

Treasure Plus: Information for Applicants

Funding programme to deepen public engagement with Treasure and other archaeological material

About

Treasure Plus aims to deepen public engagement with items of Treasure, and related archaeological material, by funding interpretation and research projects. The programme is supported by The Headley Trust.

Since the Treasure Act was launched in 1997, the Art Fund has received a growing number of applications for funding towards acquisitions of items of Treasure. However, we recognise that the work does not stop once the funds have been raised to acquire the pieces. Often specialist skills and further resources are needed to display and interpret the works so that they are best used and enjoyed and appreciated by the public.



Part of the Iron Age Wickham Market Hoard, Ipswich Museum, © Rob Howarth/ Heritage Lottery Fund

This funding programme has therefore been designed to help museums of all sizes make the most of their items of Treasure, and bring these objects to life, through grants of up to £10,000. Through the first two rounds of funding we have seen projects that prove small grants can be used to great effect in a variety of creative ways, from the purchase of new equipment, to a pilot project that tests a new interpretation model using digital technology. For the third and final round of funding, we are keen to see innovative approaches to public engagement, supported by a degree of skills and knowledge sharing.

Aims

In all our grant-making, the Art Fund is committed to delivering public benefit, and we achieve this through supporting the development of museum collections so they are readily available for the public to appreciate and enjoy.

The overarching aim of this programme is to support innovative approaches to engaging the public with items of Treasure and related material, thereby making the case for the acquisition of such material beyond the confines of archaeological record and repository.

Through new display, interpretation, research and education activity we hope to support museums of all sizes across the country to use their archaeological collections in order to achieve the greatest possible public benefit.

Who we will support

UK public museums, galleries, historic houses, libraries and archives that are:

- open for at least half the week for at least six months of the year;
- either provisionally or fully accredited under the Arts Council England Accreditation Scheme, managed in partnership with CyMAL; Museum, Archives, Libraries Wales; Museums and Galleries Scotland and the Northern Ireland Museums Council (in the case of museums and galleries);
- able to demonstrate how they meet nationally agreed standards with regards to care for and documentation of collections, governance and management, and the services offered to users (for those institutions which are unable to participate in the Arts Council England scheme)

Applicants should note that taking part in this scheme will not affect other applications to the Art Fund from the same institution through other funding programmes.

What we will support

In the third and final round of funding, we are looking for ambitious projects which encourage public engagement and:

- Demonstrate an innovative approach to display and engagement
- Incorporate the most important and visually arresting objects
- Involve skills and knowledge sharing with internal and/or external colleagues



Bishop's Stortford Museum's new accessible interactive display

We do, however, recognise that every museum is different, with diverse strengths, and challenges, and as such welcome applications which demonstrate a variety of approaches. Innovation could include, but is not restricted to, requests for support with:

- Delivering a project at multiple sites with multiple audiences
- Targeting new audiences who would not normally engage with Treasure
- Use of innovative technology
- Connecting archaeological material with non-archaeological collections
- Sharing knowledge within and across museums

Related archaeological material which can be supported through this programme has been defined as any artefact which is over 300 years old and found or excavated.

Although the Art Fund primarily exists to support works of fine and applied art, we do recognise that many items of Treasure, and other archaeological material, are objects of aesthetic interest in themselves and as such we would particularly like to see projects which highlight this aspect in some way. We would also welcome projects which feature Art Funded works.

Although funding can be put towards a new or refreshed display, the application should focus on particular objects and why these should be engaged with, as opposed to a general re-display

We would expect the lead applicant to be the legal owner of the objects focused on in the project. We would be happy to accept joint applications which enable the pieces to be displayed at a partner location.

Projects can combine Treasure/archaeological material with other historic or contemporary works if there is a rationale to support this, however the items of archaeological interest should have equal or greater prominence.

Exclusions

We will not be able to accept requests for support with core salary costs. It will however be possible to consider fees charged by experts, consultants etc where the costs incurred are directly related to your project.

If your project includes curatorial research it may be appropriate to apply to the Jonathan Ruffer Curatorial Grants Scheme for costs associated with this activity. Please contact the Programmes team to discuss this further (020 7225 4822).

