

1932
2022
CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

JEWISH
MUSEUM
LONDON

KEY AIMS

DELIVER UNIQUE BENEFITS TO OUR AUDIENCES AND COMMUNITIES
WORK TOWARDS FINANCIAL RESILIENCE
CAPITALISE ON THE SKILLS, NETWORKS AND SYSTEMS WITHIN THE JEWISH MUSEUM LONDON
POSITION THE MUSEUM WELL INTO THE 'NEW NORMAL'



MUSEUM IMPACT REPORT

October 2021 – March 2022

MEET THE TEAM



Leadership at the Museum

Welcome from Nick Viner, Chair of Trustees



March 2022 marked an important milestone in the Museum’s history: our 90th anniversary – especially affirming given the last two incredibly challenging years. The Jewish Museum was the first minority community-founded museum in Britain. Being able, across the generations, to hold our community’s heritage and history within our own walls, and to interpret it through our own voice in programming and exhibitions, is a privilege and an achievement.

Close work with partners has been a key enabler of this. We continue to strengthen our relationship with AJEX-JMM, helping them to safeguard their collection and increasingly to integrate it fully within the Museum. We have established an exciting new partnership with the Jewish Genealogical Society, now based at the Museum, where they can contribute to research programmes and provide a rich resource for visitors. Other partnerships include supporting Bevis Marks Synagogue in developing their heritage programme and launching a digital programme.

As ever, I’d like to thank our all funders – current, and prospective – for their support, along with all our partners, our volunteers, our Trustees, and above all, our staff.

Welcome from Frances Jeens, Museum Director



It’s now been eight months since the Museum was permitted to reopen its physical doors and as we move further away from the initial reopening period and the repercussions of the Covid-19 closures the Museum continues to work in our ‘new-normal’ format. Far more agile, responsive and collaborative than ever before.

The past six months have seen some major projects start. Work has begun on the installation of our new Community Learning Kitchen which will enable us to incorporate food heritage and hands-on experiences with visitors. We focused on our newly discovered Jews’ Temporary Shelter archive to produce a new interactive online resource for both academics and family historians, whilst continuing to welcome back even more visitors and schools to the Museum.

Whilst we must remain responsive to the continuing challenges of post-pandemic recovery within the charity and heritage sector, the opportunity to celebrate the Museum’s 90th anniversary is a genuine joy.

Trustees



Damien Egan



Daniel Korski



David Meller



Gina Koutsika



Jamie Beaumont
Treasurer



Kelly Webb-Lamb



Liz Cleaver



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Tali Krikler



Tanya Persey

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Miranda Baxter
Senior Projects and Operations Manager



Adam Corsini
Senior Collections Engagement Manager



Shereen Hunte
Learning Programme Manager



Helen Atkinson
Operations Manager



Maria Duarte
Collections Assistant



Emma Crew
Engagement Programme Manager



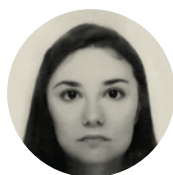
Rhiannon Parkinson
Museum Manager



Lotta Aldenborg
ARSP Intern



Eliana Mendelsohn
Learning Officer



Rachele Nizi
Museum Assistant



Yasmin Downie
Learning and Engagement Assistant



David Stein
Finance and Operations Director

SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS

Introduction

Between October 2021 and March 2022 we have engaged with schools across all our streams of learning: In the Museum workshops, Outreach sessions, Virtual Classrooms, Free Virtual Broadcasts, Outreach Loan Boxes, and our new Travelling Exhibition.

Some highlights of this period include our outreach sessions with the Jewish Community Secondary School, 'Introduction to Black and Jewish Migration', our first primary schools Hanukkah broadcast, and our annual schools broadcast for Holocaust Memorial Day.

March was the busiest month for the Learning and Engagement Team since we closed due to the pandemic, and we saw an increase of 172% relative to our engagement in March 2021. March saw 2,423 students visit through our Schools Programme, bringing us back to pre-pandemic visit numbers (2,426 students visited in March 2019).

In the post-lockdown period we are thrilled to see schools returning to the Museum in great numbers, but also continuing to access our expert staff and resources virtually.

Life with Loss: Understanding Grief & Memory

We launched our new workshop 'Life with Loss: Understanding Grief & Memory' on Holocaust Memorial Day (27 January) 2022. This workshop shares the experience of Holocaust survivor Solly Irving, and explores how he coped with issues of grief and loss as the sole survivor of his family. This workshop was generously funded by the Irving family and was first piloted in 2021.

We ran one session for 60 Year 5 students in October 2021 and one session for 40 Year 5 and 6 students in November 2021.

We also ran an outreach session of this programme in January for 200 year 7 and year 8 students.

