

PRESS RELEASE: 8 October 2021

Jewish Museum London



Jewish Museum London welcomes six new Trustees, celebrates award nomination and welcomes a new partnership with Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain

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- **Six new trustees appointed to the Jewish Museum London**
- **Jewish Museum London is shortlisted for the Museums Change Lives; Digital Engagement Award**
- **Jewish Museum London and the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain announce partnership**

Six new trustees appointed to the Jewish Museum London

The Jewish Museum London is pleased to welcome six new members to its Board of Trustees, following an in-depth governance review with the support of charity lawyers, Bates Wells.

As part of the review, the Museum completed Board audits covering skills, and diversity and inclusivity. It then launched an open recruitment process for new trustees, led by a head-hunter expert in the heritage sector, and involving widespread advertising. The aim was to expand the Board's skills and experience in order to support the Museum's future plans, and to increase diversity and inclusivity.

Selecting from over 40 extraordinary and diverse candidates, we are delighted to welcome Liz Cleaver, Damien Egan, Gina Koutsika, David Meller, Robert Swerling, and Kelly Webb-Lamb to the Board. Their expertise – which includes audience engagement, digital marketing, fundraising, museums and heritage, education, public policy, commercial innovation – will reinforce that of our current Board members, and will enable the Museum to continue the excellent work it has been doing over the past 18 months, with its focus on community, identity and enquiry, as well as to develop its 5-10 year strategy.

Jewish Museum London shortlisted for the Museums Change Lives; Digital Engagement Award

We are pleased to announce the Museum has been shortlisted in the Digital Engagement category for the critically acclaimed Museums Change Lives award for its highly successful and applauded work in Virtual Classrooms. The Museum has led the sector over the past 18 months enabling thousands of non-Jewish students to understand Jewish religion and antisemitism. In addition, the Museum's expertise has helped teach over 700 museum professionals how to run similar experiences for students, and has supported institutions around the UK, such as the Bodleian Library in Oxford, to develop their own programmes.

The Museums Change Lives award celebrates the achievements of museums that are making a difference to the lives of their audiences and communities across the UK. This year's awards will take place in Liverpool on Monday 8th November as part of the Museums Association's annual conference. <https://www.museumsassociation.org/campaigns/museums-change-lives/awards-2021/>

Jewish Museum London and the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain announce partnership

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain (JGSGB) has found a new home at the Jewish Museum London. In September, to coincide with the Jewish New Year, the JGSGB moved their entire library into the Museum's new research room on the third floor. This new section of the

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research room will be staffed by the JGSGB, with regular genealogical workshops and events for the public, and the JGSGB librarian will continue to provide assistance for research enquires. The partnership is founded on the shared values between the two organisations, particularly on the importance of establishing a centre of excellence for Jewish research in all its forms and providing exceptional access to these collections to the public.

More information about the JGSGB can be found at www.jgs.gb.org.uk and <https://jewishmuseum.org.uk/collections/jgs.gb/>

Nick Viner, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Jewish Museum London said:

We were overwhelmed by the breadth and quality of people who expressed interest in joining the Museum's Board – which made the selection process very challenging. We are delighted to welcome six outstanding individuals as new Trustees, and very much look forward to working with them, and to benefiting from their energy, their expertise and their passion for the Museum's vision and values.

Frances Jeens, Interim Museum Director, Jewish Museum London said:

The Museum has been focused these past 18 months on ensuring continued sustainability, welcoming the highest expertise into our team, and creating meaningful partnerships that bring Jewish heritage under our roof. Our team led the way in digital engagement across the museum sector, and we are thrilled that this has been recognised through the Museums Change Lives award nomination. Our partnership with the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain is a demonstration of our belief in stronger partnerships across the community and I am very pleased to welcome them to our building. Their staff and volunteers bring with them a wealth of expertise in Jewish genealogy and research and our whole team is looking forward to working alongside them. I'd like to thank all our supporters over the past year and a half who have believed in the vision of the Museum and our unique place within the community.

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Biographies of six newly appointed Jewish Museum Trustees

For biographies of all Trustees please visit <https://jewishmuseum.org.uk/about-us/trustees/>

1. Liz Cleaver

Liz is a highly experienced media professional with a long and distinguished career at the BBC. Whilst there she fulfilled a variety of roles including radio and television production, launching BBC Knowledge (the forerunner of BBC 4), setting up the interactive capability for all factual and learning programmes and as Controller, BBC Learning, responsibility for the BBC's learning output and activity. Since leaving the BBC she has been involved with many charities including; Chair of The Reading Agency and Wac Arts, and a trustee of Historic Royal Palaces, the Imperial War Museum and Crisis.

2. Damien Egan

Elected in 2018, Damien is currently the directly elected Mayor of Lewisham and draws on extensive experience within local government and the third sector. With a professional background in learning and development Damien has also worked in legal and international development settings.

3. Gina Koutsika

Gina brings extensive experience of leading cultural organisations, such as the V&A Museum of Childhood, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Imperial War Museums; Tate; the Natural History Museum and the Science Museum and of serving in a number of governmental, cultural and educational boards. Gina loves art, science, heritage and culture, empowering people and developing partnerships.

4. David Meller

David is an entrepreneur, who is Joint Chairman and CEO of an accessories, home and beauty supplying family business. He is also a philanthropist with a long-time involvement in the Jewish community. He joined the Jewish Museum Board in 2021, is a Board Member of the British Friends of Tel Aviv University and has previously been involved with the Jaffa Institute, and Chair of the Conservative Friends of Israel. He is currently Vice-Chair of Onward Think-Tank, having previously served as a NED on the Department for Education and as Chair of the National Apprenticeship Ambassadors Network.

5. Robert Swerling

Robert is a seasoned technology executive and investor. Currently a Director at Google, his previous roles have included COO at Investec, co-CEO at The Up Group, and COO of Bookatable. He serves as Chairman of the Jewish Chronicle Advisory Board, and sits on the investment committee of one of Israel's leading social impact funds.

6. Kelly Webb-Lamb

Kelly Webb-Lamb has 25 years' experience in the Media and Broadcasting industry, most recently as Deputy Director of Programmes at Channel 4. She is bringing her experience of competing for audience engagement and creating great digital content to the Museum, eager to help drive sustainability for the long-term.

For further information or images please contact:

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