



## **The Horniman's new Chief Executive Nick Merriman reveals strategic vision for the future of the Museum and Gardens**



Nick Merriman, Chief Executive of the Horniman Museum and Gardens. Photo: Tania Dolvers

Nick Merriman, new Chief Executive of the Horniman Museum and Gardens, today announced his strategic vision for the future of the historic south London attraction. Speaking a month before the opening of the World Gallery, a new 600 sq m display showcasing over 3,000 objects from around the world, Merriman set out clear objectives to put the Horniman on the map as London's flagship for a holistic approach to diversity, understanding between world cultures and environmental issues.

He said: *"I'm delighted to have joined the Horniman at such a major moment in its history, as we look forward to the opening of the new World Gallery on 29 June and The Studio later in the year. In addition to two contemporary spaces, we are launching a range of new initiatives at the Horniman, underpinned by a central vision of relevance and inclusion:*

### ***Our shared world***

*"The Horniman is unique in being London's only museum that covers the natural world and human cultures together in one place. Now more than ever, we need to promote understanding and tolerance between cultures, and to engage people in environmental issues that are of mounting public concern, such as climate change, pollution and loss of biodiversity.*

*The World Gallery will be an important reminder that we all share one planet, and that the things that unite us are greater than those that divide us. It will be especially pertinent in a 'super-diverse'*

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*city like London where more than 300 languages are spoken and over 270 different nationalities are represented.”*

*“These global challenges particularly impact on future generations, so as a venue that is especially popular with families and children, the Horniman has an important role in engaging visitors in the kind of future they want to build. With this in mind, we are revamping both our Family and Schools Learning Programmes linked to the World Gallery, while maintaining the Horniman’s position as one of London’s premier destinations for learning and discovery.”*

### **More visitors from a wider range of backgrounds**

*“The Horniman is one of London’s most-loved institutions, but our ambition is to broaden and diversify our audiences, both in the museum and beyond its walls online. We want the Horniman to be the most culturally democratic museum in London, building on Frederick Horniman’s founding vision to ensure people from all backgrounds feel that this is place for them. Our aim is that over the coming years the profile of our visitors reflects that of London’s overall population.*

*At the same time, we want to increase the Horniman’s profile, not just among London’s diverse population, but nationally and internationally, so that we attract a million visitors a year to our amazing collections and our superb 16 acre gardens by 2023.*

*Through the development of new spaces and community engagement programmes, we aim to create life-enhancing learning experiences for our visitors and strengthen the Horniman’s appeal to new contemporary audiences.”*

Nick Merriman concluded: *“Over the next few months, I will be speaking to our local communities and their representatives, leaders of businesses and educational institutions, our trustees, staff and volunteers, about how we can achieve this vision over the next phase of the Horniman’s history.”*

### **About Nick Merriman**

Nick Merriman has been the CEO of the Horniman since 1 May 2018.

From March 2006, Nick was the Director of the Manchester Museum. During this time he focused its mission on promoting understanding between cultures and working towards a sustainable world, and oversaw the refurbishment of most of the Museum’s permanent galleries. This, together with a major programme of public engagement, led to a doubling of the Museum’s visitor numbers to 450,000 a year.

Prior to moving to Manchester, Nick Merriman was Director of Museums and Collections, and Reader in Museum Studies, at University College London, for eight years. During this time, he developed new courses in museum and heritage studies, and created a new university-wide museum service. From 2004 to 2006 he was a part time Fellow on the Clore Leadership Programme, undertaking a bespoke scheme of training and development in cultural leadership.

Nick began his career at the Museum of London in 1986, as Curator of Prehistory and subsequently Head of the Department of Early London History and Collections. While there he led a pioneering project called ‘The Peopling of London’ which told the story of the capital’s cultural diversity from ancient times to the present.

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He studied archaeology at Cambridge University, and his PhD, on widening participation in museums, was published as 'Beyond The Glass Case'. He has published widely on museum studies topics, was Chair of the International Council of Museums (UK) from 2001 to 2004, President of the Council for British Archaeology from 2005 to 2008, Chair of the University Museums Group from 2009 to 2013, Convenor of the Museums Association's Ethics Committee from 2008 to 2014 and was Chair of the Collections Trust from 2013 to 2017.

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**The World Gallery** is part of the Horniman's wider anthropology project, which also includes development of The Studio – a new, co-curated, contemporary arts space responding to the Horniman's anthropology collection opening later in 2018. Find out more about the project at [www.horniman.ac.uk/about/anthropology-redisplay](http://www.horniman.ac.uk/about/anthropology-redisplay).

To time with the World Gallery opening, the Horniman will also open a photographic display by Bryan Alexander showing contemporary indigenous Siberian ways of life, a new Grasslands Garden highlighting grasslands and prairie landscapes in North America and South Africa, and a Shared World summer programme of events and activities reflecting the themes of the World Gallery.

In addition to £3.3m from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Horniman's anthropology project is also supported by: the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Arts Council England, The Wolfson Foundation, The Garfield Weston Foundation, The Foyle Foundation, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, The Fidelity UK Foundation, The DCMS Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Viridor Credits Environmental Company, The Pilgrim Trust, The Sackler Trust, The Andor Charitable Trust, The Goldsmiths' Company Charity, The Charles Hayward Foundation, the John S Coates Charitable Trust and the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation alongside a number of generous groups and individuals.

[www.horniman.ac.uk/worldgallery](http://www.horniman.ac.uk/worldgallery) | #WorldGallery | @HornimanMuseum

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**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, music and anthropology and an acclaimed aquarium and a Butterfly House. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London.

Our visitors come time and again to enjoy our collections, exhibitions and gardens and also participate in our exciting range of events and activities. We also make our spaces available for hire including our stunning Grade II listed Conservatory built in 1894 and modern Gardens Pavilion. The Horniman Museum and Gardens is core-funded by the Department for Digital, 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.

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**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, Butterfly House and some special exhibitions and events. Horniman Members and Benefactors go free – [www.horniman.ac.uk/members](http://www.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 disabled visitors – call 020 8699 1872.

**Travel.** The Horniman is situated on the South Circular Road (A205) in Forest Hill, London. It can be reached easily by train to Forest Hill from Highbury and Islington, Whitechapel and Canada Water (on the London Overground line), London Bridge (15 minutes), London Victoria, Clapham Junction and East Croydon, and by local buses (176, 185, 197, 356, P4).