100% OF TEACHERS FROM THE PILOT RATED THE QUALITY OF THE TEACHING AND THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE AS 'OUTSTANDING'.



Teaching Inclusive Judaism

The Inclusive Judaism Project's overarching aim is to increase public understanding of Judaism and the Jewish community in all its diversity and complexity. This is an overview of the progress that has been made during this period.

The project is made up of three stages:

Contemporary Collecting

We have contemporarily collected a range of images across the Jewish community, highlighting a variety of worldviews. These images reflect curriculum needs whilst representing many intersectional identities, for example, images of Sophie and Jessica's Wedding, and an invitation for Kesia Bat Mitzvah, decorated with a beautiful Ghanaian Kente print.

Image Library

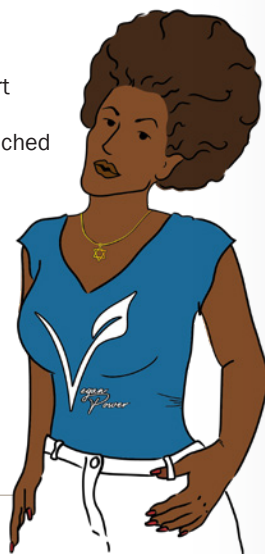
The Inclusive Judaism Website is an online hub to support teachers with their confidence and knowledge when teaching Inclusive Judaism. Here, the [Image Library](#) displays photos that highlight the many intersections within Judaism – many of which have been contemporarily collected as part of the project.

Teacher CPDs

One of the key aims of this project is to support teachers with building their confidence in teaching inclusive Judaism. We have now launched these sessions.

We have also shared our work across many different networks and conferences including:

- The Museums Association Conference
- Strictly RE Conference and publication
- Culham St Gabriel's Teachers Event
- Limmud Festival
- Jewish Renaissance magazine



Learning in Numbers



14,745

STUDENT VISITS TO THE MUSEUM



VIRTUAL STUDENTS



OUTREACH STUDENTS



STUDENTS EXPERIENCED OUR LOAN BOXES



STUDENTS EXPERIENCED OUR TRAVELLING EXHIBITION

Case Study

Community Learning Kitchen

Why are we creating a Community Learning Kitchen?

The Museum has been including food-based learning in both our formal and informal learning programmes through food tasting in school workshops and baking family days. Food-based learning is an empathy building, multisensory and engaging activity for all ages and abilities. We are now hoping to focus on food learning as a big part of our programming. The creation of this Community Learning Kitchen is thanks to the generous support of The Band Trust.



Sneak peek from detailed design from Extended Studio

Where in the Museum is the Community Learning Kitchen going to be?

The Museum's previous Café space will become the new Community Learning Kitchen. It will be a flexible space that will transform into an object display space when it is not being used for cooking and baking.

What's it going to look like?

We have been working with designers, Extended Studio, for the kitchen design. They have been inspired by our collection, notably our Bakers Banner (found just outside the Auditorium) for the colour palette. The space will be adaptable for different sized groups, ages and audiences. We hope the space will feel homely with a community feel, where people come together around the table; where we bake and break bread, chat and celebrate together.

What's going to happen in the Community Learning Kitchen?

We will be running a food learning programme with workshops linked to different Jewish festivals and heritage, and our collection. Our programme will feature an intergenerational aspect as well as programming designed for different audience groups. As with the rest of the Museum, the Community Learning Kitchen will be strictly vegetarian.

When will the Community Learning Kitchen be up and running?

We hope that the Community Learning Kitchen will be open from June onwards.

Teachers' CPDs


Our Virtual Teachers' CPDs (Continuing Professional Development) in December 2021 and March 2022 were part of our Inclusive Judaism Programme and for both Primary and Secondary School Teachers. These CPDs aim to give teachers resources, tools, and the confidence to teach Judaism inclusively in their classrooms. The session is designed to work alongside the Image Library, and will allow teachers to download authentic, representative and diverse images with curriculum links, from the Jewish community to show in classrooms whilst teaching Judaism.

The CPDs included festivals, such as a Hanukah candle lighting, using our Image Library, teacher and student resources, visible thinking techniques, and video of rabbis from the community discussing the importance of Inclusive Judaism.

Over 90 teachers attended our Virtual CPD sessions. 100% of teachers said they would recommend this event to their colleagues.

“This is an excellent resource; I am forever googling diverse images without any luck! Thank you.”

“It's made me think about what we teach and how we can improve it to ensure students have a wider understanding of Judaism.”



Learning Placements

In January 2022, we welcomed three new learning placement volunteers. The main focus of their placement was to support the Museum's Schools Workshop Programme.

In addition, the Learning volunteers assisted with the Museum's handling collection reviews. This required them to mend objects from the learning handling collection and to record them in the Museum's handling database.

