

For immediate release

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Gordon Seabright appointed new Chief Executive of the Horniman Museum and Gardens

Gordon Seabright has been appointed as Chief Executive of the Horniman Museum and Gardens. Currently Chief Executive of Creative Land Trust, he will take up his new post at the Horniman in June.

Gordon Seabright has been Chief Executive of Creative Land Trust, a charity tackling the loss of creative workspace for artists and makers in the UK, since 2020. He has a broad experience of environmental and heritage charities, including as CEO of the Eden Project, Chief Executive of Cycling UK, and senior roles at the Royal Horticultural Society and English Heritage.

He joins the Horniman as it begins its Nature + Love transformation – a capital project supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, which will redisplay the historic Natural History Gallery and breathe new life into underused areas of the Horniman Gardens, creating two additional visitor attractions.

Gordon Seabright says: 'What a privilege it is to join the brilliant team at the Horniman! I'm grateful to the Trustees for appointing me as Chief Executive, and excited to begin working with my new colleagues. The Horniman is a very special place, and we'll be working to make it even more successful for our local communities and for national and international audiences.'

Michael Salter-Church, Chair of the Board of Trustees at the Horniman, says: 'We are delighted to be welcoming Gordon to the Museum and Gardens. His blend of experience complements the talents within the team and will ensure we celebrate our 125th birthday in 2026 in great shape, including with the delivery of our Nature + Love project.'

'The Horniman is at the heart of the community in Forest Hill, but our relationships and reach are global. Gordon will help us capitalise on this sense of 'place' as well as attracting new visitors to see and learn about how human culture, ecology and the environment work together.'

Minister for Arts, Heritage & Libraries, Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay, says: 'It's a pleasure to welcome Gordon Seabright, who brings a wealth of experience with him and joins a brilliant team at the Horniman Museum. I look forward to working with him as the museum heads towards its 125th anniversary and continues to inspire new generations about the planet around us.'

Alex Notay and Cath Webster, Co-Chairs of Creative Land Trust, say: 'On behalf of Creative Land Trust we wish to register our thanks to Gordon for his significant contribution to the Trust over the last four years; as we begin the process of considering new leadership, he goes to the Horniman with our very best wishes.'

Seabright succeeds Victoria Pinnington who has been interim Chief Executive of the Horniman since February 2024 following the departure of Dr Nick Merriman OBE.

Ends

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Pictured: Gordon Seabright, credit: Horniman Museum and Gardens

Notes to Editors:

- **Gordon Seabright** has been Chief Executive of Creative Land Trust, a charity tackling the loss of creative workspace for artists and makers in the UK, since 2020. Before that he led environmental charities for a decade, including as CEO of the Eden Project, following periods at the helm of the national cycling charity and the Royal Horticultural Society. Along with extensive experience in philanthropic fundraising, Gordon secured private and public funding for the launch of Eden Geothermal Ltd. Outside work he is a trustee of parkrun Global and of Five Talents UK, a development charity operating in East Africa, and NED of a community orchard in Cornwall. Gordon is a Fellow of the Linnean Society, holds an MBA from Henley Business School and is an Honorary Fellow of Exeter Business School.
- **Dr Nick Merriman** was appointed OBE in the New Year Honours list 2024, recognising his services to the arts and heritage. He was Chief Executive of the Horniman from May 2018 until February 2024, during which time the Horniman was awarded [Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022](#), the world's largest museum prize. He is now Chief Executive at English Heritage.
- **Victoria Pinnington** joined the Horniman in 2012 as Director, Communications & Income Generation. In February 2024, she assumed the role of Interim Chief Executive Officer.
- The Natural History Gallery closed for redevelopment from Monday 4 March 2024 as part of our [Nature + Love](#) project. The gallery will reopen in 2026.
- **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 a World Gallery of anthropology, music, an acclaimed aquarium, The Studio – a flexible arts and exhibition space, and a natural history gallery (closed until 2026 for redevelopment as part of [Nature + Love](#)). 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** relies on income from ticket sales, memberships, the shop and the Café to help care for the Gardens, animals and Aquarium residents, to run events

and to look after the collections. The support of our visitors and donors is hugely appreciated.

horniman.ac.uk/support-us

- The **Horniman 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.
- 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.