

Your event at the **Whitworth**

Venue Hire Catalogue





Welcome

The Whitworth isn't your typical art gallery.

Founded back in 1889 as the first English gallery in a public park, it's always been about art, education and social purpose. Today, as part of The University of Manchester, it's home to over 60,000 incredible works – from textiles, watercolours and prints to sculpture and modern art, many from underrepresented areas of the sector.

We're proud to showcase voices that don't always get heard – from queer communities to women artists, and Black and Asian creatives – making sure what you see here reflects the world around us. The Whitworth is a space that doesn't shy away from difficult conversations. We challenge colonial legacies, question power, and give a platform to artists with something political to say.

We represent the community around us as a friendly, welcoming and informal place where everyone's invited to pause, breathe and connect, with a great foundation of history and social inclusion.

After a £15 million redevelopment, our beautiful red brick Victorian building now blends seamlessly with the surrounding parkland. Think light-filled spaces, historic charm and fresh contemporary design all under one roof.

Whether you're planning a private celebration, a corporate event or a creative get-together, the Whitworth offers a distinctive, inspiring setting where heritage, inclusivity, political voices and modern culture come together.



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Community at our Heart

When you choose the Whitworth for your event, you're doing more than booking a stunning gallery space – you're directly supporting vital cultural, social, and educational programmes across Manchester.

Our very creation was to promote public mental and physical well being to the local community and we want to continue to be a free entry art gallery. Your support will help us continue this pledge.

By choosing the Whitworth, you're not just hosting an event – you're investing in creativity, wellbeing, and community for the whole city.

Book your event with us today and be part of something bigger.

57,500 **schoolchildren** reached through learning programmes.

300,000 **priority visitors** welcomed every year.

£500,000 invested in award-winning **volunteering**.

37,000 increase in visits from **minority ethnic communities**.

60,000 **families** engaged in cultural activities.

31% of **young visitors** from minority ethnic backgrounds.

Arts & Health programmes delivered in hospitals and care homes.

Free community access to exhibitions & family activities.



Sustainability at our Heart

Our 2015 redevelopment not only doubled public exhibition space but also embedded sustainable design—low-carbon technologies, passive environmental control, and a seamless connection with the surrounding parkland.

When you host your event with us, your event supports this ongoing work to become one of the first carbon-neutral universities in the world. We plan to become zero carbon by 2038, a goal that involves reducing direct emissions rather than relying on offsetting.

This includes projects like low-energy lighting and building upgrades, and integrating sustainability into all decision-making processes across the campus.

Your support will help us to achieve this goal and convert our historic building into a low carbon space.

Our Showstoppers

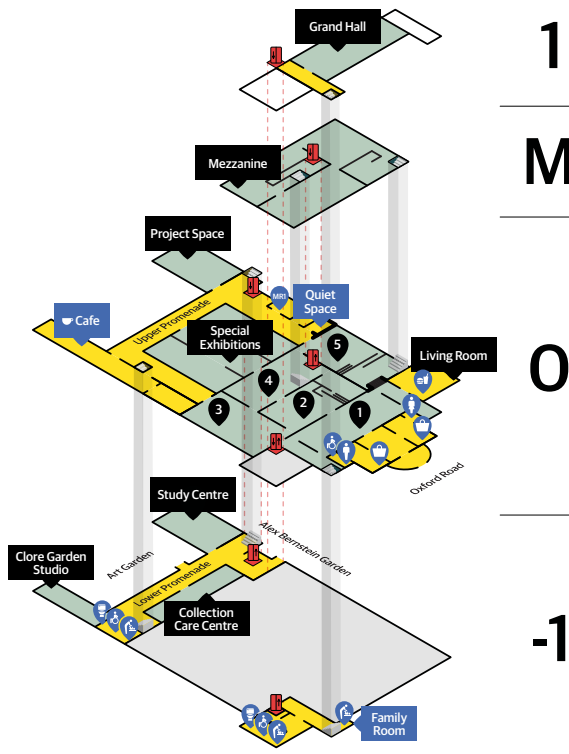
One of the main reasons to book our unique spaces is the art itself. From celebrated European names like Turner and William Morris to international artists such as Santiago Yahuarcani and Yuki Kihara, the Whitworth offers an extraordinary backdrop for your event. Our galleries will be filled with art that inspires, challenges and educates – giving your delegates and clients a cultural experience they'll never forget and art and artists they are unlikely to see elsewhere.

