call.



In Focus

In July, Leeds City Museum's Supported Internship Placement successfully concluded. Through the scheme we supported one student from PINC College in a work placement emulating an employed role.

The student, with staff and mentoring support, worked with the front of house team to practise the role of a Visitor Assistant, as well as embarking on an ambitious behind the scenes project; creating a system to easily record, categorise and navigate visitor feedback.

After five months in this role the student expressed a strong desire to continue the administrative work of this placement, sharing that they feel welcome and supported by the site team. We therefore created a new volunteering opportunity specifically for Supported Interns to progress into, called Specialist Project Assistant.

This will be a long term, supported and flexible volunteering role - where the volunteer can shape their work based on their personal interests. Currently the volunteer is coming to site two days a week to work on improving their feedback report and researching a new blog series.

In January 2026 they will also be leading on a digitisation project at Leeds Discovery Centre. It is a tremendous achievement for this young person, who is now working independently and confidently on various outputs. Their feedback report will be presented to the Leeds City Museum team so the entire site can benefit and feed into this work.







OUTCOME 5

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

ACE IP MET
All

At a glance

It has been a busy period for conservation and condition checking to prepare objects for exhibitions. Loans in and out have increased this quarter, including growth of the Picture Library membership.

435 +112%
Objects conserved

1225 +454%
Objects condition checked

446 +7%
Enquiries answered

6729 +518%
TMS records updated

3492 +789%
Records amended as a result of community input

423 +23%
New records created

68 +94%
Researchers accessing collections

Visitors to objects on loan out

130,445
Q2 25/26

96,886
Q2 24/25

+35%

Long Loans (12 months+)

182 out +0%

1001 in from **70** lenders +1%

Short Loans (up to 12 months)

293 out to **27** venues, **6** international +133%

2194 in from **210** lenders +158%

The Picture Library

Members	Loans
447 2025/26	**580** 2025/26
414 2024/25	**522** 2024/25
+8% Members	**+11%** Artworks on loan

Headlines

Music Leeds Us exhibition at Leeds City Museum which opens in October has attracted an unprecedented 946 community loans.

New acquisitions connected to Music Leeds Us include drum sticks from Gang of Four, a setlist from Yard Act's gig outside the museum on Millennium Square and the first objects representing hardcore punk.

Connecting with September being known as spider season in UK homes, LMG's Curator of Natural Science was in the press talking about our spider collection, including BBC coverage.

An Operations and Maintenance Manual for Leeds Industrial Museum has been generated through the MEND project and will assist in understanding and caring for the site into the future.

Locomotives from the collection at Leeds Industrial Museum have been moving back into the Locomotive Shed which has been significantly improved through the MEND project. The space will be further developed as a gallery for visitor engagement.



In Focus

LMG's major project, On the Pitch, Off the Pitch: Sporting Heritage in Leeds, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund successfully concluded in August.

The project set out to increase the representation of sports in LMG's collection and our city, create connections between the collections and the public realm, and recognise the important role sport plays in the culture of the Leeds. The project was guided by a volunteer Steering Group working closely with the Project Curator.

Together with our community partners we have created 15 oral histories, five films and five murals around the city; collected 120 objects; hired two full time members of staff for one year each; given paid opportunities to five artists, five photographers and five film makers; worked with 33 volunteers and engaged with approximately 400 community partners.

As a legacy from the project elements of the updated sports collection will go on display in the Community Cases on the Leeds Story Gallery at Leeds City Museum from late October into 2026.







OUTCOME 6

We will have international reputation and reach

ACE IP MET
All

At a glance

This quarter colleagues have welcomed international visitors, presented at an international conference and sent loans out to venues around the world. We also ran a workshop at the Eurocities Culture Forum hosted by Brno, one of Leeds' twin cities.

Headlines

As a result of hearing about the Music Leeds Us exhibition, Gang of Four, a band who originated in Leeds and now live around the world, got in touch to donate drum sticks and a signed 7" single to the collection.

Susan Hiller's *Monument*, Colonial version, 1980-81 has travelled to The Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago for the forthcoming exhibition 'Channeling: body ←Image→ viewer' which includes photography, video, and installations that memorialise, bear witness and pay tribute to our humanity.

Other international loans from LMG's collection are out at venues in Lanuvio and Passariano in Italy, Chemnitz in Germany and Versailles in France.

Headlines

LMG has displayed loans from the Netherlands for Miffy's 70th Birthday exhibition at Leeds City Museum and from Amsterdam, Switzerland, France, Netherlands, New York and Chicago for the exhibition To Improvise a Mountain: Lynette Yiadom-Boakye Curates at Leeds Art Gallery.

Leeds Industrial Museum hosted numerous groups of foreign exchange students from across Europe during the summer months.

A visit by a cohort of 17 Dutch cultural policy officers from across the Netherlands to Leeds Art Gallery was hosted in September, including a tour with the Principal Keeper and time finding out about the gallery's community programme during a Meet and Make session.

In September, our Head of Service visited Brno, met with the director of the Civic Museums of Brno and led a workshop on the creation of a heritage framework for Leeds at the Eurocities Culture Forum which was being hosted in the Czech city, twinned with Leeds.

The Project Curator presented at the international Museum Next Digital Summit in September with colleagues from Art UK on Using Digital To Preserve Fleeting Heritage around public murals based on their experience of creating five murals around Leeds for the On the Pitch, Off the Pitch project.



In Focus

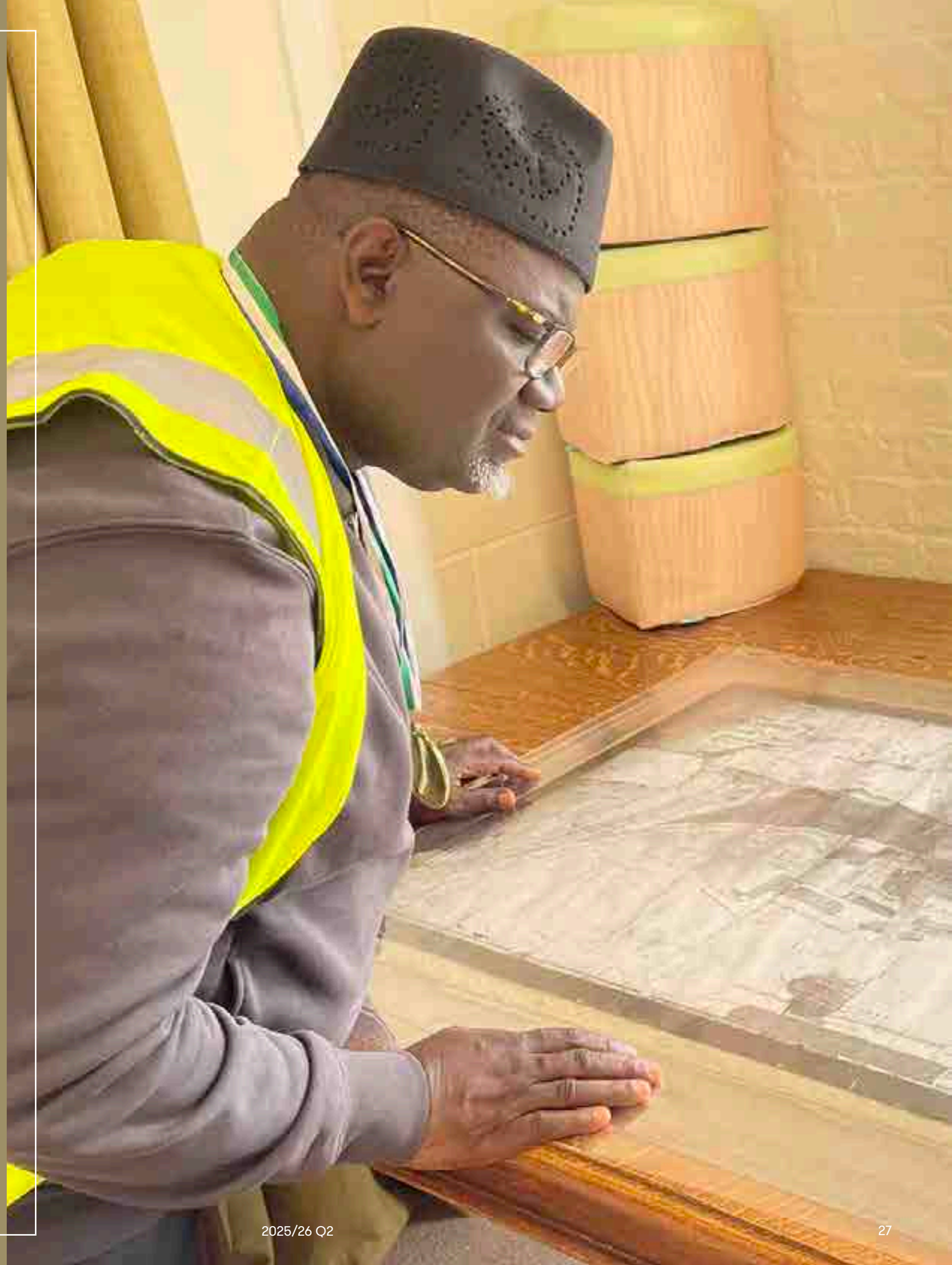
On 24th September Mr Nylander, Co-ordinator at the Sierra Leone National Railway Museum (SLNRM) and Helen Ashby, Founding Chair of the Friends of SLNRM visited Leeds Industrial Museum.

On the occasion of the SLNRM's 20th anniversary, they presented a plaque to us to mark our continuing support for the museum in Freetown. LMGs' Curator of Industrial History showed the visitors progress in the newly refurbished locomotive shed and some of the Hunslet Engine Company architectural drawings.

