

For immediate release

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## **Janet Vitmayer CBE appointed a dame in Queen's Birthday Honours List**



Janet Vitmayer CBE, formerly Chief Executive of the Horniman Museum and Gardens, has been appointed a dame in the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours List, for her services to museums and to diversity.

Janet has worked in museums for 40 years. During this time she has chaired the Wellcome Trust Culture and Society Capital Awards Committee and the Women Leaders in Museums Network, served on expert panels, and has wide experience of museum boards. Janet is currently a Trustee at the Dulwich Picture Gallery, the Florence Nightingale Museum and the Hunterian Collection London.

In her 20 years at the helm of the Horniman, Janet led a series of successful capital developments and fundraising campaigns, resulting in the transformation of its galleries, buildings and Gardens, and a trebling of visitor numbers. Janet left the organisation with funding awarded for the next four years as one of Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations, and with ongoing core funding from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as an arm's length body.

Her final development project for the Horniman – a major redisplay of its Designated anthropology collection – will see the opening of a new World Gallery on 29 June 2018 and a new Studio space in October 2018.

Janet Vitmayer says: 'I have worked alongside the most dedicated and inspirational people over the last 40 years, much credit goes to them. From my very first day I fell in love with the people visiting and participating in our museums; helping make visitors more reflective of our communities has filled me personally with great joy. I am touched to receive such a great honour.'

Dr Nick Merriman, the current Chief Executive of the Horniman Museum and Gardens, says: 'I'm delighted for Janet that her outstanding contribution to the museum sector has been recognised in this way. She handed over the Horniman at a very exciting and successful time in its history and I look forward to building on her great legacy. Congratulations from us all at the Horniman.'

**Ends**

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**Image attached:** Janet Vitmayer pictured at the Horniman. Credit: Sophia Spring

**Notes to Editors:**

- Dr Nick Merriman took up the post of Chief Executive of the Horniman Museum and Gardens on 1 May 2018. He succeeded Janet Vitmayer CBE who stepped down in April 2018 after 20 years at the helm.
- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to 'bring the world to Forest Hill'. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history and music as well as an acclaimed aquarium, with a new World Gallery of anthropology opening on 29 June 2018. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London. [horniman.ac.uk](http://horniman.ac.uk)
- The Museum and Gardens is core-funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725. The Horniman Museum and Gardens also receives funding from Arts Council England as one of its National Portfolio Organisations.
- **Opening times and admission.** The Horniman Museum is open daily 10.00am-5.30pm, except 24 - 26 December, when it is closed. The Gardens open at 7.15am Monday to Saturday and 8.00am on Sunday and Bank Holidays, and close at sunset. Entry to the Museum and Gardens is free but charges apply for the Aquarium and some special exhibitions and events. Horniman Members go free – [horniman.ac.uk/members](http://horniman.ac.uk/members).
- **Access.** The Museum and the Gardens are both wheelchair and pushchair friendly with accessible toilets. Limited on-site parking is available for Blue Badge holders.
- **Travel.** The Horniman is situated at 100 London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ on the South Circular Road (A205). It can be reached easily by train to Forest Hill station (London Overground/Southern, travel time approx.15-20 minutes from east/central London or East Croydon) and by local buses (176, 185, 197, 356, P4).