[Click here](#) to see What's On at the Whitworth.



Gallery Map

[Click here](#) for a PDF version.



1 | First Level

Grand Hall Special event space

M | Mezzanine Level

Mezzanine Exhibition Space

0 | Ground Level

1 Gallery Space

2 Gallery Space

3 Event and gallery space

4 Gallery Space

5 Gallery Space

Living Room A drop-in shared space, to eat, study and meet

Special Exhibitions Gallery Space

Project Space Gallery Space

-1 | Lower Ground Level

Collection Care Centre Project and exhibition space

Clore Garden Studio Creative workshop and events space

Study Centre Study area for research by appointment

Our spaces at the **Whitworth**



Whitworth Spaces



Gallery 3

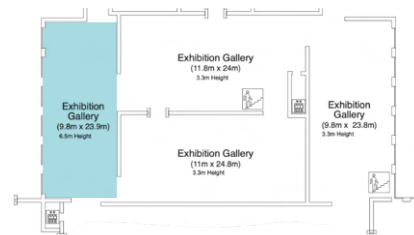
Standing 200 | Dining 120

Ideal for: Canapé receptions, wedding ceremonies, intimate sit-down dinners

As part of the gallery's dynamic exhibition space, it is sometimes home to thought-provoking and visually captivating artworks, creating an ever-evolving backdrop for your event. This versatile space provides a distinctive experience for you and your guests.

Elevate your Experience

The gallery opens onto the Promenade, our contemporary glass extension, creating a seamless flow between the two areas. When hired together with the Whitworth Café, the two spaces become a self-contained suite, perfect for stylish and memorable celebrations.



Promenade

Standing 200 | Dining 80

Ideal for: Drinks receptions, arrival spaces, dramatic transitions between event rooms

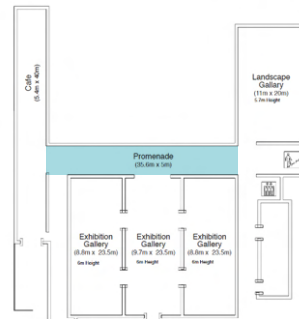
The Promenade is a long, light-filled space lined with floor-to-ceiling glass on one side and original brickwork on the other.

With sleek stone flooring and gallery lighting, it provides a seamless blend of heritage and modern design.

The Promenade offers views of the park and art garden while maintaining a strong visual connection to the Whitworth's artistic identity.

Elevate your Experience

It can be hired alongside adjoining spaces such as the Whitworth Café and Gallery 3 for larger events.



Whitworth Café

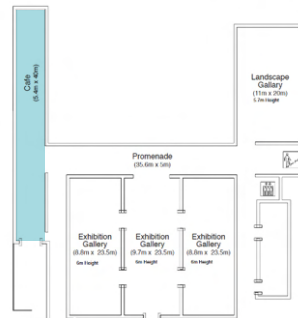
Standing 110 | Dining 104
Cabaret-style dining 96

Located in the elegant glass and stainless steel extension designed by MUMA, the café overlooks Whitworth Park and the gallery's Art Garden. With floor to ceiling windows, this is the perfect place to enjoy the outdoors, whatever the weather.

Offering warm, friendly hospitality, together with fresh local and seasonal food.

Elevate your Experience

We offer a variety of food options to match your event needs, [click here](#) to take a look.



Grand Hall

Cabaret 128 | Theatre Style 214

The Grand Hall is a beautifully restored, double-height space in the Jacobean style, located within the gallery's original 19th-century building. Brought back into public use as part of the Whitworth's major redevelopment, it combines period charm with modern functionality.

At 216m², the hall offers generous capacity for large events and features a built-in audiovisual system — making it an ideal setting for conferences, wedding ceremonies, and drinks receptions.

Elevate your Experience

Why not add on an art trail or gallery workshop to immerse yourself in the venue?