Leeds Industrial Museum has enjoyed a fruitful partnership with SLNRM since 2015. Several Leeds companies made railway equipment for the Sierra Leone Government Railway. The early exports to Sierra Leone were handled through the Crown Agents, the body responsible for co-ordinating the supply equipment with former colonised territories within the former British Empire.

The earliest of these locomotives was made in 1915 by Manning Wardle, based in the Hunslet district of Leeds. This locomotive now at the SLNRM has been formally 'twinned' with Leeds Industrial Museum's 1888 Manning Wardle locomotive 'Aldwyth'. The Hunslet Engine Company and Hudswell Clarke were the major suppliers of locomotives throughout the life of the railway. Robert Hudson & Co. of Gildersome made large numbers of wagons for different uses, including diamond mining and military use during World War Two.

LMGs' Curator of Industrial History received an Art Fund Jonathan Ruffer grant to visit SLNRM in 2020 as part of their 15th anniversary celebrations.



Quarterly Report

2025/6 Q2

Leeds Museums & Galleries

Quarterly Report



2025/26 Q3

Leeds Museums & Galleries

Q3 2025/26

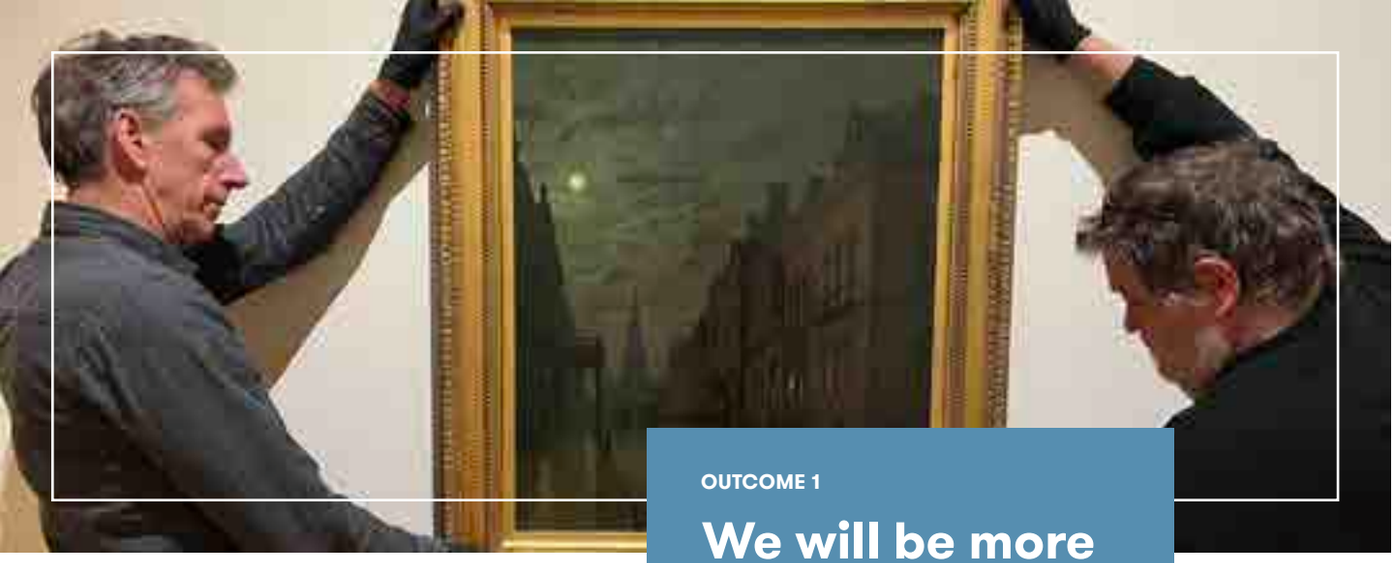
This document celebrates achievements and summarises key activity from Leeds Museums & Galleries (LMG) over the period October to December 2025.

It is structured in line with our 5-year strategy **Deepening Connections, Widening Impact**, which has been developed with colleagues, partners and Arts Council England's core investment principles in mind. Throughout the document where activity and achievements meet Arts Council England Investment Principles they are referenced under each heading in order to report progress for our National Portfolio Organisation status.

Data comparisons are made with the same period of the previous year unless otherwise stated.

Leeds Museums & Galleries' Strategic Outcomes

1. We will be more sustainable and responsible, financially and environmentally
2. We will provide higher quality audience engagement and experiences, both physically and digitally
3. We will continue to be a leader in collaborative, sustainable, accessible cultural learning and creative skills development
4. We will have an audience and workforce that is representative and reflective of the city
5. We will have collections and heritage assets that are better known, better understood, and better cared for
6. We will have international reputation and reach



OUTCOME 1

We will be more sustainable and responsible, financially and environmentally

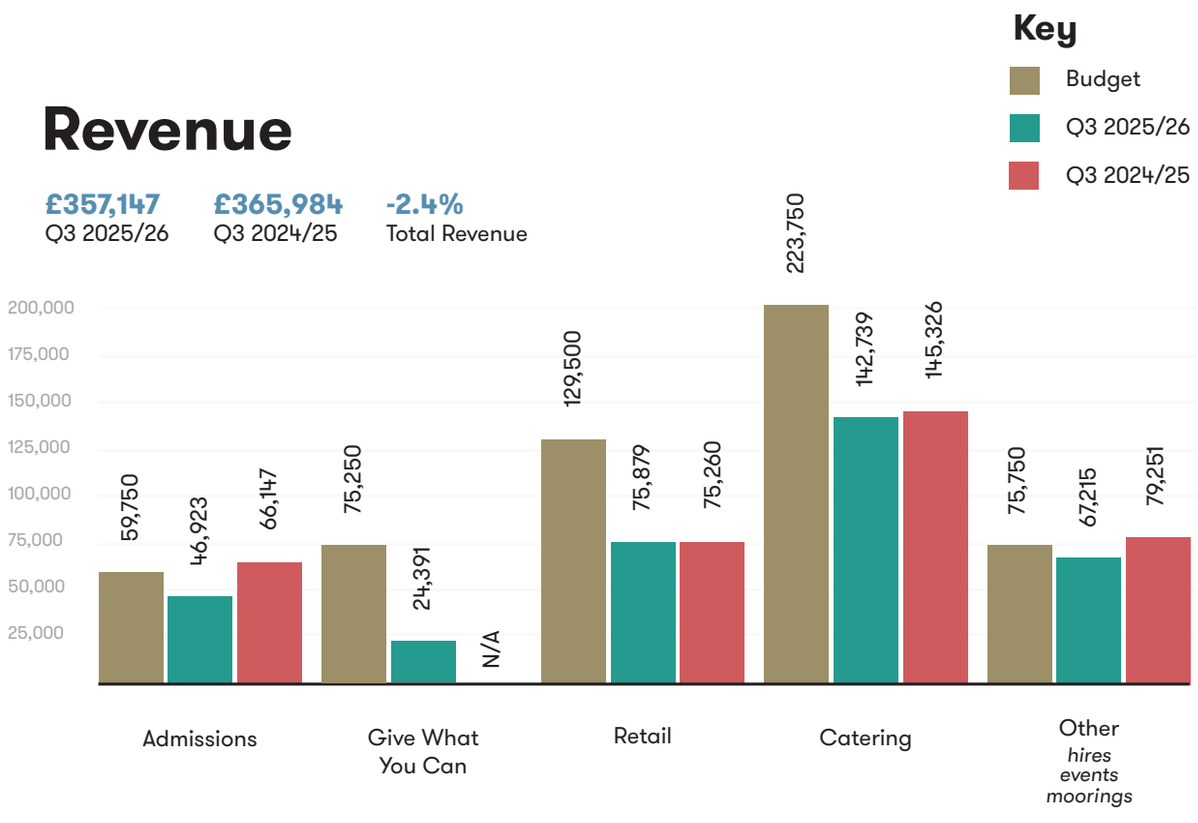
ACE IP MET
Dynamism
Environmental
Responsibility

At a glance

A focus remains on earned income, which has performed in line with quarter 3 of the previous year with strong sales throughout December for the Tiled Hall Cafe at Leeds Art Gallery.

Revenue

£357,147 Q3 2025/26
£365,984 Q3 2024/25
-2.4% Total Revenue



Q3 25/26 are draft figures due to new LCC finance system.

Headlines

Leeds Industrial Museum accessed Museum Renewal Fund money to consult and develop a community cafe, with aims of increasing visitors, dwell-time, and income – alongside meeting other outcomes relating to skills development and a representative workforce.

Investment through DCMS/ACE funded MEND project is concluding at Leeds Industrial Museum, with additional investment leveraged from Leeds City Council to make further improvements to built infrastructure – including firestopping measures and the improvement of refreshment facilities for conferences that will aid an aspiration of increased room bookings.

LMG has started to work on its group and travel trade offer as part of one of the Museum Renewal Fund projects, with the aim to roll out the new offer in 2027.

LMG has concluded an admissions review and will be reviewing the recommendations in forthcoming months.

Leeds City Museum piloted new Christmas programming on 13 and 14 December with eight ticketed performances of *The Snowman and the Snowdog* with a live orchestra from Leeds Conservatoire which was positively received by audiences.

LMG's environmental focus this quarter has been on plants with the Dead Plant Society project in partnership with Space2 seeing an Assistant Curator appointed. The herbarium collection provided inspiration for a new exhibition, *Plant Dreaming* at Leeds Art Gallery and research came together for a forthcoming exhibition at Lotherton Hall, *Botanically Beautiful*.

Leeds Art Gallery Shop continues to celebrate local makers to keep its ranges unique and creative. This has included working with a local ceramicist, Phil Ankers, and two local jewellery makers, Nook of the North and Red Paper House who created products inspired by the paintings *Park Row* and *Iris* by Atkinson Grimshaw, an exhibition running until April 2026.