To end their placement at the Museum, Learning Placement volunteers presented research on their favourite object to the Museum Learning Team. These will be shared in a Museum blogpost.



EVENTS

Holocaust Memorial Day Event

On 25 January our Virtual Holocaust Memorial Day Event took place in partnership with Camden Council. We welcomed Kindertransport Refugees, Ann and Bob Kirk BEM, and survivor of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, Eric Murangwa Eugene MBE, as they shared their testimonies.



The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2022 was 'One Day'. Our speakers shared their individual testimonies and focused on one day that was significant or that changed their life. Following their testimonies there was a Q&A session.

The evening concluded with a candle lighting led by the Mayor of Camden, who gave a profound speech about the importance of the day. Over 75 people attended virtually.

Feedback from the event

“Thank you Ann, Bob and Eric for your moving and thought-provoking testimonies.”

“Thank you all very much for such a moving event.”

Holocaust Memorial Day Schools Broadcast

Our Holocaust Memorial Day schools broadcast on 27 January was a free event for secondary schools, as part of our programme supported by a grant from the Association of Jewish Refugees.

Our Learning Team explored the life of Leon Greenman, a Holocaust survivor, through his artistic expression. In line with this year's theme 'One Day', this object talk explored a piece of artwork that depicted the one day that changed his life forever. This broadcast reached 582 secondary school students around the country.



LGBTQ+ History Month Programming

The Museum ran multiple activities to celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month, including our first ever LGBTQ+ History Month Family Day. 'Drag Queen Story Hour UK' led a storytelling focused on empowerment and acceptance.

We also ran arts and crafts, object handling and a scavenger hunt celebrating LGBTQ+ Jewish History and culture. During half term we also ran drop in arts and crafts celebrating the work of LGBTQ+ Jewish artist Simeon Solomon.

Friends Events

We have continued to run virtual events for Friends and Patrons, these include exclusive events just for Friends. We ran an '8 Lamps of Hanukah' virtual tour and a preview of the new 'Acts of Kindness' tour, exclusively for Friends and Patrons. Friends and Patrons have also received free tickets to public virtual tours. In total 24 Friends and Patrons have booked tickets to virtual events during this period.

Public and Private Tours at the Museum

Between October and March 138 people have attended public tours. These run on a Thursday and Sunday at 2.30pm and explore highlights from our collection. This includes our 17th century Italian Ark, North African Rimmonim, and a 1920s Yiddish Theatre poster.

In addition, we have run private tours for 92 people. These include our 'Beyond the Label' tour and our 'Race in Religion: Black History' tour.

Jews' Temporary Shelter Workshops and Talks

As part of our Jews' Temporary Shelter Project (further information can be seen on page 15) we held a series of workshops and talks. Our freelancer Lewis Smith presented his work with the Jews' Temporary Shelter data to over 50 total participants in an online public talk about the project.

We also held two Geo-referencing workshops ('Introduction to Geo-referencing' and 'Advanced Geo-referencing') to help people learn more about how to use this type of information, and how to use geo-referencing techniques to help visualise and interpret datasets.

Hanukah Events

Our Hanukah programming used a combination virtual and in-person programming to reach different audience groups, including families, schools and adults.

Our Hanukah programme:

A large Hanukah Lamp, held in the Museum's archives on long-term loan from the United Synagogue, was used at the United Synagogue's 150th anniversary event at the Guildhall. It was lit by the Chief Rabbi as part of the second night of Hanukah.

We re-released an object Talk online in partnership with Bevis Marks Synagogue, delivered by Rabbi Morris.

We ran our '8 Lamps of Hanukah' virtual tour.

We livestreamed a public candle lighting on the 4th night of Hanukah.

Every night of the 8 nights of Hanukah we shared an object related to Hanukah on our social media channels. These included unseen Hanukah Lamps and photographs of people celebrating the festival.

We held a Hanukah Family Day, 'Doughnuts and Dreidls', where families made their own doughnuts and attended our public candle lighting.

Members of the Learning Team attended the Chabad Islington Hanukah Event. We ran many different family-friendly activities for the hundreds of people who attended the event.

We ran our first ever Hanukah Broadcast for primary schools. This included storytelling, looking at some Hanukah lamps, a live candle lighting, and Hanukah songs. 99 schools registered for the event and over 8,200 students participated in the broadcast.

“Thank you. Makes me feel not so alone up here.”

“Fun, engaging and informative. Thank you. It was delivered in such a gentle happy manner, my children loved it!”

