Digital volunteers set to make big impact for Manchester Museum thanks to National Lottery funding

Manchester Museum has been awarded £64,782 of National Lottery funding to launch a digital volunteering initiative and break down barriers to heritage.

Today's funding is part of [The National Lottery Heritage Fund's Digital Skills for Heritage initiative](#), which aims to raise digital skills and confidence across the whole UK heritage sector.

Seventeen projects have been awarded funding to create digital volunteering opportunities, supporting volunteers to develop and contribute their digital skills. Some opportunities will be offered online – removing barriers such as place, mobility, time commitments and confidence in returning to in-person activities due to the pandemic.

In turn, heritage organisations will gain the perspectives and skills of 'at distance' and on-site digital volunteers including many who may not have had the chance to volunteer before. The impact of the new volunteering opportunities and ways of working will be shared across the heritage sector.

Ros Kerslake, CEO at The National Lottery Heritage Fund:

"Volunteers play a crucial role in supporting and sharing the UK's heritage. Thanks to National Lottery players we are delighted to support these trailblazing projects, including Manchester Museum as they create exciting new digital volunteering opportunities, helping to break down barriers and inspire the sector to get even more people involved in the heritage they love."

The project will pioneer a new approach to remote volunteering, engaging volunteers from Manchester's diverse communities and beyond to contribute digital content to a multilingual, interactive online platform. Volunteers will acquire skills to digitise objects and collect interpretations and personal responses to collections in a variety of languages spoken across the city.

Esme Ward, Director, Manchester Museum

"We are delighted to receive support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver Digitising Multilingual Heritage. This project presents an exciting and timely opportunity for Manchester Museum to grow our digital volunteering community and connect new people to our collections through the development of a Multilingual Museum Digital Platform. This inclusive project will showcase the city's linguistic diversity and foster pride in diverse linguistic heritage. Through its unique participatory approach to translation, we hope to create a shared sense of belonging and model for multilingual engagement that can be adapted and developed by other organisations."

ENDS

Notes to editors

About Manchester Museum

For Manchester Museum media enquiries contact: Anna.Pickard@manchester.ac.uk

Manchester Museum, part of The University of Manchester, first opened in 1890. It is the UK's largest university museum with a collection of about 4.5 million items from every continent. Its combination of the academic and the popular is what makes the Museum so distinctive and lies at the heart of its widespread appeal. The museum's vision is to build understanding between cultures and a sustainable world. Every year over half a million people visit. Manchester Museum is working towards an exciting new £13.5 million project hello future, to transform and develop the museum becoming more inclusive, imaginative and caring to the diverse communities it serves.

The hello future transformation, includes:

· A new Exhibition Hall

· South Asia Gallery

· Lee Kai Hung Chinese Culture Gallery

· Redisplayed galleries

· New entrance and visitor facilities with focus on inclusive and accessible design

www.museum.manchester.ac.uk @mcrmuseum

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we **Inspire**, **lead** and **resource** the UK's heritage to create **positive and lasting change** for people and communities, now and in the future. www.heritagefund.org.uk. Follow @HeritageFundUK on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund and #HereForDigital

The National Lottery Heritage Fund's 2020 Digital Attitudes and Skills for Heritage (DASH) survey and report identified an appetite to develop digital skills across the sector and informed the £3.5million Digital Skills for Heritage programme. Find out more here.