The cafe at Leeds Art Gallery also launched their new Tiled Hall coffee bend, in collaboration with North Star Coffee Roasters, an impact-led, speciality grade coffee roasted in Leeds.

At Temple Newsam House, the Christmas offer was further developed building on learning from previous years. This included the introduction of two festive tours and two evening events whilst still maintaining the core offer. A system of peak and off-peak tickets was also introduced along with an early bird discount. This increased both footfall and income.

In Focus

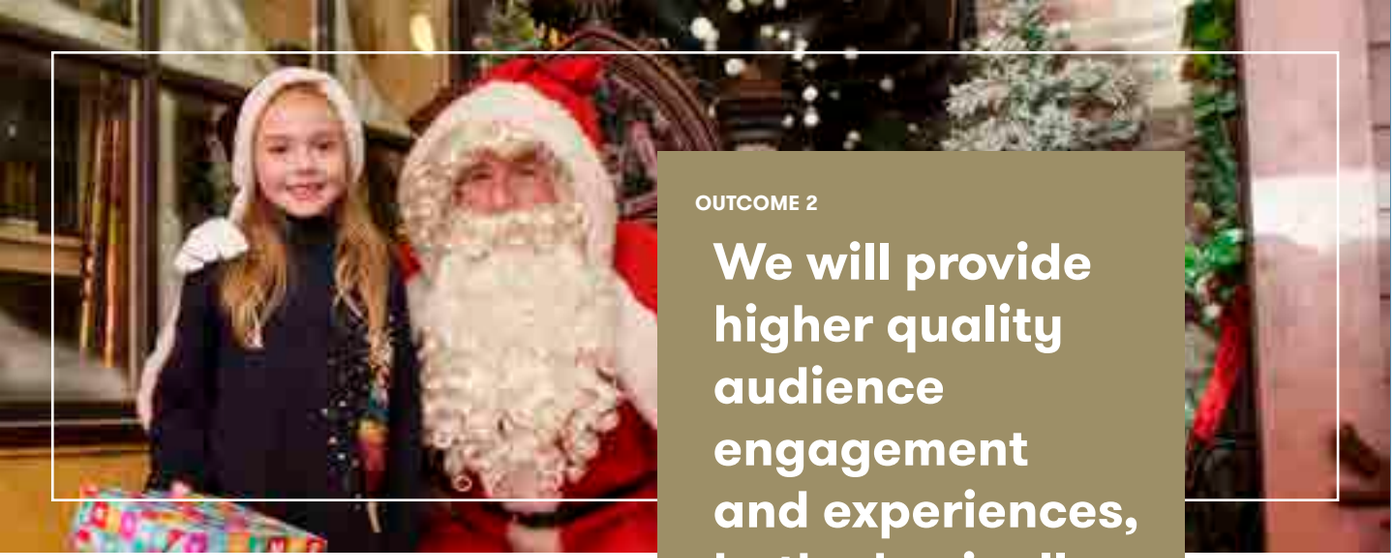
Leeds City Museum worked with partners Projektil and Fever to bring *Eonarium: Enlightenment* to the museum.

The 30-minute experience used state of the art mapping technology to create perfectly aligned 3D projections which formed a seamless and immersive visual show in the museum's Brodrick Hall. The light projections were accompanied by Vivaldi's Four Seasons, creating a mesmerising experience which brought the stunning architecture of the hall to life.

Shows were held every Thursday to Sunday between 3 July and 21 September and the season encompassed 326 performances drawing 21,284 visitors. This included 40 evening events as well as afternoons to attract a wide range of audiences. The programming generated £35,350 income (£26,643 profit) demonstrating the benefits of innovative collaboration with commercial partners. The events also drew excellent feedback from audiences, including five-star reviews:

"The staff were very welcoming and helpful, the seating arrangements were fantastic and well thought out, the show itself was incredible."

"Went to see a light and music extravaganza here on a wet and miserable day. It was amazing. We lay on bean bags (also chairs) on the floor to watch and it was mesmerising. The staff were welcoming and helpful and the museum has lots of fabulous exhibits and exhibitions."



OUTCOME 2

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

ACE IP MET
All

At a glance

The last three months have been jam-packed full of programming, with successful new events trialled in both Halloween and Christmas. It's a huge achievement for the service seeing visitor figures for the calendar year return to above one million for the first time since the pandemic.

Venue Visitors

1,046,372
2025

903,574
2024

+15.8%
Year to date visitors

Visitors

256,231
2025/26

242,298
2024/25

+5.75%
Venue visitors

Socials

362,417
2025/26

351,269
2024/25

+3%
Social media followers

Website

256,940
2025/26

193,572
2024/25

32.7%
Website visitors

Views

2,034,855
2025/26

1,148,453
2024/25

+77%
Webpage views

Press Highlights

Leeds venue The Duchess where pre-fame Oasis played is celebrated – BBC News

Cauldron hidden in wall to deter evil goes on show – BBC News and BBC Radio Leeds

Silver Saxon cross found in field goes on show – BBC News

The wartime Christmas greetings sent by biscuit – BBC News Christmas Eve and BBC Radio Leeds

The poignant messages to First World War soldiers inscribed on biscuits – Yorkshire Post

Headlines

In October Light Night at Leeds City Museum saw over 10,000 visitors experience the premiere of a mesmerising light and sound installation based on patterns created with a Spirograph. To mark the 60th anniversary of the Spirograph being invented in Leeds by engineer Denys Fisher, artist Lesley Halliwell collaborated with digital artist William Card and sound artist James Bagshaw to create *Spirograph Reimagined*, a unique artwork.

Volunteers at Lotherton decorated the chapel and organised Christmas community events including carol concerts.

Leeds City Museum Community Choir performed at Leeds City Museum and Lotherton.

Audience Development delivered an awareness campaign for Abbey House Museum through October and November, with the support of additional funds from the Community Committee Fund.

Leeds Industrial Museum developed a new Christmas trail, led by the front of house team.

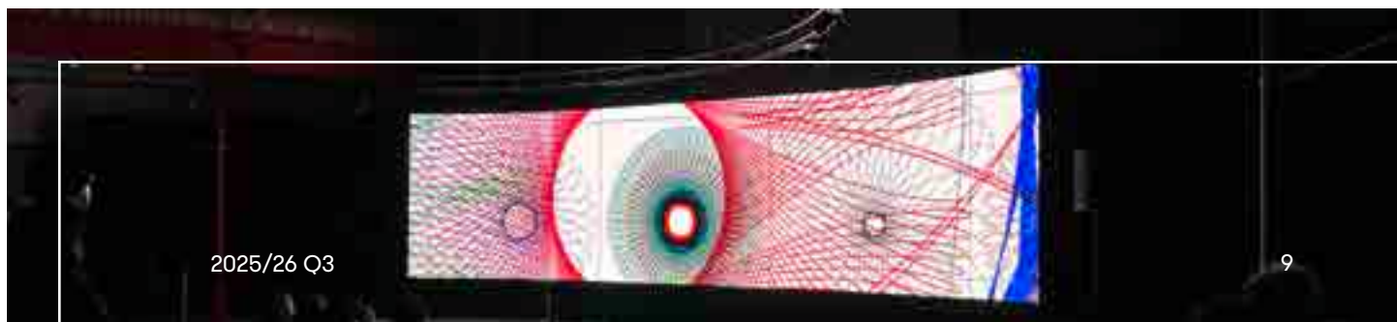
Leeds Discovery Centre showcased the collection in new light – helping visitors face their fears in a new phobias workshop over Halloween.

Temple Newsam launched three new events over the Christmas period: Christmas Evenings to tie in with the Northern Lights event happening in the Estate, Leeds Philharmonic Concert in the Picture Gallery, and the Christmas Tree Trail around the House.

Festive Lino Printing and Foraged Festive Wreaths workshops sold out at Abbey House Museum over the festive period.

82 respondents to the Community Programme wellbeing survey, where once again average scores out of 5 against eight wellbeing metrics were all over 4. 'I feel welcome' was 4.88 and 'I feel safe' 4.91.

Another successful Mindfulness Festival at Abbey House Museum with a programme of activities including the first Sound Bath was delivered with excellent wellbeing feedback.



In Focus

Since launching in November 2024, LMG's new website (powered by Peppered) has gone from strength to strength and aiding online growth, Search Engine Optimisation development and increased event ticketing across the service.

Website views have increased by 58% since 24-25, and we've seen an increase in average page views per user from 5.5 to 8.5 - a direct result of our website being more effective at delivering a high standard of visitor experience. Visitors can find what they're looking for and now explore further into our venues and events with cross-promotion being easier than ever.

The Audience Development team have streamlined their internal processes to promote a growing number of events on the website, with August and October 2025 being our highest engagement on the website in our history. We're seeing trends of increased engagement over school holiday periods like Easter, summer holidays and Halloween, with Christmas coming not far behind. One third of online views have been for events and What's On pages, with approximately one in eight views planning a visit on our visit pages, checking opening times, admissions, transport options etc. Both Lotherton and Temple Newsam achieved over one million views on their websites, with Leeds City Museum coming very close to this too.





OUTCOME 3

We will continue to be a leader in collaborative, sustainable, accessible cultural learning and creative skills development

ACE IP MET
Dynamism
Environmental Responsibility
Inclusion & Relevance

At a glance

We supported families at Leeds Children's Hospital, helped young adults into the workplace through careers fairs, hosted Project Placements and participated in academic networks, and mentored other museum learning professionals. The autumn is always busy with school visits, October half term and accessible Christmas activities.