ENGAGEMENT

Social Media in Numbers



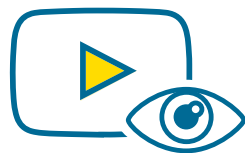
8,450

FACEBOOK PAGE REACH



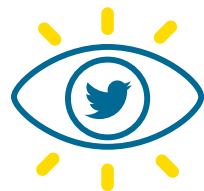
5,463

INSTAGRAM REACH



71,424

YOUTUBE VIEWS



195,400

TWITTER IMPRESSIONS

MONTHLY TWITTER THEMES INCLUDED:



J-ANAGRAMS (JEWISH ANAGRAMS)



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY



LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH



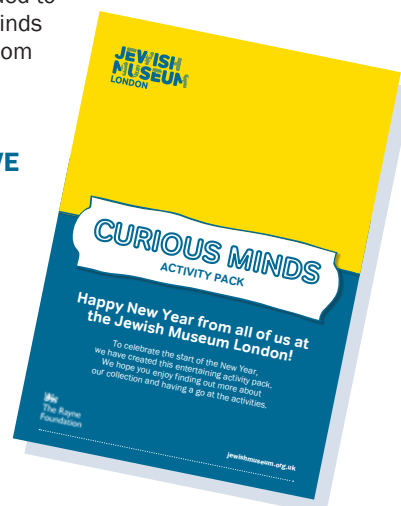
WOMEN'S WEDNESDAYS

Curious Minds

This period saw us run our first in-person Curious Minds workshops since the pandemic. In November we ran a workshop at Barnet United Synagogue for 25 people. We have since been to 2 more sites, a care home and a dementia café and have more in-person sessions booked for the coming months.

We have also continued to run virtual Curious Minds sessions, both via Zoom and over the phone.

IN TOTAL WE HAVE RUN CURIOUS MINDS SESSIONS FOR 139 PEOPLE IN 11 SESSIONS



Feedback from care home residents and staff

“The members clearly enjoyed them, and commented on how well you explained the topic and how interesting it was. I totally agree with them, the talks were very well researched and put together and you very skilfully answered all questions.”

“I found the workshop very interesting and informative... can't think of anything you could improve.”

“You give the most wonderful talks. Our audience was supremely appreciative.”

Sector Sharing

Jewish Museum London staff have represented our work and spoken at a number of conferences throughout the country.

In December, Learning Officer Shereen Hunte attended the Museums Association Conference and presented her session ‘Building Inclusive Educational Resources Through Contemporary Collecting’, alongside Kathryn Wright from our partner organisation Culham St Gabriel’s.

Shereen also presented the Inclusive Judaism project at Limmud Festival in December 2021, with a session named ‘Exploring Hidden Voices’.

In November, Museum Director Frances Jeens attended the virtual AEJM (Association of European Jewish Museums) Conference, and attended valuable sessions with our colleagues throughout Europe.

In February, Senior Learning and Engagement Manager Lisa Shames and Engagement Officer Emma Crew presented our newly developed ‘Life with Loss’ programme as part of the International Museums Next Conference. Lisa and Emma also wrote an article for GEM (Group for Education in Museums) discussing their work within the ‘Life with Loss’ programme.

In October we were shortlisted for a Museum’s Change Lives Award, in the ‘Digital Engagement’ category, for our ongoing Virtual Classrooms work.

Members of the Learning team attended the Strictly RE conference in January 2022, the largest national conference for RE teachers across the UK, and delivered a talk on Teaching Inclusive Judaism attended by over 60 people. The Museum also had a virtual exhibition stall which was visited by 606 individuals.



INDIVIDUALS VISITED THE MUSEUM'S VIRTUAL EXHIBITION STALL

Object Talks and Museum Mornings

As the Museum opens back up we have continued to connect to our online audiences. During this period, we have recorded 13 virtual object talks. Each and every online talk highlights a different object from collection.



We partnered with Katie Power, doctoral researcher from the Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/non-Jewish Relations at the University of Southampton, who shared an object talk on Merchant of Venice Photographs.

The Museum’s Curatorial Team took to Facebook for the first time to share some of their favourite objects from the Collection, including a Massil Master Bowling Pin and a silver lace Atarah.

As part of our Museum Mornings programming our Learning Team created fun-filled activities based on objects from our collection, livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. Activities included tree sketching, making a kippah, and designing a Purim mask.

Virtual Tours

Between October 2021 and March 2022 the Museum launched three new virtual tours.

Firstly, there was an ‘Acts of Kindness’ tour to mark Mitzvah Day. This tour explored examples from our collection of good deeds, both big and small. They included Lily Montagu and the founding of the West Central Jewish Girls Club, and the actions of the Danish Resistance.

In January we launched the new tour ‘One Day: A Tour’ to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. This tour explored the experiences of six individuals through one day when their lives changed dramatically. This included experiences of a boycott on Jewish shops, fleeing their home, being deported to a death camp, and joining the resistance.

