

For immediate release

Issued 4 March 2019

Horniman's formal planting design inspired by LEGO® bricks

Gardeners at the Horniman Museum and Gardens in Forest Hill, south London, are taking block planting very literally this summer with a formal bedding scheme based on LEGO® bricks.

The six-colour seasonal planting scheme will feature lobelia, carex, petunias and marigolds, planted in rectangular and square blocks in the Horniman's 1930s-built Sunken Garden – especially apt as the LEGO group was founded in 1932. The design has been inspired by the Horniman's current family exhibition *Brick Wonders*, which uses ½ million LEGO® bricks to recreate wonders from around the world, from an ancient Egyptian pyramid to the Great Barrier Reef.

It's not the first time that an indoor exhibition has inspired an innovative formal planting scheme at the Horniman. Last summer's scheme was a spectacular colour wheel of 12 different shades of bedding plants, in honour of the *Colour: The Rainbow Revealed* exhibition.

Wesley Shaw, Head of Horticulture at the Horniman, says: 'Formal garden designs typically use geometric shapes, symmetry and balance. While this scheme isn't the traditional arrangement of two or three bedding species with a few accent plants, which visitors will have seen in our spring displays, you can still see those formal garden principles at work. Our LEGO® brick-inspired display is a deceptively simple design that uses reflection symmetry in the outer border, and central symmetry for the central bed surrounding the pond, to create the brick-like pattern.'

The LEGO® brick-inspired display will be planted in May and in full bloom from June to September.

The Brick Wonders exhibition is open until 27 October. Tickets*: Child £5, Adult £9, Family (up to two adults and two children) £20. Free entry for Horniman Members and Benefactors. *Prices include a voluntary Gift Aid donation which helps support the work of the Horniman. Book online:

www.horniman.ac.uk

Ends

Horniman Press Office - Tel: 020 8291 8166 - press@horniman.ac.uk

Pictured:

- **Design sketch of the LEGO® brick-inspired planting scheme. Credit: Wesley Shaw**
- **2018's colour wheel planting. Credit: Horniman Museum and Gardens**

Notes to Editors:

- **Plant list:**

Lobelia 'Crystal Palace'
Petunia picobella 'Red'
Petunia 'Deep Purple'
Carex 'Phoenix Green'
Tagetes 'Durango Orange'
Tagetes 'Durango Yellow'

- **Brick Wonders** is a touring exhibition from Warren Elsmore. warrenelsmore.com/brickwonders/
- LEGO, the LEGO logo, the Minifigure, and the Brick and Knob configurations are trademarks of the LEGO Group of Companies. ©2019 The LEGO Group. Brick Wonders is not sponsored, endorsed or otherwise supported by The LEGO Group.
- **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 an acclaimed aquarium. A new World Gallery of anthropology opened in June 2018 and a new arts space, The Studio, opened in October 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
- 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.
- **Opening times and admission.** The Horniman Museum is open daily 10am-5.30pm, except 24 - 26 December, when it is closed. The Gardens open at 7.15am Monday to Saturday and 8am 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 – 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. horniman.ac.uk/visit/disability-and-access.
- **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).