Pupils

10,524
Q3 2025/6

10,693
Q3 2024/5

-2%
Engaged through workshops, self led and outreach

Family

24,569
Q3 2025/26

34,634
Q3 2024/25

-29%
People engaged in family activities

SEND

19
2025/6

40
2024/5

-53%
Workshops differentiated for pupils with SEND needs

MyLearning

94,853
Unique Users
Q3 2025/26

155,388
Page Views

1117
Downloads

977
Watched Videos

*MyLearning analytics: The apparent drop in user numbers is due to a shift in how we report analytics, moving from total event counts to meaningful metrics like active users and page views. This change avoids inflated figures caused by tracking minor interactions such as scrolling or clicking.

Headlines

Proud to be finalists in the national Kids in Museums Awards for family engagement at Abbey House Museum, and the social care Children and Young People Now Awards for our Careers for All programme.

Advocated to elected members within Leeds City Council through a Scrutiny Board paper in November focused on *Evaluating the impact of inclusive, place based cultural learning from Early Years to adulthood.* LMG was commended for its commitment to cultural learning, and took recommendations for research into attachment, and an ongoing review of school programmes.

Primary School Membership - completed initial teacher training for all staff at the 21 member schools and began four curriculum planning contracts.

Completed the fourth cohort of families for *Mini Wonders* (Nesta and Art Fund Early Years parenting research) at Leeds Industrial Museum, and onboarded our partner, Barnsley Museums to the programme.

Leeds City Museum held a SEND Careers fair as part of the national Discover Creative Careers month for 200 students from nine different educational settings.

Joined British Council Early Career Researcher Network to share practice across social sciences and humanities and support local universities and researchers.

Ran family activities across LMG for October half term and Christmas, including Halloween events and Relaxed Santa at Abbey House Museum and Temple Newsam House.

We formally mentored six individual museum professionals and supported National Lottery Heritage Fund with national guidance on working with children and young people and Kirklees Museums with their learning programmes.



In Focus

We are working with the Learning Zone of Leeds Children's Hospital, supporting families with children who are under long term medical care. We visit Leeds General Infirmary (LGI) every two months aiming to bring joy and spark conversations using objects from the collections.

We work with between four and eight young people and their families at each session, either at the bedside, or as small groups of children in the Learning Zone classroom space. Themes for conversations this autumn have included the Tudors and Under the Sea.

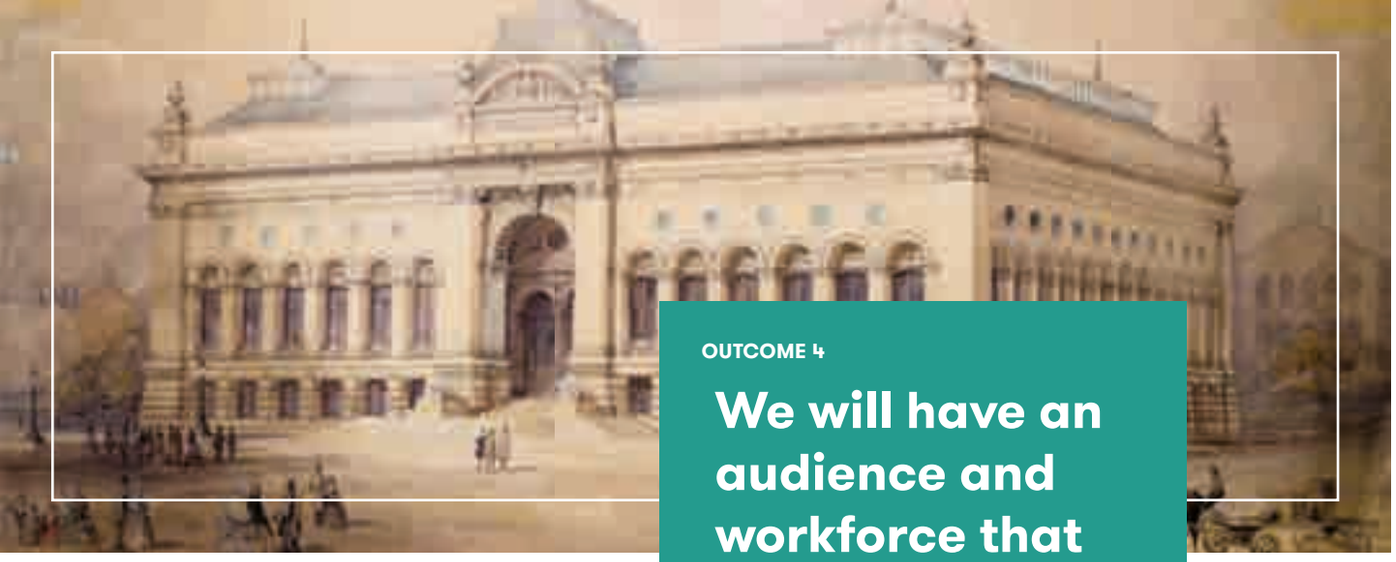
The pandemic interrupted our previous long-term partnership with the Learning Zone (2008-2020), as collection objects couldn't be medically sanitised to protect the children. We began piloting work again during July 2025, and in December 2025 signed a partnership agreement for delivery throughout 2026. This is an important strand of work for reaching, engaging and supporting some of our most vulnerable children within Leeds for whom cultural experiences can be challenging.











OUTCOME 4

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

ACE IP MET

Ambition & Quality

Inclusion & Relevance

At a glance

It was a busy quarter for volunteering and co-curated events including a hugely successful multi-faith *Light for Leeds* festival at Kirkstall Abbey. We also got a first glimpse of research carried out earlier in the year into what visitors thought of our venues immediately after they visited. The multi-sensory *Another Way of Seeing* display at Leeds Art Gallery attracted over one thousand visitors in just two weeks.

9 **-25%**
Co-curated displays

201 **-3%**
Community creative sessions

41 **-55%**
Generous hostings

Volunteers	Hours
115 2025/6	**2428** 2025/26
96 2024/5	**2286** 2024/25
+20% Volunteers	**+6%** Hours contributed by volunteers

50 (+117%) co-produced events with our community partners



Headlines

First ever *Meet Your Muslim Neighbour* community event hosted at Leeds City Museum in November.

Hip Hop Who's Who Wall opened for Hip Hop History Month at Leeds City Museum, showcasing members of Leeds' hip hop community, co-curated by Leeds Hip Hop Historian Society.

The Audience Development team issued a survey about the development of the Railway Gallery at Leeds Industrial Museum in October, where 96% of respondents said they'd like to see more railway displays at the museum.

***Another Way of Seeing* at Leeds Art Gallery featured artworks by nine contemporary artists** that encouraged visitors to touch, listen, smell and discover layers of meaning through their senses, and is curated by Gill Crawshaw. The display had 1113 visitors over two weeks.

Audience Development have been working with research consultants over the past few months to conduct post visit surveys across all venues, and in December we got to see the initial results of this in a presentation from the agency.

Project placement recruited to develop the brand and visuals for the upcoming opening of a community cafe at Leeds Industrial Museum in partnership with West SILC.

Leeds City Museum is working with Leeds Beckett University second year Architecture students on a live brief as part of their Interior Architecture module connected to the museum's current spatial and feasibility study.



Photo: Haptic Ripple by Sam Metz

In Focus

The 10th annual *Light For Leeds* event ran on Sunday 17 November in the Gatehouse at Abbey House Museum and was a great success, very well attended and with very positive feedback.

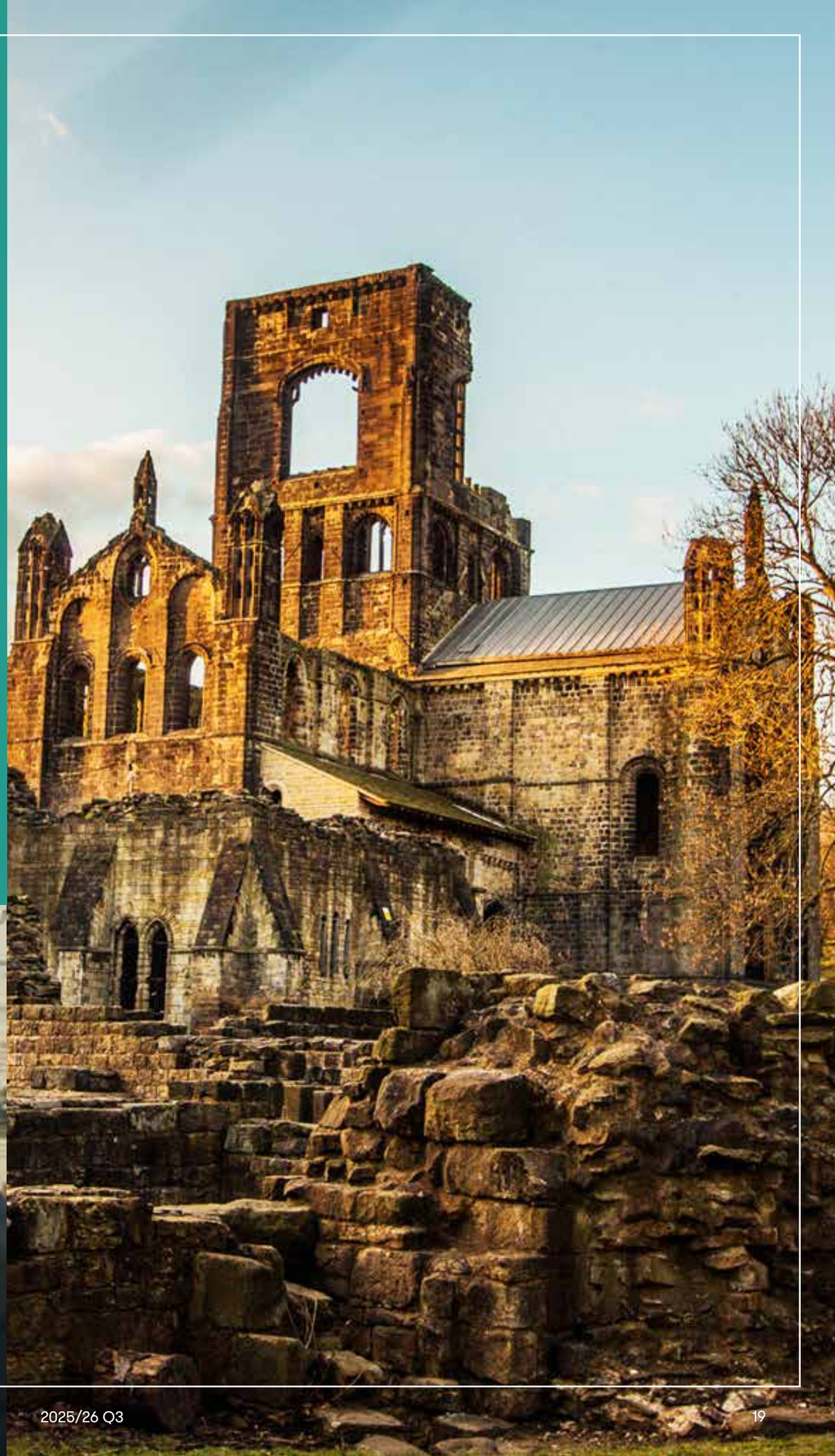
We had Christian women's choirs, South Asian music performed by children from the local Hindu Mandir, an explanation of the importance of light in Judaism, Islamic recitations, and a contemplative moment at dusk when all attendees lit a candle and held a moment of silence. Other highlights included the provision of community food, the opportunity to write messages of peace and hope and place them on our Tree of Hope, a flute recital and a meditative walk with Brahma Kumaris.