In February we launched our ‘Love is Love’ virtual tour celebrating LGBTQ+ Jewish history. This explored LGBTQ+ Jewish history beginning with a sketch of David and Jonathon and ending with a photograph of a same-sex Jewish wedding collected as part of our Inclusive Judaism Project.

During this period, we also continued to run existing virtual tours including ‘Stories from the Stores’, ‘Women of Worth’ and ‘8 Lamps of Hanukah.’

PARTNERSHIPS

Introduction

We work with a large number of partner organisations at the Museum. These organisations are spread across the Jewish community, the heritage community, academic institutions, and our local Camden community. Working alongside partnership organisations is a fantastic way for us to share our resources, our collection, and our passion. We also provide a venue for these organisations to host events, meetings, and artistic works.

Bevis Marks Synagogue

Since April 2021 the Museum has been working with Bevis Marks Synagogue on a Digital Consultancy Project. The project has a few different aspects:

- Online Exhibition
- Virtual Object Talks
- Virtual Classrooms
- School Workshop
- Virtual Tour



On our website we now have created a landing page that discusses the partnership and links directly to the online content we have produced as part of this partnership. The Online Exhibition launches in May 2022 alongside a series of Object Talks. Virtual Tour and Virtual Classrooms will launch in Autumn 2022. Each aspect is designed to foster excitement for the reopening of the synagogue and the creation of their new visitor centre, which is scheduled to open in late Autumn 2022.

Between July and December 2021 we released three Virtual Object Talks as part of the partnership. These were released on our Facebook channel, YouTube page and hosted on the website. We will also be temporarily storing some of their collection on-site.

Jewish Chronicle

We are always exploring new ways to take our collection outside the Museum walls and in July 2021, to celebrate the reopening of the Museum, we began a partnership with the Jewish Chronicle newspaper to offer a peek into our collection of over 40,000 objects. Each article allows us the opportunity to showcase a different object, with columns written by staff members, trustees, and volunteers at the Museum. The objects chosen are often linked to anniversaries, festivals, and themes throughout the year, as well as providing an opportunity to showcase some of our most interesting, beautiful, and rarely seen artefacts. We started the series with a Sephardic miniature carpet loom and have since shared many objects including a travel ticket used during the Kindertransport, a Yom Kippur smelling salts advert from 1898, and a sketch by Simeon Solomon.

With a new object shared every three weeks, the 100th object will finally be shared in March 2027, which will be a five-year partnership project. All articles are published in the Jewish Chronicle and can be viewed on their website.



Tsitsit Fringe Festival

In October 2021, the Jewish Museum became a partner-hosting venue for the very first Tsitsit Fringe Festival. Tsitsit Fringe celebrates the many strands of contemporary Jewish identities and artistic expressions. Their programme runs across the UK, highlighting Jewish communities past and present.

Over multiple nights, the Jewish Museum hosted a variety of different performances, such as *'Songs of Emily Rose'* and the *'Cockney Yiddish Music Hall'*. This allowed visitors to experience contemporary Jewish performances whilst being surrounded by objects from Jewish history.

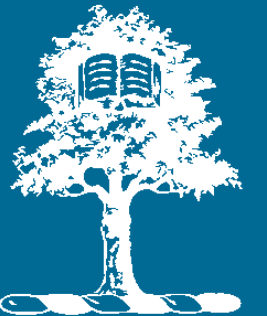
The Museum is once again partnering with Tsitsit for their second festival, providing artists with a deeper look at the collection by hosting an Artist Showcase day in May 2022.



Parkes Institute and Jewish Museum London Partnership: Discovering new meanings in special collections

Over these past two years of Covid, the Jewish Museum has been exploring new ways of working. One of these successes has been partnering with the Parkes Institute at the University of Southampton, with its reputation for world-class research in Jewish Studies and particularly Jewish/non-Jewish relations, and our desire to support academic research and researchers through the over 40,000 items in our collection.

January 2022 marked the inauguration of this partnership with a hybrid roundtable discussion focusing on how exciting, diverse and interdisciplinary research has been and can be, using the special collections at both our sites. We are continuing to build this partnership through the development of a funded, collaborative *'Researcher in Residence'* post that will produce new knowledge around a relevant topic, and build new ways of engaging with researchers and the public.



Correspondences: an art installation by Katy and Rebecca Beinart

The Jewish Museum partnered with artists and sisters Katy and Rebecca Beinart, who presented their artwork at the Museum. The work and research developed through a process of correspondence during the pandemic. The exhibition featured paper sculptures, prints and videos that emerged from their long-term collaboration exploring family history and migration. *Correspondences* focuses on the story of the artists' Jewish great-grandparents Morris (Moishe) Shreibman and Sarah (Zlata) Gitovitch who left Eastern Europe in the early 1900s to come to London and settle in the East End, where they joined a growing Yiddish-speaking community.