This funding is for project work only and costs relating to acquisitions cannot be considered. For acquisitions funding please click on the following link, or contact the Programmes team for further information on other sources of funding.
<http://www.artfund.org/what-we-do/apply-for-funding/acquisitions-aims-and-eligibility>

Size of grant

We expect projects to be ambitious and therefore hope to see funding requests at the upper end of the total available for each project, i.e. up to £10,000. At this level applicants must be able to demonstrate how the proposed activity may have a sustained impact on the museum's collection of Treasure and public engagement with this collection.

All applications must include a realistically costed budget.

We wish to see our support have an immediate impact and are happy to consider requests for 100% funding, up to a maximum of £10,000.

The amount of funding allocated to each project will depend on the nature of the proposals. Although applicants can apply for 100% funding we are open to applicants exploring other sources of funding to maximise the potential of the proposed activity, if this is appropriate.

Projects we have funded previously include:

Nantwich Museum - Nantwich Treasure (£8,250)

This project aimed to integrate and make more coherent and appealing existing displays of Treasure. The objects involved were all discovered locally and shed light on the lives of people who once lived in the town and the surrounding area. The Museum felt that a high quality and well interpreted display would engage, attract and inform visitors. Funding was therefore allocated to a new display case, revised interpretations of the objects and interactives to involve visitors. Particular attention was to be paid to the needs of children, so making a valuable contribution to the museum's work with schools.

Royal Cornwall Museum - Putting Treasure back on the map (Art Fund grant £9,900)

Funding was awarded to support new PAS and Treasure displays in the Museum which has showcased finds in a friendly, engaging and informative manner. In addition, the grant would enable the manufacture of the 'Hands On History Hub'; a mobile unit and interactive learning resource which should provide information on artefacts in the whole *Cornish Gallery*, from the Palaeolithic period to the present day with particular reference to Treasure finds. Volunteer facilitators were to be trained to deliver informal learning sessions using the 'Hands On History Hub', including handling sessions, activities and games.

York Museums Trust - Local Links (Art Fund grant £10,000)

This project was designed to reconnect local communities with items of great importance from their past. The Trust planned to build a programme of workshops which would transport ten items from the collection back to the villages in which they were found. The communities would then create a permanent legacy for the village, and the Museum intended to produce a display of all of the objects, set alongside the new knowledge gained from working with the people living in the places where they were found.

Application Process

Interested parties are asked to discuss any initial ideas and proposals with the Programmes team at the Art Fund before submitting an application. Please do not worry if all the details have not been worked out; this is just an opportunity to make sure that the project would be eligible before completing a full application.

Applicants will then be asked to complete an application form which can be downloaded from the Art Fund website.

All applications should be submitted for consideration by **12.00 noon on Wednesday 22 October**.

There will be a period of review during which applicants may be asked for further information in order to support their applications.

The committee will then meet in mid November and applicants will be advised of the outcome within 5 working days of the meeting.

Project timing

Applicants will be advised on the outcome of their application by the end of November 2014, and successful grant holders can then start activity immediately. The Art Fund can stage payments for a project in order to ease cashflow, and this will be discussed on a case by case basis with individual grant holders.

The majority of project activity must have concluded by 31 October 2015

For more information, and to discuss an application please contact:

Sarah Philp, Head of Programmes: 020 7225 4803; sphilp@artfund.org

Penny Bull, Programmes Manager (Acquisitions): 020 7225 4815; pbull@artfund.org

Main terms and conditions

- Applications are administered by the Art Fund. Decisions on applications are made by members of a committee convened by the Art Fund and chaired by Professor Chris Gosden. Its decisions are final.
- The committee may choose to award a smaller grant than requested, towards specific elements of the application only.
- Applications will not be considered for projects which are already in progress or for which funds have already been committed, unless the applicant can demonstrate that additional funding from the Treasure Plus scheme will significantly enhance or add to the project.
- Grants can be paid according to an agreed schedule, or in a single payment at the close of the project, and will be paid to the museum bank account.
- Recipients must be able to demonstrate expenditure to the Art Fund through submitting a financial statement, backed up with receipts if requested.
- Recipients will be expected to submit a short evaluation report (including images) with their final financial statement within one month of completion of the project that assesses the funded activities with regard to the aims stated in the original application.
- The contribution of the Art Fund to the Project including the support of The Headley Trust must be acknowledged in full on any related display labels, merchandise and publicity materials.

Please find the full terms and conditions at the end of the application form.

This programme is supported by:

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