The event was opened by Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Barry Anderson and Deputy Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire Dr Kuldip Bharj OBE, who lit the World Peace Flame and made speeches on the importance of togetherness. Dr Bharj had this to say following the event, which as ever was generously funded by LCC's Religion and Belief Hub:

"May I extend my heartfelt thanks for hosting such a wonderful *Lights of Leeds* event as part of Interfaith Week.

It was truly inspiring to see so many communities come together in a spirit of unity, respect, and celebration. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, and the event beautifully highlighted the importance of dialogue and understanding between different faiths and cultures. I left feeling uplifted and grateful to be part of such an inclusive initiative..."







OUTCOME 5

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

ACE IP MET
All

At a glance

This quarter has been busy with new exhibitions featuring both LMG collections and loans, alongside strong community partnerships. The Picture Library continues to grow with new members joining to enjoy artworks.

97 -34%
Objects conserved

380 -33%
Objects condition checked

386 -8%
Enquiries answered

8329 +178%
TMS records updated

77 -61%
Records amended as a result of community input

199 -70%
New records created

63 -9%
Researchers accessing collections

Visitors to objects on loan out

258,584
Q3 25/26

159,330
Q3 24/25

+62%

Long Loans
(12 months+)

182 out +/-0%

995 in from 69 lenders +0.4%

Short Loans
(up to 12 months)

201 out to 26 venues, 5 international +/-0%

2369 in from 215 lenders +176%

The Picture Library

Members	Loans
453 2025/26	597 2025/26
402 2024/25	509 2024/25
+13% Members	+17% Artworks on loan

Headlines

A new display celebrating sport opened in Community Cases at Leeds City Museum co-curated with project volunteers. It marks the culmination of researching sport in the city as part of the National Lottery Heritage Fund project *On the Pitch, Off the Pitch* and adding to LMG's holdings representing the breadth and diversity of sporting activity in Leeds.

Three photographs by the renowned Leeds' photographer Peter Mitchell went on display at Leeds City Museum. They were acquired in 2024 in memory of John Roles (1957-2020), LMG's Head of Service from 2004-2020.

Leeds Art Gallery's terrace room has been undergoing essential repair. While this caused some disruption with scaffolding outside meaning accessible entry was via the adjoining Central Library for a period, the work is now nearing completion and will lead to re-opening of the sculpture galleries once internal repairs from water ingress are undertaken.

In Focus

A new co-curated display opened at Leeds City Museum in October 2025, celebrating 60 years of music in Leeds.

The exhibition *Music Leeds Us*, in partnership with Leeds Conservatoire and with support from Leeds Beckett University, includes stories from more than 100 partners, support from over 50 volunteers and more than 900 loaned items together with objects from LMG's collections, including recent acquisitions. Over 400 people came to the opening, with performances from local musicians and choirs. A full events programme is underway, with local musicians showcasing their music weekly in 'Open Mic' slots, and larger events co-curated with Leeds Conservatoire and other partners. In November the exhibition hosted Fergus Quill, celebrating Matthew Coe AKA Xero Slingsby on what would have been his 68th birthday; and beat boxers from the Hip Hop community.



In Focus

In December volunteers from Millim and the Leeds Living History Project visited Leeds Industrial Museum to view a collection of Hebrew and Yiddish wooden type for printing.

This collection was donated to the museum by Joseph Porton and Sons, Leeds in 1985 along with other printed materials. Joseph Porton was a notable Russian-born Jewish author and printer whose printing firm had significant ties to the Leeds Jewish community. Important Hebrew, Yiddish and English language works from the Porton collection of books are part of the University of Leeds' collections.

Volunteers from the project are working with Sophia Lambert from the university creating an archive of testimonies and artefacts relating to Leeds Jewish heritage, predominantly by collecting the oral histories of older Jewish people in the city.

It is hoped that by working with the project volunteers our staff at the museum can further understand the cultural significance and historic value of the wooden type and learn more about our Jewish communities' contribution to the printing industry in Leeds.



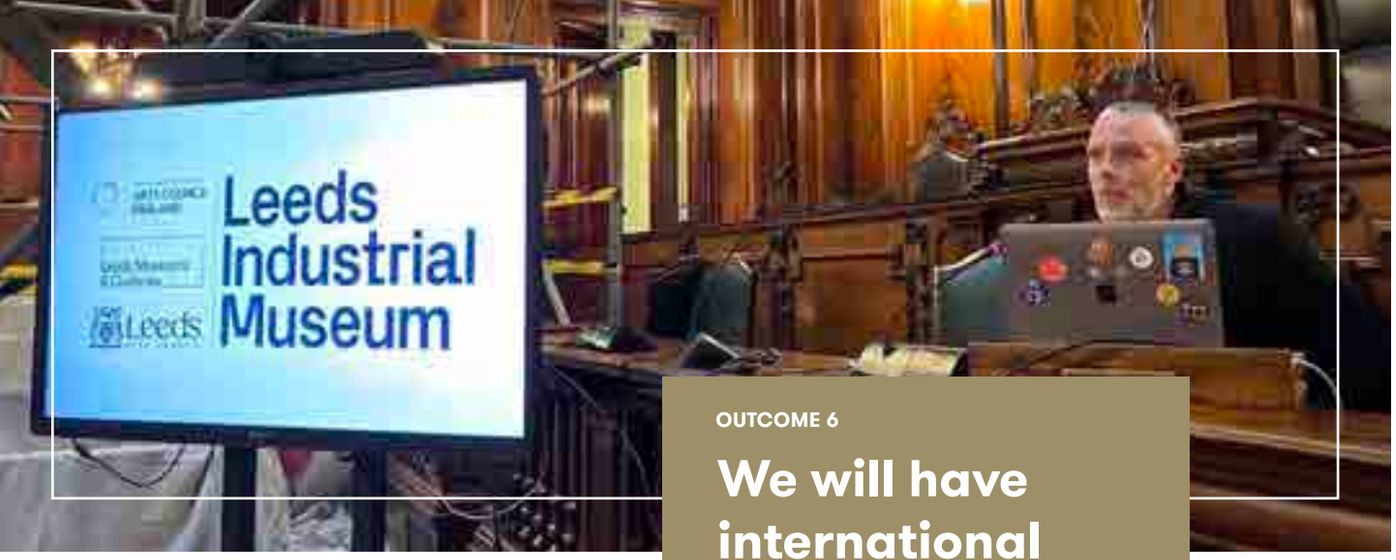


In Focus

A new co-curated display with groups from Pyramid of Arts and Leeds Art Gallery's Youth Collective opened in Artspace.

Pyramid of Arts supports artists who have learning disabilities, autism or both. Together, the groups met in Artspace for seven months prior to the exhibition opening to plan, design and research into the 'moonlight' paintings created by celebrated 19th century Leeds artist, John Atkinson Grimshaw in the art collection. The display includes paintings, a large painted mural, metal pieces, ceramics, collages, a digital animation, photography lightboxes and three drop-in activities alongside workshops delivered by the Pyramid artists.

We Bathe In Starlight in the Ziff Gallery, sees members of Arts & Minds' display poetic responses and prints, nestled into the collections of Victorian paintings where Grimshaw's artworks have previously hung. The Arts & Minds Network brings together people in Leeds who believe the arts can promote mental wellbeing. Both projects connect to the exhibition *'Don't Let's Ask for the Moon...': Nocturnes and Atkinson Grimshaw* which opened in November.



OUTCOME 6

We will have international reputation and reach

ACE IP MET
All

At a glance

As well as loans to museums and galleries across the world, this quarter saw several international research visits to LMG venues, and making an important contribution to an international symposium by explaining the role of Leeds Industrial Museum in creating a sense of place.

Headlines

A Finnish delegation visited Temple Newsam as part of a trip exploring travel trade options. The group enjoyed a tour of the house and onsite facilities. They were impressed by the depth of the offer, quality of collections and presentation of the house. The reaction of the group highlighted the huge potential of the venue for group markets with the site being primed for package visits to Leeds, Yorkshire and the North.

