

For immediate release

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## **Michelle Edward appointed Director, Finance & Corporate Services at Horniman Museum and Gardens**

Michelle Edward joins the Horniman Museum and Gardens next week (28 May 2024) as Director, Finance and Corporate Services.

Michelle is a qualified Chartered Accountant with over 20 years of experience gained from working in FTSE 100 companies, SMEs, not-for profit organisations, charities, and being part of successful start-ups.

Michelle spent the first 10 years of her career in financial service institutions; namely Citibank, Lloyds Bank and NASDAQ, before broadening and diversifying her skills in senior roles within other commercial, not-for profit and charity organisations; including Chelsea FC, Quilter Foundation and creative awards charity D&AD.

As well as having hands-on experience in all areas of finance, Michelle's diverse skills extend into other operational areas, including HR, legal, ICT and facilities.

Michelle succeeds Paula Thomas in the role, who will retire from the Horniman in June, following a handover period with Michelle.

Victoria Pinnington, interim Chief Executive of the Horniman Museum and Gardens, says: 'We're thrilled to welcome Michelle to our senior team and look forward to the charity benefiting from her wealth of knowledge and experience across sectors. Michelle brings her considerable financial skills to the Horniman at a critical time as we deliver our ambitious Nature + Love project, expanding operations through two new destinations in the Gardens alongside a redisplayed Natural History Gallery.

'I'd also like to thank outgoing finance director Paula Thomas for her long and outstanding contribution to the Horniman. Across 30 years of dedicated service, 10 of which as Finance Director, Paula has offered kindness, pragmatism and sound judgement in equal

measure and has been a consistent steady hand through the varying financial challenges of the charity sector. We wish her every happiness in her retirement, knowing that she is passing that baton into safe hands.'

Michelle Edward said: 'I am honoured and delighted to be joining the Horniman Museum and Gardens! I very much look forward to working with my new colleagues and contributing to the success of the exciting projects and opportunities that lie ahead.'

### Ends

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Photograph: Michelle Edward © Michelle Edward

### Notes to Editors:

- 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** was [Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022](#), the world's largest museum prize.
- **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](http://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](http://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](http://horniman.ac.uk/climate).