Sculptures and films of the walking tour and performance were displayed in the third floor Research Centre and Library, alongside related objects from the JML collection.

The installation culminated in an informal discussion and Q&A session with guest speakers Rachel Garfield, artist and Professor of Fine Art at the University of Reading, and Dr Ben Gidley, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychosocial Studies at Birkbeck, University of London.

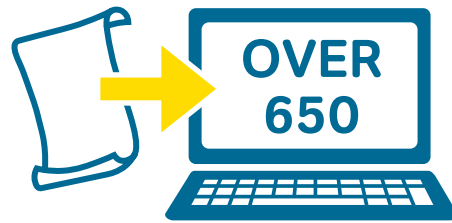


CURATORIAL & COLLECTIONS

Collections in Numbers



OVERALL THE COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT RECEIVED 426 ENQUIRIES, COVERING RESEARCH REQUESTS, LOAN REQUESTS, IMAGE LICENCING AND DONATION OFFERS



OVER 650 ITEMS HAVE BEEN DIGITISED BY VOLUNTEERS IN OUR RESEARCH CENTRE, INCLUDING LETTERS, MEDALS, RECORDS CARDS, MAGAZINES AND FRIENDLY SOCIETY COLLARS



103 PEOPLE OFFERED ITEMS TO THE MUSEUM DURING THIS PERIOD. WE WERE ABLE TO ACCEPT 59 OF THESE OFFERS ACCOUNTING TO 223 INDIVIDUAL ITEMS



WE ANSWERED 186 RESEARCH ENQUIRIES ABOUT SPECIFIC ITEMS IN THE COLLECTION



4 EXTRA DRAWERS OF SPACE IN OUR STORES HAVE BEEN GENERATED THANKS TO OUR COLLECTIONS CARE VOLUNTEERS, WHO HAVE BEEN REPACKING ITEMS MORE EFFECTIVELY

Community Engagement

The Collections department engages with community members and beyond through displays, loans, and events. From October 2021 to March 2022 we have loaned items to four organisations. This includes a portrait of Aaron Hart, First Chief Rabbi of the Ashkenazic Jews in England, on long-term loan to the current Office of the Chief Rabbi.

External displays included participating in Dacorum Heritage's 'Fireworks and Festivals' week in February, showcasing 6 items within the collection relating to Jewish holidays. Items and images were also leant out to Toynbee Hall for a workshop about East End tailoring trades.

A collaboration with the Museum of London focused on Jewish Fashion. In February 2022 a workshop was held in our Research Centre showcasing dress items within the collection. Collections Engagement Assistant Maria Duarte delivered a talk to attendees of a follow-up workshop, held at the Museum of London in March.

Digitisation Projects

Since October, the digitisation space in our Research Centre has been home to several projects focusing on making our collection more accessible. Recent projects have included repackaging collars from friendly societies, scanning JMM's collection of WWI medals, and creating databases with information from magazines such as Maccabi Times and Club Link.

One of our current long-term projects has been scanning and transcribing hundreds of letters of a personal nature. These contain a multitude of information about individuals, historical events and society at the time. They reveal unknown stories and new ways to think about our valuable collection.

Our volunteers have played a crucial part in this project, uncovering these stories, connecting with our visitors, and even deciphering difficult handwritten letters.

Case Study

Mapping Migration: Jews' Temporary Shelter

Objectives

To examine and present the data contained within 243 Jews' Temporary Shelter (JTS) records cards, dating from the 1940s and 1950s. The cards reveal where people arrived from, where they were moving on to, their nationalities, ages, trades, and the number of people they arrived with; data that could be mapped and presented in a visually engaging way.

Background

The project was the first of a new digitisation programme sitting at the heart of our newly opened Research Centre. Volunteers played a crucial role in digitising the raw information preparing a spreadsheet, which became the foundation for an interactive map and visual statistics.

Process

With funds from the Audience Agency's Digitally Democratising Archives project, we were able to employ a Research Associate, Lewis Smith, to clean the data sets further, adding co-ordinates to locations, and transferring the data to an interactive map. This was supplemented by two online geo-referencing workshops, open for all and free of charge, and a lunchtime talk about the JTS and the project.

Outcomes

A microsite dedicated to the project now sits under the Research Centre pages on our [website](#). Here you can search the data, explore the map, discover the key facts and figures relating to the JTS during this period, and revisit the talk and workshops via links to our YouTube channel.



Pitch Up: Community Voices

Pitch Up: Community Voices, a co-curated set of display stalls in our Welcome Gallery, hosted its second round of residencies from January 2022.

