

**UNDER STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL 19.45 ON TUESDAY 19 JUNE 2012**

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## **Clore Award for Museum Learning presents £10,000 each to Leicestershire County Council Heritage and Arts Service and Whitworth Art Gallery**

In an outstanding year for new museum learning initiatives, two new programmes have each been awarded £10,000 in recognition of their innovative and high-impact approaches to working with young audiences.

**Leicestershire County Council Heritage and Arts Service** has been jointly awarded the Clore Award for Museum Learning for its *Held in the Hands* scheme, which centred on a series of sculptural artist commissions for children with special educational needs.

**Whitworth Art Gallery (University of Manchester)** was also jointly awarded the prize for the *Manchester Early Years Partnership (MYEP)*, which brought together museums and galleries across Manchester to devise imaginative and playful ways to engage early years children, practitioners and parents.

Supported by the Clore Duffield Foundation, the second annual Clore Award for Museum Learning 2012 was presented **tonight at the British Museum by historian and broadcaster Lucy Worsley**. Run in parallel for the Art Fund Prize for museums, the annual £100,000 prize for 'museum of the year', the Clore Award recognises achievements in learning programmes which develop the skills, knowledge, values and enjoyment of the participants.

The Clore Award has been chosen by an expert judging panel, co-chaired by **Dame Vivien Duffield DBE**, Chairman of the Clore Duffield Foundation and **Sally Bacon**, Executive Director. They were joined by **Sharon Heal**, Editor of *Museums Journal*, **Gerard Kelly**, Editor of *The Times Education Supplement*, and **Professor Mick Waters**, Professor of Education at the University of Wolverhampton.

Sally Bacon, co-chair of the Clore Award for Museum Learning, said: "The two Award recipients are game changers in the field of museum learning. Both have identified core young target groups and

have worked closely with them to transform their experiences of art and collections. We are delighted to be showcasing their significant achievements in this way.”

For Leicestershire Council’s scheme, artists from all over the UK have been commissioned to create *Held in the Hand* boxes, a series of sculptural pieces designed to engage and stimulate young minds.

“Some of my quietest children were so inspired they could talk about them all day” said one participant; “The box definitely made a difference in the classroom as we don’t have any other resource like this” said another. The project aims to explore ways in which children with special educational needs can work with teachers and artists to develop resources and workshops for the museums service – it is rooted in what pupils need, and in engagement with artists. External evaluation has revealed the big difference it has made to those involved. The new approach is now fully embedded in the Council’s work, informing how they engage with audiences in the future.

Working with Manchester City Galleries and Manchester Museum, the Whitworth has been developing – and extensively evaluating – social, imaginative and playful ways to engage early years children, practitioners and parents. The Whitworth has embedded early years work into its service and used this to shape and develop its other learning programmes. This exciting and externally-facing programme has changed how the museum services involved welcome and engage with very young children and their families. Children lead the way in this programme which has significantly increased participation by under-fives (33% across the partnership and 73% at the Whitworth). “I felt excited with my daughter on this fantastic journey” said one participant; “the work has been a model of good practice” said another.

The other three museum learning projects on the shortlist of five were:

- **Camden Arts Centre**, Get The Message – artists working with teachers to develop new approaches to working with young people with profound and multiple learning difficulties
- **Florence Nightingale Museum**, Our Generation's Re-interpretation – local young people developing the museum's audio guide by creating and voicing their own interpretation of the collections
- **Yorkshire Museum**, Celebrating Severus – young people and adults respond in film, fashion, poetry and theatre to the 1800th anniversary of the death of African Roman Emperor Septimius Severus in York

More information on the Clore Award can be found at [www.artfundprize.org.uk/clore-award](http://www.artfundprize.org.uk/clore-award)

**Ends**

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## Notes to Editors

**The Clore Duffield Foundation** is chaired by Dame Vivien Duffield DBE and has a strong focus on supporting cultural learning, particularly within museums and galleries and at heritage sites [www.cloreduffield.org.uk](http://www.cloreduffield.org.uk).

It is one of the founding partners of the Cultural Learning Alliance, a collective voice working to ensure that all children and young people have meaningful access to culture in this difficult economic climate: [www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk](http://www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk).

The full longlist of ten museum education projects was:

- **Camden Arts Centre**, Get The Message
- **Florence Nightingale Museum**, Our Generation's Re-interpretation
- **Jersey Heritage**, My History Scrapbooks and Discovery Days
- **Leicestershire County Council Heritage and Arts Service**, Held in the Hand
- **Penlee House Gallery and Museum**, Treasures from the Earth
- **The Geffrye Museum of the Home**, Stories of the World: London
- **The Quilt Museum and Gallery**, Unfolding the Quilts
- **The Whitworth Art Gallery**, The Manchester Early Years Partnership
- **Victoria and Albert Museum**, V&A Schools Team Collaboration with Seymourpowell
- **Yorkshire Museum**, Celebrating Severus

The 2011 Clore Award was jointly shared between South London Gallery and a consortium of two Oxford University museums (Pitt Rivers Museum and Oxford University Museum of Natural History). Each project was awarded £10,000.

The winner for **The Art Fund Prize 2012** has also been announced tonight. **XXX** was awarded £100,000 and given the accolade of 'museum of the year' in the UK's biggest prize for arts and cultural institutions.

**The Art Fund Prize** is administered by The Museum Prize, a charitable company created in 2001 by representatives of National Heritage, the Museums Association, the Art Fund and the Campaign for Museums and chaired by Lady Cobham. These organisations agreed to put aside award schemes they formerly ran (including National Heritage's Museum of the Year) and lend their support to this single major prize.

**The Art Fund** has sponsored The Museum Prize since 2008. The Art Fund is the national charity which helps museums and galleries to buy, show and share art for the enjoyment of all. Over the past five years, the Art Fund has given £24 million to buy art and supported a range of projects and programmes aimed at helping more people enjoy art. The Art Fund is independently funded and the majority of its income comes from almost 90,000 supporters who purchase a National Art Pass, costing from just £50, which gives free entry to over 200 museums, galleries and historic houses across the country as well as 50% off many major exhibitions.

Find out more about the Art Fund and the National Art Pass at [www.artfund.org.uk](http://www.artfund.org.uk). The press office can be reached on 020 7225 4888 or [media@artfund.org](mailto:media@artfund.org)