



Group for Education in Museums Press Release

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Group for Education in Museums (GEM) receives lifeline grant from Government's £1.57bn Culture Recovery Fund

- Almost 450 heritage organisations in England, including GEM have been awarded cash from the first round of the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage
- Grants of up to £1 million will deliver a lifeline for the heritage sector in England with further support to follow and larger grants for capital projects awarded through the Heritage Stimulus Fund
- First major tranche of funding from the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund

GEM is one of 445 heritage organisations across the country set to receive a lifesaving financial boost from the government thanks to the £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund to help them through the coronavirus pandemic with a £41,500 grant.

445 organisations will share £103 million, including GEM to help restart vital reconstruction work and maintenance on cherished heritage sites, keeping venues open and supporting those working in the sector.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown began GEM has been supporting members digitally through informative webinars and pivoting the training programme to be delivered online. GEM's [One to One Mentoring Programme](#) was also launched during this time, which has supported 50+ mentees and continues with support from volunteer mentors. This new funding will enable GEM to continue to deliver important support for both individuals and organisations and enable further learning programmes to be developed online for the benefit of the sector.

This vital funding is from the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage and the Heritage Stimulus Fund - funded by Government and administered at arms length by Historic England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Both funds are part of the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund which is designed to secure the future of Britain's museums, galleries, theatres, independent cinemas, heritage sites and music venues with emergency grants and loans.

433 organisations will receive a share of £67 million from the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage to help with costs for operating, reopening and recovery. This includes famous heritage sites across the country, from Wentworth Woodhouse in Yorkshire to Blackpool's Winter Gardens, Blyth Tall Ship to the Severn Valley Railway, the International Bomber Command Centre in Lincolnshire to the Piecehall in Halifax. The funds will save sites that are a source of pride for communities across the country.



12 organisations, including English Heritage, Landmark Trust, Historic Royal Palaces and the Canal and River Trust, will receive £34 million from the Heritage Stimulus Fund to restart construction and maintenance on cherished heritage sites to preserve visitor attractions and protect livelihoods for some of the most vulnerable heritage specialists and contractors in the sector.

The Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) has also been awarded a grant from the Culture Recovery Fund through Historic England. The AHF will use the funding to support charities and social enterprises occupying historic buildings to develop new business plans and strategies for organisations affected by the pandemic.

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden says:

"As a nation it is essential that we preserve our heritage and celebrate and learn from our past. This massive support package will protect our shared heritage for future generations, save jobs and help us prepare for a cultural bounceback post covid."

GEM Chair of Trustees Caroline Marcus, says:

"GEM is absolutely delighted to receive support from the Culture Recovery Fund. This funding enables GEM to continue supporting our community of colleagues to enable learning in museums, heritage and cultural settings. This programme allows us to support up to 100 museum professionals during such challenging times to receive mentoring as part of our new One to One Mentoring Programme. It will also give us the opportunity to continue to develop our relevant and successful new online learning programmes, responding rapidly to sector needs"

Ros Kerslake, Chief Executive of the National Lottery Heritage Fund says:

"It is absolutely right that investing in heritage should be a priority during this crisis and this support by Government is crucial. Heritage creates jobs and economic prosperity, is a major driver for tourism and makes our towns, cities, and rural areas better places to live. All of this is so important for our wellbeing and will be particularly vital when we start to emerge from this incredibly difficult time."

"Our heritage is still facing a perilous future – we are not out of the woods yet. But this hugely welcome funding from Government, and the money we continue to invest from the National Lottery, has undoubtedly stopped heritage and the organisations that care for it being permanently lost."

ENDS



Notes to editors

For further information about GEM, images and interview opportunities, please contact: Devon Turner, GEM Communications Manager at devon@gem.org.uk.

About GEM

GEM is a thriving and vibrant membership network of over 1,500 museum and heritage professionals. Our vision is of a connected and equipped community of people enabling learning across museum, heritage and cultural settings, creating inspiring experiences, relevant for everyone; that promote equality - transform and enrich lives.

We at GEM are continually inspired by our members' creativity, passion and hard work. Whether you'd like to keep up to date with the latest sector news, develop new skills, or find a new job, GEM is here to help. Find out more about [how GEM can help you](#).

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