These include a maquette of the forthcoming Harwich Kindertransport Memorial statue, a celebration of the 'Lily's Legacy' project, which concluded in 2021, a set of photographs recalling memories of Maccabi Beach in the 1950s, and championing the new work in Brighton and Hove to cater for its Jewish community, and the story of Jewish migrant, Fritz Ball, who settled in Newmarket and whose story was recently rediscovered by Suffolk Archives.

The final stall contains items from within the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain's (JGSGB) collection, including a family tree of the Calahorra Family and the 25th anniversary issue of their magazine 'Shemot'. JGSGB are one of our key partners and have moved their library to our Research Centre with access every first Tuesday and Sunday of the month.



New Acquisitions

Between October 2021 and March 2022, over 200 items have been added to the collection, including photographs, dresses, Judaica, magazines, oral histories and a clock!

A highlight includes a set of photographs recording the wedding of Sophie Slowe and Jessica Salkind. These photos entered the collection via the Inclusive Judaism programme and featured in both our 'New Acquisitions' display case and February 2022's Spotlight Display, celebrating LGBTQ+ History Month.

Another important acquisition was a large hanukiah and a menorah, both originally used at the Montague Road Synagogue, then later moved to the Liberal Synagogue Elstree, where they were converted and adapted for electric candles. These items feature in our auditorium and ground floor spaces.



BEHIND THE SCENES



90th Anniversary

The Jewish Museum London first opened its doors on Wednesday 30th March 1932, and we celebrated are 90th birthday in 2022. This beautiful logo, designed by Marianna Tofallis at Toffee Design, represents some of the incredible objects that fill our Museum and continue to inspire our work.

Private Hires Overview

Between October and March 2022 the Jewish Museum London hosted 14 private hire events. This is an incredible result, given the unprecedented circumstances we faced during and since the pandemic. Our flexibility in accommodating requests (such as hybrid events), and a prompt and clear communication style were extremely appreciated.

The Museum raised around £7,000 from corporate events such as conferences, receptions, and meetings, alongside Christmas parties.

We have found there is a high demand for public events such as book launches, workshops, curatorial events but also festivals and performances. We are delighted to have been able to offer our spaces, including the new Research Centre.

Our partnerships with organisations who are members of the 'Pitch Up: Community Voices' exhibition, on display in the Welcome Gallery, proved to be a success, and many others non-Jewish organisations have chosen the Jewish Museum London as a venue for their events.

Example and Case Study
Private Hires

Objectives

To provide a successful private hire for our Pitch Up Community Voices partner, EcoSynagogue. We offered our venue to host their pre COP26 event for the UK Jewish Community, which aimed at spotlighting environmental initiatives within the Jewish community both in the UK and abroad.

Background

Entitled "Carbon Zero, If not now, when?", the Chief Rabbi and the President of the Board of Deputies, Marie van der Zyl explored why our community should be engaging with the issue of Climate Emergency, and invited an expert panel including Dr Michal Nachmany, and Jonathan Waxman to explain the issues around carbon and how it can and should be reduced.

Process

The planning of the event was a team utilising the great communication skills and organisation of our Museum team: from the Senior Collections Manager who first replied to the request for the venue, to the Operations Team that managed the logistics and offered support with AV equipment to livestream the event, and above all that ensured the smooth running of the event despite changing circumstances and restrictions due to the pandemic.

Outcome

The event marked the definitive turning point in the post-pandemic phase and the full return to activities in the Museum.

Mental Health
First Aid Training

In October 2021 all members of staff took part in four sessions of mental health first aid training with Jami (a charity that provides mental health services to the Jewish Community). The sessions helped us recognise and support people experiencing a mental health crisis, and increased our confidence in supporting others. We believe it is important to prioritise mental health as much as physical health in our working environment. All participants in the training programme are now certified Mental Health First Aiders.



HR Review

During this period the Museum has begun the undertaking of a full HR review. Following the hugely successful governance review in 2021 we are now in a position to give the same attention to our internal policies and processes, ensuring that our HR conduct is up to date and following best practice.

Achievements so far include:

Creation of a full HR Policy Handbook Working with external HR consultants we have now completed a bespoke and comprehensive Policy Handbook that covers all organisational HR policies and practices.

Sector Benchmarking

Using information provided by the Arts Council and other museums in the sector, we are mapping our salary banding and organisational benefits against the wider sector, ensuring fair working conditions.

Policy Review

All internal policies are being collected, reviewed, and updated as necessary.

Streamlining Recruitment and Induction

We are currently working on streamlining our recruitment and induction process, to ensure clarity of information and the best experience for new starters.

Covid-19 Safety

The Museum has seen many changes in how we approached COVID-19 in this period. Changing from encouraging facemasks and temperature checks in the winter months, to an easing of restrictions in the spring, following government guidance. The Museum has decided to keep certain measures in place to help make all visitors feel safe, and to protect the health of staff members, vulnerable groups, and volunteers. We are still adopting a testing policy for staff when we have Holocaust Survivor speaker sessions, and we still welcome visitors who prefer to wear masks. Our cleaning programme has continued to identify multiple touch points, and we still offer masks and hand sanitiser for staff and visitors around the Museum.

