

For immediate release

Issued 5 May 2021



## **Horniman appoints Errol Fernandes as Head of Horticulture**

Errol Fernandes is the new Head of Horticulture at the Horniman Museum and Gardens, leading a small team to manage the south London attraction's 16.5 acres of gardens and horticultural displays.

A gardener, artist and qualified art and horticultural psychotherapist, Errol joins the Horniman from Kenwood House, a site managed by English Heritage in north London, where he worked as senior gardener. He brings with him a keen interest in ecological and sustainable horticulture – chiming with the Horniman's commitment to mitigating against the climate and ecological emergency – alongside a creative approach to contemporary horticulture and design. Errol also brings valuable experience of working with local communities, and in museum and gallery settings.

Among the projects Errol will lead in 2021 is the creation of a new micro-forest alongside the A205 South Circular road. A successful fundraising appeal has raised more than £20,000 to plant 90 trees and hundreds of plants, which will act as a green screen, shielding the Horniman Gardens and its visitors from traffic fumes and noise pollution, and increasing biodiversity.

Errol Fernandes, Head of Horticulture at the Horniman Museum and Gardens, says: 'I'm excited to get to know the Horniman Gardens and put my skills and experience to good use. In particular I'm looking forward to furthering the links between the Gardens and the Museum collections, and championing sustainable and ecological gardening practices, as well as helping to make the Horniman Museum and Gardens even more accessible to the wider south London community.'

Errol was appointed to the Horniman role following the departure of Wes Shaw, who is now Head Gardener at London's Sky Garden.

The Horniman Gardens have remained open throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The Horniman Museum remains closed, aiming to reopen from May 17 in line with government guidance.

**Ends**

Horniman Press Office - [press@horniman.ac.uk](mailto:press@horniman.ac.uk)

- **Pictured:** Errol Fernandes, Head of Horticulture at the Horniman Museum and Gardens, credit Andrew Montgomery.
- Read Errol's **biography** [online](#).
- Follow Errol on **Instagram** [@errolreubenfernandes](#)

#### Notes to Editors:

- **Coronavirus restrictions and impact** – following the latest government guidance, the Museum and Butterfly House are currently closed. The Horniman Gardens remain open, including the Café kiosks, toilets and Sunday market, and the Horniman is asking the public to adhere to social distancing and the latest safety advice guidance.
- The Museum was closed from 18 March 2020 to 30 July and from 5 November to 3 December, and closed again on 4 January 2021. The Gardens have remained open throughout the pandemic.
- **Every month the Horniman is closed costs around £150,000 in lost income** from ticket sales, memberships, the shop and café. In recent years, the Horniman has increasingly relied on this vital income to help care for the Gardens, animals and Aquarium residents, to run events and to look after the collections. The support of returning visitors, our supporters and their generous donations, are more needed than ever. [horniman.ac.uk/support-us/](http://horniman.ac.uk/support-us/)
- **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](http://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.
- On 29 July 2019 the **Horniman Museum and Gardens declared an ecological and climate emergency**, pledging to place carbon reduction and environmental issues at the heart of its work. The declaration – and the subsequent **Climate and Ecological Manifesto**, published in January 2020 – is a consolidation of existing work and a commitment to renewed ambitions to reduce the Horniman's environmental and pollution footprint, increase biodiversity, and inspire others to do so. Find out more about the Horniman's manifesto commitments and progress so far at [horniman.ac.uk/climate](http://horniman.ac.uk/climate).