Musicians featured in *Music Leeds Us* have travelled to Leeds to see the exhibition from as far as the USA and then posted to their international followers about the show on their social media accounts, including members of Gang of Four and The Wedding Present.

Headlines

Leeds Discovery Centre welcomed Jack Norris, a researcher from the University of Melbourne's Indigenous Studies programme who is working with the Wurundjeri people to locate their collections in UK museums. Their country covers most of what is now Melbourne.

Leeds Industrial Museum was featured as a case study in how the museum has created a sense of place at an international symposium in Bradford organised by UCL Arts and Sciences and Bradford Libraries.

Leeds Industrial Museum hosted 48 students aged 16-17 from a college in Dunkirk, France on 16 December. Their visit to the museum was complemented by an introductory talk and short tour from the Keeper and Visitor Assistant, Barrie. The college students were learning about similarities and differences between our two countries/cities, including the industrial revolution, industries and current political landscape.

International loans from the collection are currently in Lanuvio and Passariano in Italy, Chicago in the United States, Chemnitz in Germany and Versailles, France comprising six paintings, eight marble sculptures and one installation work. Pictured is the loan of *Portrait of La Duchesse de la Ferte with the duc de Bretagne and the duc d'Anjou* by Francois de Troy to the exhibition *Le Grand Dauphin (1661-1711)* at the Château de Versailles.



Château de Versailles. Photography: EPV, T. Garnier

Quarterly Report

2025/6 Q3

Leeds Museums & Galleries

Quarterly Report



2025/26 Q4

Leeds Museums & Galleries

Q4 2025/26

This document celebrates achievements and summarises key activity from Leeds Museum & Galleries (LMG) over the period January to March 2026.

It is structured in line with our 5-year strategy **Deepening Connections, Widening Impact**, which has been developed with colleagues, partners and Arts Council England's core investment principles in mind. Throughout the document where activity and achievements meet Arts Council England Investment Principles they are referenced under each heading in order to report progress for our National Portfolio Organisation status.

Data comparisons are made with the same period of the previous year unless otherwise stated.

Leeds Museums & Galleries' Strategic Outcomes

1. We will be more sustainable and responsible, financially and environmentally
2. We will provide higher quality audience engagement and experiences, both physically and digitally
3. We will continue to be a leader in collaborative, sustainable, accessible cultural learning and creative skills development
4. We will have an audience and workforce that is representative and reflective of the city
5. We will have collections and heritage assets that are better known, better understood, and better cared for
6. We will have international reputation and reach



OUTCOME 1

We will be more sustainable and responsible, financially and environmentally

ACE IP MET
Dynamism
Environmental Responsibility

At a glance

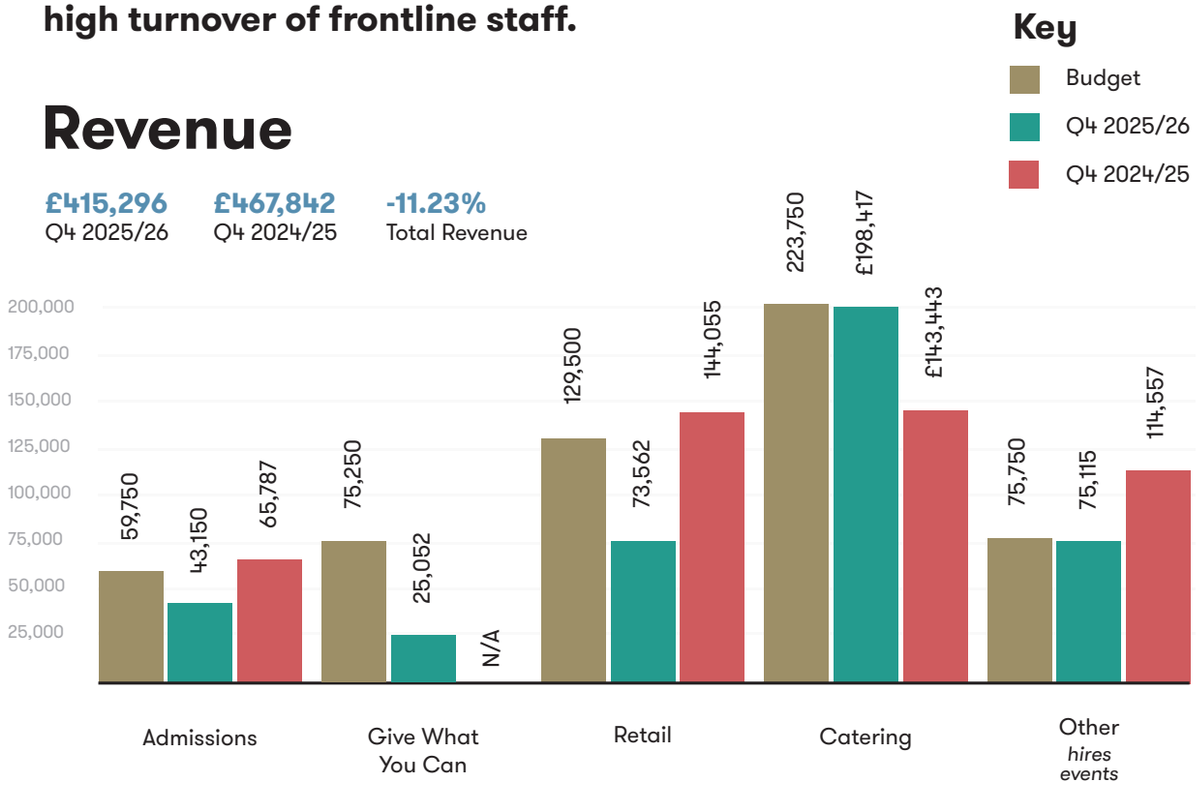
Catering has performed strongly as the Tiled Hall Café now operates seven days a week. Overall retail sales have fallen since the Miffy exhibition at Leeds City Museum closed, whereas admissions income has been comparable, but saw a decrease due to the temporary closure of the first floor at Abbey House Museum and a high turnover of frontline staff.

Revenue

£415,296
Q4 2025/26

£467,842
Q4 2024/25

-11.23%
Total Revenue



Headlines

LMG has had a 80% increase on special event ticket sales from the previous financial year and a 72% rise in income with those events.

Tiled Hall Café has seen a year-on-year increase in income of 23% or £81,000 compared to the previous year after six months of continuous growth.

Leeds Art Gallery became a filming location in February with Central Court being turned into a designer boutique for the feature film '*Scorn*' and Tiled Hall Café hosted the live filming of the CBeebies '*Read & Rave*' in partnership with the British Library.

Leeds City Museum hosted 14 out of hours String Quartet Candlelight Concerts in Brodrick Hall attracting 3866 attendees with performances ranging from Hans Zimmer's Best Works, Bridgerton Specials & Taylor Swift.

Development of digital donation points with Good Box at Leeds Industrial Museum, Temple Newsam and Lotherton has led to an increase in visitor donations, helping financial sustainability. Further areas for improving donation revenue, such as through tours and added value visits are in development.

Building controls for the air source heat pump at Leeds Industrial Museum have been fine-tuned to maximise efficiency and reduce spend, whilst heating the building through more sustainable energy sources.

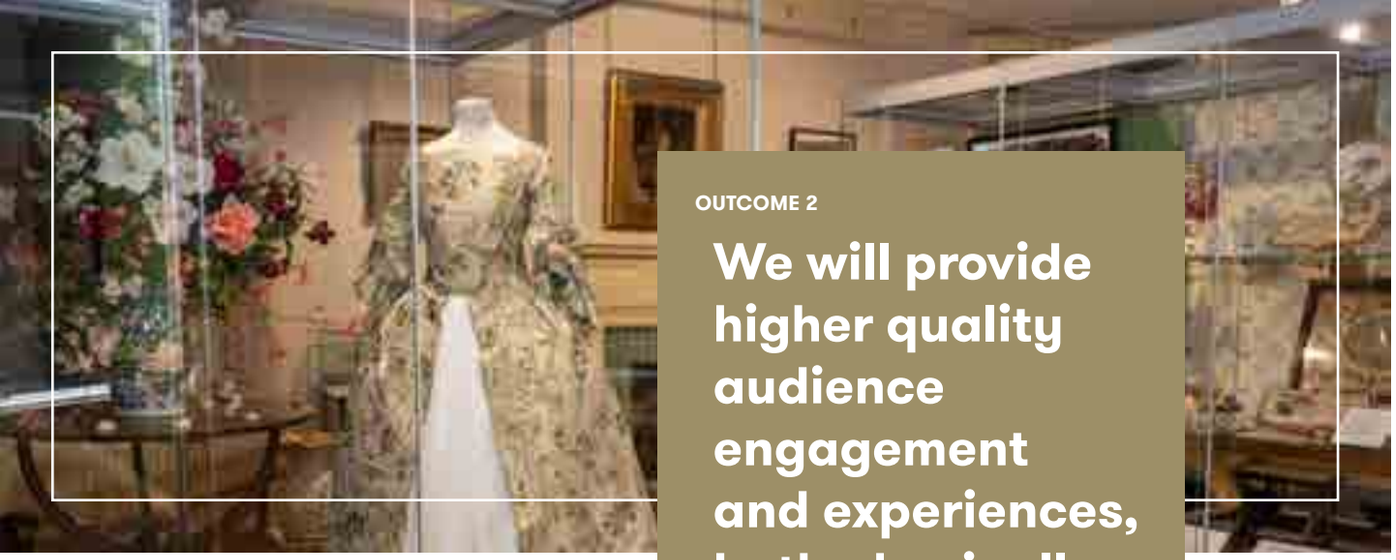


In Focus

We tested new ways of working at Leeds Art Gallery to become more financially sustainable, delivering our first ticketed evening late event in connection with the *Plant Dreaming* exhibition on 19 March.