Visitors who completed our re-opening survey said that they felt very safe to return and had a positive view on the health and safety measures that have been implemented.

As ever, the Museum operations team continues to monitor the situation, and policies will be updated every time the government issues new advice.

Strategy Planning

Following a refresh of our board of trustees over the last year we are now planning for the long-term future of the Museum. We have been working hard behind the scenes to ensure that the Museum has everything it needs in order to make these difficult decisions, and create a robust strategy for our future in the next 3, 5, and 15 years.

Actions we have taken:

Creating Board Committee groups

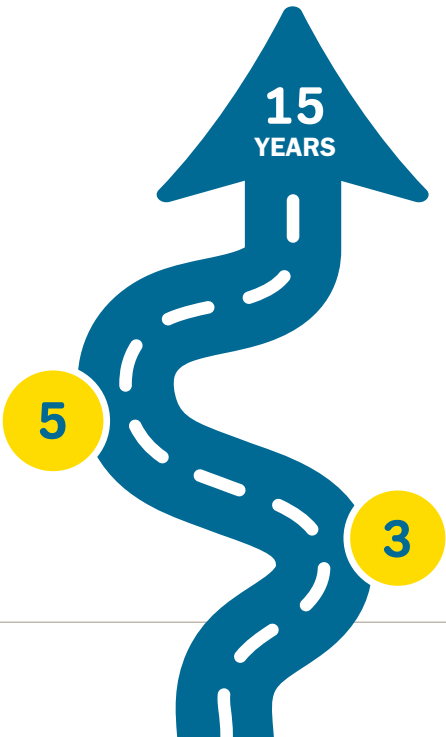
We have created five strategy groups, utilising the skills and experience of our board members; 'Strategy and Vision', 'Audience Reach, Programming, and Collections', 'Finance', 'Fundraising', and 'Strategic Partnerships and Innovative Income'. These groups will be instrumental in shaping the future of the Museum, and working with staff to recognise opportunities and grow our successes.

Head of Strategy Recruitment

We have successfully recruited a Head of Strategy to join the Museum for a 12-month period. This role will hold an overview of all committee groups and future planning, and will lead the direction for the Museum in the longer term. After an extensive recruitment process Tali Krikler was named as Head of Strategy.

Working with Leagas Delaney

The board and staff have been working closely with the advertising firm Leagas Delaney to better understand how we are choosing to shape the identity, and future goals, of the Museum. These sessions have been important in providing a starting point for our committee groups.



Case Study

Monday.com Project Management Software

Objectives

To implement a cloud-based project management system that simplifies and integrates the processes we are already using; to bring clarity, efficiency and greater collaboration to our work flows; and to better communicate timelines and accountabilities across the team in order to meet the goals of the Museum.

Background

A chief recommendation from the Reopening the Museum report in October 2021 was to centralise our project management systems. We run on average 120 projects a year, from one off events, to multi-year funded projects. Most of these projects were being tracked on spreadsheets, and our various systems were not talking to each other in ways they could.

Outside the museum sector it's common to invest in project management software to support this work and help with communication and reduce workloads. Museums are slow to bring in new systems and technology, but Covid-19 has taught us that adopting technology is necessary.

Process

Alongside our own research, we contacted peers inside and outside our sector to ask for their experiences with various accessible and affordable cloud-based collaborative project management systems. We reviewed our shortlist and decided to trial Monday.com, as the range of functions, ease of use and price point were just right.

Outcome

We decided to invest in Monday.com and think differently about how we work across our projects. Orientation for staff began in January, and we have gradually been adding projects and work flows to this new system. We are now able to work more effectively, across teams and with project partners outside the Museum, with clear timelines, milestones and project leads.



LHVG Award

In November 2021 Nick Viner, our Chair of Trustees, won the Trustee award at the London Heritage Volunteer Group awards. Nick has shown a tremendous dedication to the Museum since he joined in July 2020, and has lead a full governance review and appointment of six new trustees this past year. Congratulations to Nick!

“I am truly honoured to receive this award in the face of extremely strong competition. I have been delighted to offer my support to an institution that I have enjoyed visiting and have admired for years, and which has an essential role to play in guarding and preserving our heritage, and in educating people in the Jewish community and beyond. I have a great deal of confidence that we are well-placed to move forwards through our award-winning educational work, our sound foundation both in governance and financial structure, our exceptional team led by our outstanding Director Frances Jeens, and our new slate of highly experienced, energised and engaged Trustees.” Nick Viner – Chair of the Board of Trustees





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