

# MLA Museums Offer

## MLA exists to provide strategic leadership. We assess and manage risks and we help others to raise standards and deliver better services.

Museums need to respond to and serve communities. They must contribute to human well-being and invigorate tourism and the creative economy.

Tourism is vital to the UK economy and museums have a huge role to play. That is why we will be working closely with Visit Britain and will be encouraging take up of the VAQAS quality approval scheme.

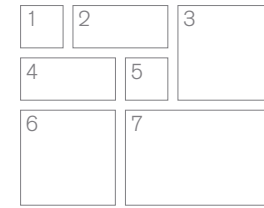
Through collections, expertise, creativity and resources, museums meet the expectations of the public; they inspire learning; they help us understand our cultural heritage and background. They must foster diversity and stimulate a vibrant quality of life for people of all ages and backgrounds in the United Kingdom, whether residents or visitors.

We will continue to work with our regional partners to ensure that we focus on impact and challenge traditional thinking. It is important that resources are assessed in relation to benefits and that timely and good advice is offered where needed. Our regional museums programme, Renaissance, will continue to play a pivotal role but must continue to evolve and reach even more people.

**Roy Clare CBE**  
Chief Executive, MLA Partnership

## How the MLA Partnership supports your museum

The Partnership is committed to the continued celebration and promotion of our extraordinary cultural heritage and, in support of museums, manages a variety of projects and programmes. Find out more about what the Partnership can do for your museum overleaf.



- 1 Tank Museum, Bovington
- 2 Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery
- 3 Jewry Wall Museum, Leicester
- 4 Northampton Museum and Art Gallery
- 5 Maritime Museum, Lancaster
- 6 Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Art Gallery, Exeter
- 7 York Art Gallery



Photography: © MLA, Cristian Barnett; Alan Fletcher/A Shot in the Dark

[www.mla.gov.uk](http://www.mla.gov.uk)

## Acquisitions, Exports and Loans (AEL)

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The work of MLA's AEL unit includes:

- Acceptance in Lieu scheme – has transferred £250 million worth of important cultural objects into public ownership in the last ten years.
- [www.culturalpropertyadvice.gov.uk](http://www.culturalpropertyadvice.gov.uk) – offers advice and support to the sector and others on collecting, buying and selling art, antiques and antiquities.
- Government Indemnity Scheme – offers museums a free alternative to commercial insurance when borrowing items for exhibitions and long-term loan. It's estimated to save cultural bodies £15 million per year.
- Private Treaty Sales – enable public museums and galleries to purchase items that have been granted Conditional Exemption from Inheritance Tax at a beneficial price.
- Export licensing unit – helps museums with licenses for objects being exported out of the UK.
- Reviewing Committee – identifies the national treasures which ought not to leave the country and advises Government whether export licences should be deferred.
- PRISM fund – distributes £250,000 annually to museums for the Preservation of Industrial and Scientific Material.
- National Security Advisor – advises museums and galleries on security issues.

For more information go to [www.mla.gov.uk](http://www.mla.gov.uk)

## Designation Scheme

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Since 2005 Designation, which identifies collections of outstanding quality and significance, has been broadened from being a museum specific scheme to one which now celebrates the best museum, archive and library collections in non-national institutions. As well as being judged the best, these collections have to meet standards in collection management and service to the public.

The Designation Panel meets twice yearly.

For more information contact [designation@mla.gov.uk](mailto:designation@mla.gov.uk)

## Digital Initiatives

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MLA is working with DCMS to support the European Digital Library. MLA is working closely with 24 Hour Museum to redevelop the website to enable teachers and schools to more easily find out about educational opportunities offered by cultural sector organisations.

24 Hour Museum will be able to offer a range of new services to its users, including in-depth information about collections (Cornucopia), databases and learning resources (MICHAEL) and to collections information from 25 different databases (Discover). In addition, this will directly support the work of Subject Specialist Networks, enabling information and expertise about collections to be accessed by wider audiences.

For more information go to [www.mla.gov.uk](http://www.mla.gov.uk)

## Marketing and Communications Support

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The MLA funds organisations such as 24 Hour Museum and Campaign for Museums to provide museums with opportunities for marketing their venues to existing and potential visitors.

For more information go to [www.24hourmuseum.org.uk](http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk)  
or [www.mgm.org.uk](http://www.mgm.org.uk)

## Museum Accreditation Scheme

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The Museum Accreditation Scheme sets nationally agreed standards for UK museums. These standards relate to governance and management, services for users, visitor facilities and collections management.

The scheme enables museums and their governing bodies to assess their performance and provides a benchmark for grant-making bodies, sponsors and others wishing to support museums. In this way, museums gain access to more funding opportunities and support. Since 2005, additional funding of more than £4.5 million has been received by museums as a result of their participation in Accreditation.

For more information contact [emmeline.leary@mla.gov.uk](mailto:emmeline.leary@mla.gov.uk)

## Museum Learning and Education

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MLA has two major projects underway to support museum education and learning programmes, including Strategic Commissioning and Renaissance education work. Firstly, a Core Skills framework is being established to enable museum staff to gain the skills and competencies needed to work with children. This will be linked to the Department for Children, Schools and Families' Common Core of Skills for the Children's Workforce. Secondly, a national database is being developed to show which schools take part in museum and archive education programmes. This will support planning for education programmes and enable museums to target non-participating schools.

For more information contact [nicky.morgan@mla.gov.uk](mailto:nicky.morgan@mla.gov.uk)

## National Strategy for Museums in England

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Currently being developed by Hedley Swain this strategy will be launched in early 2008. It will build on, develop and conclude the process behind 2005's Understanding the Future: Museums and 21st Century Life, and the 2006 document Understanding the Future: Priorities for England's Museums. The aim is to build a single, joined up museum sector that can, over the long-term, deliver real benefit to all of society.

For more information contact [hedley.swain@mla.gov.uk](mailto:hedley.swain@mla.gov.uk)

## Renaissance

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Since 2002/3, Renaissance has invested almost £150 million of central government funding in regional museums. The majority of this has been invested through the nine hub museum partnerships to benefit collections, the workforce and, above all, museum audiences. From 2008/9 onwards, Renaissance will focus on extending and sustaining the impact of this investment.

Renaissance funding has also been invested in the following projects and resources to directly assist other museums:

- Museum Development Fund (MDF) – provides advice, support and funding for small and medium sized museums. MDF is managed by regional agencies.
- Designation Challenge Fund (DCF) – supports museums to improve the management and accessibility of Designated collections.
- Subject Specialist Networks (SSNs) – enable the sector to share knowledge, expertise and collections. Renaissance funding has enabled new networks to be established and existing ones to develop. Renaissance has also funded the MDA 'SSNconnect' project that launches in late 2007.
- [www.collectionslink.org.uk](http://www.collectionslink.org.uk) – provides direct access to advice in more than 16 areas of professional practice. These include conservation, security, digitisation and fundraising.
- Diversify – helps make museum careers more accessible to people from ethnic minorities. The programme, managed by the Museums Association, is helping to break down long-established institutional barriers by injecting enthusiasm, new skills and ideas.

For more information go to [www.mla.gov.uk](http://www.mla.gov.uk)

**The Museums, Libraries and Archives Partnership is the lead strategic agency for museums, libraries and archives. The Partnership is made up of the MLA Council (MLA) and the nine regional agencies.**

**We work together to improve people's lives by building knowledge, supporting learning, inspiring creativity and celebrating identity. The Partnership acts collectively for the benefit of the sector and the public, leading the transformation of museums, libraries and archives into the future.**

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