The full allocation of 250 tickets sold out within a week of initial promotion, supported by the LMG Audience Development team. The event featured creative workshops and talks led by the Leeds Art Gallery team, exhibiting artist Aliyah Hussain and the Dead Plants Society, live music, film screenings and opportunity to view the exhibitions after dark. The artists featured were from across West Yorkshire and we worked in partnership with local suppliers Sarto and Taste to create botanically themed drinks and food.

The event was the gallery's fastest selling event in recent history and paves the way for similar events of this type in the future. There is a clear public demand for us to realise future late opening events of this nature.



OUTCOME 2

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

ACE IP MET
All

At a glance

We welcomed over a million visitors to our venues for the first time since the pandemic and our website has received 8 million views in the last 12 months. We opened new exhibitions at Abbey House Museum and Lotherton, and hosted a popular zine day at Leeds City Museum.

Venue Visitors

1,033,773
2025/26 full year

939,494
2024/25 full year

+10%
Year to date visitors

Visitors

198,627
2025/26

211,965
2024/25

-6%
Venue visitors

Socials

335,836
2025/26

356,396
2024/25

-5.7%
Social media followers*

Website

258,033
2025/26

687,227
2024/25

-62%
Website visitors

Views

1,871,969
2025/26

1,956,741
2024/25

-4.4%
Webpage views

Press Highlights

Over the financial year LMG have produced 45 press releases communicating activity and successes. This quarter's highlights include:

Over 1 million visitors for the year for the first time since the pandemic with strong regional coverage.

We opened two new exhibitions which were both featured in the Yorkshire Evening Post: In the Picture and Botanically Beautiful.

A national review of Interfaith Week featured the 'Light for Leeds' event run annually at Abbey House Museum.

*Decline due to removal of Thwaite Watermill from reporting.

Headlines

LMG's website has reached a milestone of 8 million website views in the last 12 months. 63% of those views were across our venues pages, 30% of those views were on what's on and events pages, 12% were planning a visit, 5% of users were looking at current exhibitions or collections, 1% were looking for access information, 3% were Miffy related views (exhibition and events) and 2% were looking at Christmas content.

Our Digital Development Officer attended a Google Digital Garage event to increase optimisation of Google platforms across SEO and digital marketing.

We took part in the Membership Matters survey by Indigo Share Ltd and attended a webinar on the results, helping us to better understand audience trends, membership perk options and visitors' perceptions around memberships and their benefits.

For the past six months the Preservative Party have been working on website content with the intention of this serving both as a digital archive for creative projects and a tool to promote their values.

Lotherton engaged audiences with *Botanically Beautiful: Art & Design Inspired by Nature* via the medium of music. The sold out event, *The Music of Nature*, saw Lotherton's drawing room come alive with a harp performance by Sarah Davies, engaging Leeds' classical music enthusiasts.

Leeds Industrial Museum hosted a RSPB/Ramblers Association walk, taking a group of 12 local people through the mill grounds to enjoy wildlife and wellbeing. This builds relationships, shows the museum in a new light, and gives ideas for further activities.



“It’s been such a lovely day with so much to do. I booked onto the print workshop, but have also created mini zines, listened to music and attended a super interesting talk. I came to Leeds from Sheffield and spent the whole day in the museum.”

– Participant

In Focus

“Make A Zine Day” at Leeds City Museum was a celebration of zines, zine culture and zine making.

It included specialist artist talks and advice for zine makers, creative print workshops, live riso printing, mini zine making and a market of 24 zine makers. The stall holders were from a diverse range of communities from Leeds and showcased a welcoming, inclusive and creative community.

“It was a protected and welcoming environment, with engagement in every aspect being overwhelmingly positive. Some members felt comfortable enough to participate as stallholders and even attend a workshop, a huge milestone for their personal and professional development.”

– Staff quote



OUTCOME 3

We will continue to be a leader in collaborative, sustainable, accessible cultural learning and creative skills development

ACE IP MET
Dynamism
Environmental Responsibility
Inclusion & Relevance

At a glance

We have begun a partnership with Leeds City College and the Virtual School supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking young adults around language learning and belonging. School visits remained busy over the spring term, but a rainy spring has impacted on family engagement.

Pupils

11,767
Q4 2025/6

10,612
Q4 2024/5

+10%
Engaged through workshops, self led and outreach

Family

6286
Q4 2025/26

10,923
Q4 2024/25

-42%
People engaged in family activities

SEND

73
2025/6

23
2024/5

+213%
Workshops differentiated for pupils with SEND needs

MyLearning

66,319
Unique Users
Q4 2025/26

118,510
Page Views

950
Downloads

1038
Watched Videos

*MyLearning analytics: The apparent drop in user numbers is due to a shift in how we report analytics, moving from total event counts to meaningful metrics like active users and page views. This change avoids inflated figures caused by tracking minor interactions such as scrolling or clicking.

Headlines

We completed the fifth Mini Wonders Early Years parenting cohort at Leeds Industrial Museum, and supported our partner, Barnsley Museums, through their second cohort.

We recruited six new casual Learning Facilitators to help deliver school programmes for increased capacity.

Developed new Yr10/12 work experience processes to connect our offer better to the Gatsby Benchmarks and facilitate an increasing need for work experience across the city.

The Head of Learning & Access chaired the Yorkshire Accessible Museums Network (YAMN) and led a Kids in Museums session on staff wellbeing for Welsh museums and the Welsh Government, participated in the Early Careers Research Network (ECRN) launch in Yorkshire and Humber and the Clore Duffield Foundation and Art Fund Cultural Learning symposium and mentored four museum learning professionals.

Leeds Industrial Museum hosted 12 adults with learning disabilities from Open Country, Wakefield, for a hands-on gardening skills session in the grounds and tour of the museum with the Keeper.



In Focus

We have been working with Leeds City College and the Virtual School to support English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students, many of whom have newly arrived in Leeds as unaccompanied asylum-seeking young adults.

We have worked with four cohorts, each with around 18 young adults, over six weeks at Leeds Discovery Centre. The students used objects as stimulus to formulate questions, increase their vocabulary and learn grammatical rules. They chose objects that interested them, often from their home cultures, to create a presentation for the group to develop oracy skills.

“Engaging for students, it made them think and be curious... many students have never visited a museum before in their home country, or understand the concept, so this is very different for them.”

– Tutor

“[The students’] social skills and confidence were greatly improved.”

– Tutor

“I liked the presentation because it motivates me.”

– Student

“I’m excited because I see a lot... Museums are places where people can see and learn about history, art, science and culture. They help us to understand the past and discover new ideas.”

– Student





OUTCOME 4

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

ACE IP MET

Ambition & Quality

Inclusion & Relevance

At a glance

Another busy quarter with a range of co-curated community events including celebrations at Temple Newsam with the Leeds Chinese Community School to mark the beginning of the Lunar New Year.

4 **-50%**
Co-curated displays

133 **-6%**
Community creative sessions

65 **-9%**
Generous hostings

Volunteers	Hours
98 2025/6	**1877** 2025/26
152 2024/5	**3514** 2024/25
-35% Volunteers	**-47%** Hours contributed by volunteers

31 (+14%) co-produced events with our community partners



Headlines

Four co-curated community events for the exhibition *Music Leeds Us* have brought in new audiences. These included Tom Sharp Jazz Orchestra (attended by 220 people), a day of experimental improvised music (237 audience members), a celebration of South Asian music and arts (200 people) and a performance, a workshop and networking day for International Women's Day (117 attendees).

Development of the new Leeds Industrial Museum cafe is underway, due to launch later in 2026. A paid Project Placement has brought expertise and authenticity, as has an access audit from a person with lived experience of neurodiversity which is informing developments. The cafe is a partnership with West Leeds SILC, bringing real-world work experience opportunities to students with learning disabilities and representation for people with learning disabilities to our team.

Accelerator Bursary 2025 artists Hannah Guy and Alegria Repila-Smith held solo presentations of their work in the Central Court at Leeds Art Gallery in January to conclude their year. The Accelerator Bursary is funded by Leeds Art Fund and delivered in partnership by Leeds Art Gallery and Assembly House. Three new Accelerator Bursary artists for 2026 took up their studio space at the start of the year.



In Focus

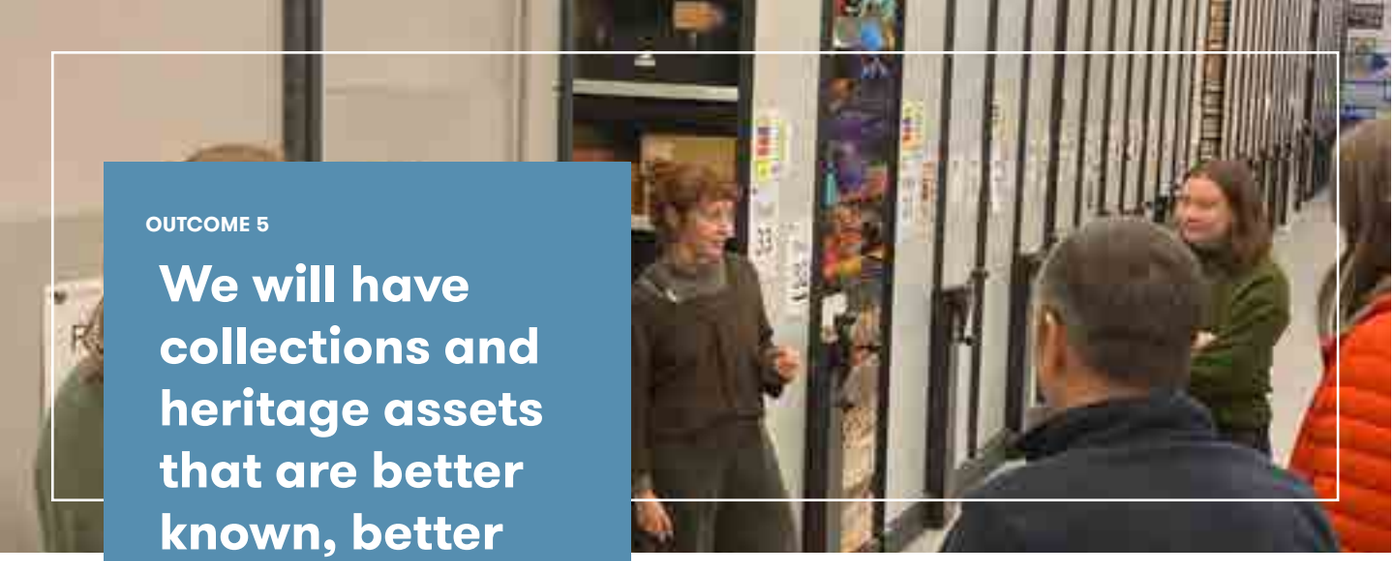
This year marked the return of the Lunar New Year celebrations at Temple Newsam.

On Saturday 21 February, we ushered in the Year of the Horse in partnership with the Leeds Chinese Community School (LCCS). It signifies the strengthening and evolving relationship between Temple Newsam and LCCS. Over 160 students, staff, volunteers and performers from, and affiliated, with LCCS, local artists and performers engaged, educated and entertained over 700 members of public.









OUTCOME 5

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

ACE IP MET
All

At a glance

Specialist groups were hosted, a community-created publication inspired by the collections was launched and a major artist commission was announced. Our loans programme remains busy and Picture Library membership continues to grow.

61 -89%
Objects conserved

147 -63%
Objects condition checked

352 -18%
Enquiries answered

6033 -30%
TMS records updated

500 +2%
Records amended as a result of community input

230 -53%
New records created

82 +86%
Researchers accessing collections

Visitors to objects on loan out

195,929
Q4 25/26

101,345
Q4 24/25

+91%

Long Loans
(12 months+)

221 out +21%
994 in from 69 lenders -1%

Short Loans
(up to 12 months)

201 out to 23 venues, 4 international +22%
1949 in from 163 lenders +97%

The Picture Library

Members	Loans
489 2025/26	601 2025/26
431 2024/25	541 2024/25
+13% Members	+11% Artworks on loan

Headlines

NatSCA, the Natural Science Collections Association, hosted a herbarium sheet workshop at Leeds Discovery Centre welcoming twenty-five colleagues from museums across the UK and Poland. LMG's Assistant Curator of Plants led a tour of the collections store for participants.

The Silver Society visited Temple Newsam and Lotherton in March for curator-led tours and an opportunity to see objects from the silver collection close up.

A book launch of a publication produced in partnership with Arts and Minds was held at Leeds Art Gallery. '*We Bathe in Starlight*' is a collection of poetry and print inspired by John Atkinson Grimshaw's paintings and the wider exhibition, *Don't Let's Ask for the Moon*. This will become a lasting legacy of the interventions by the Arts and Minds poets which have featured in the Ziff Gallery during the exhibition and explore new ways of understanding the artworks.

A collection store assessment at Leeds Industrial Museum has led to an action plan created by the LMG Conservator and investment in a heater and dehumidifier through NPO grant to improve environmental conditions.

The fourth loan display from the art collection was installed at Maggie's, Yorkshire, the centre at St James's University Hospital supporting people living with cancer and their families.

Internationally acclaimed sculptor Mike Nelson took part in an 'in conversation' event hosted by Leeds Beckett in partnership with Leeds Art Gallery. His work *M62 (East, West)* (2025) recently entered the collection and is currently on display at the gallery.



In Focus

Artist Yuen Fong Ling commissioned by the British Library and Leeds Art Gallery, supported by Jerwood Art Fund Commissions.

The British Library and Leeds Art Gallery, in partnership, have been awarded funding through Jerwood Art Fund Commissions to commission The Fold, a new multi-part artwork by British-Chinese artist Yuen Fong Ling, created in dialogue with books, sculptures and objects from their respective collections.

Inspired by his own family history of migration to the UK from Lai Chi Chong in Hong Kong, Yuen Fong Ling's commission will challenge the myths, stereotypes and social expectations that have been portrayed in historical narratives by reframing the stories of British-Hong Kong families.

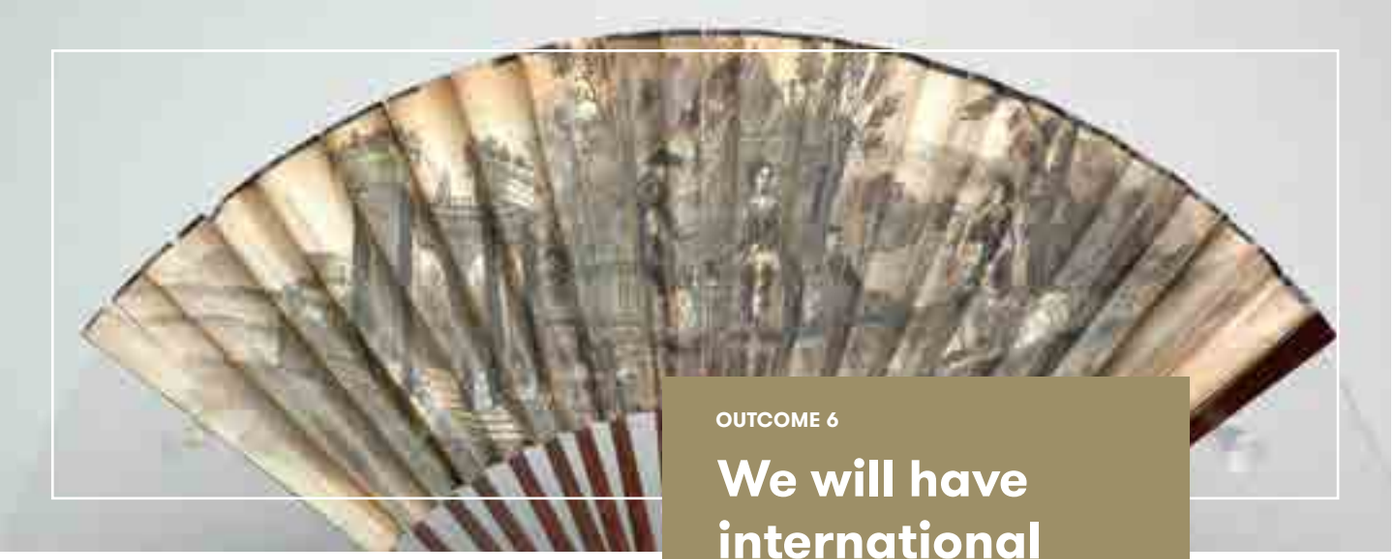
Using the folding fan as a recurring motif, Ling will bring these ideas together in an exhibition that presents new artworks alongside artists' books from the British Library, folded sculptural forms from the Leeds Museums and Galleries collection and social history artefacts from the Chinese community, for an exhibition at Leeds Art Gallery from May to October 2027. Elements of the new work will be acquired by both partners for their collections.



Image: Project Visual, Yuen Fong Ling



Photo: Mark Howe



OUTCOME 6

We will have international reputation and reach

ACE IP MET
All

At a glance

From the launch of a major international sporting event to a big story created from a small object, together with the continuation of international loans, LMG continues to reach out to the world.

Headlines

Colleagues from the University of Leeds brought Mark Amenyo-Xa from the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies, University of Ghana (Legon-Accra) to visit Leeds Discovery Centre and meet the Curator of World Cultures in January. They discussed museum governance, collections management policies and material in the collection from Ghana.

The Fan Circle International fully funded the conservation of four 18th century fans. A specialist fan conservator repaired broken sticks, tears in the fragile paper leaves of the fans and gently cleaned. This project came about following a visit of the Circle to Lotherton for a curator-led tour.

Headlines

A story about a 2,000 year old coin once used as a Leeds bus fair and donated to Leeds Museums and Galleries (Coin used as Leeds bus fare was 2,000 year old currency - BBC News) **made national and international news this spring.** The story was picked up by publications in Germany, Gibraltar, USA (including People Magazine), Poland, India, Greece and beyond, as well as being featured on BBC, Independent, Daily Telegraph, iPaper, Daily Mail, Radio Leeds and Yorkshire Evening Poster.

The exhibition *Plant Dreaming* at Leeds Art Gallery featured artworks by artists from abroad – a video installation by Paris based Noémi Goudal and acrylic on silk wall hangings by Emma Talbot who lives and works in Reggio Emilia, Italy. The public programme featured a new commission *Elysia* for Central Court by Sicily born, Leeds based artist Vanessa Grasse.

International loans this quarter included 12 items from the Archive of the artist Helen Chadwick to Graz in Austria, a French painting to Versailles, a Constable painting to Manin in Italy and a Susan Hiller installation to Chicago.



In Focus

In January Leeds City Museum hosted the Tour de France 2027 announcement for the races beginning in the UK. The Grand Départ for the women's race, Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift, which will be on the Headrow in Leeds on 30 July next year.

Around 150 guests gathered at Leeds City Museum to hear details of the various UK start and finish locations for the women's race. The route for the 2027 men's Grand Départ – which, like the women's version, is taking place in Britain – was also announced to the museum audience.

Speakers included Sports Minister Stephanie Peacock MP, Tour de France director Christian Prudhomme, Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift director Marion Rousse and Lizzie Deignan, the Otley-born road and track cyclist who won Team GB's first medal at the London 2012 Olympics.





Quarterly Report

2025/6 Q4

Leeds Museums & Galleries