Meeting Room 1

Boardroom 16 | U-shape 10

Nestled within the gallery's exhibition spaces and just steps from the award-winning Whitworth Café, this private meeting room offers a quiet and inspiring setting for focused work.

Ideal for small meetings, one-to-ones, or team away days, the space comfortably accommodates 10-16 people and is perfectly placed within the creative heart of the gallery.

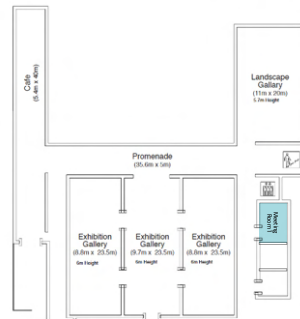


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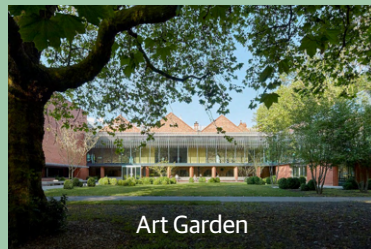
Equipment included

LCD screen with speaker and in-built webcam.



The Gardens

The Whitworth tends to stunning gardens right in the middle of Manchester. If you're looking to connect with nature at your event, they are bookable by discussion.



Alex Bernstein Garden

Standing 50 | Seating 20

Ideal for: Drinks Receptions, Workshops

Tucked behind the Study Centre and accessible only through the gallery, this hidden gem was designed by RHS Chelsea Gold medallist Sarah Price. With its calming palette of greens and whites, it's a tranquil space for quiet reflection.

Shaded planting and lush ferns attract a variety of insects and support the park's thriving bumblebee population – including those in the gallery's own hive. A peaceful retreat and a haven for biodiversity.

Elevate your Experience

Why not book an outdoor drinks reception or use the space for some nature based team building such as drawing or sound therapy?



Art Garden

Standing 100 | Seated 40

Ideal for: Outdoor gatherings, workshops, wellbeing activities, drinks receptions

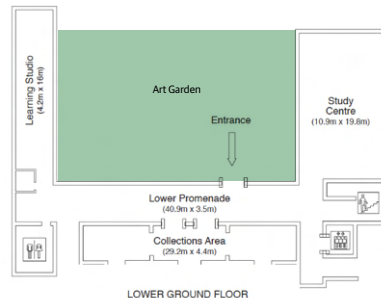
A peaceful urban sanctuary nestled in the gallery grounds, the Art Garden was designed by award-winning landscape designer Sarah Price.

With ever-changing waves of colour, scent and texture, it's a space that evolves beautifully through the seasons. The garden offers a serene and inspiring setting for meaningful events in the heart of the city.

Elevate your Experience

Why not look to book an art workshop in the garden or book a mindful session such as yoga or Tai Chi?

Perhaps add on a lower promenade drinks reception or a garden-based event in the summer?



Food Options

The Whitworth Café is an award-winning venue located in the heart of Whitworth Park. Our food is developed by Hospitality on Campus, the University of Manchester's dedicated catering team, renowned for delivering exceptional hospitality, superb food, and exciting menus for meetings and events across campus, including in some of our most iconic venues.

All of our menus feature innovative, freshly prepared dishes crafted by our team of highly skilled chefs. We pride ourselves on delivering high-quality food that represents excellent value for money, especially at a time when careful budgeting is more important than ever.

As Hospitality on Campus is part of The University of Manchester, any surplus generated is reinvested back into supporting teaching, learning, and research—something that has never been more vital.

Click on here to see our [Food Menu](#).

*Images are for illustration purposes only.

Refreshments



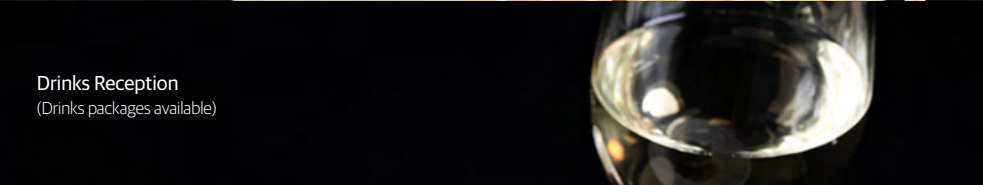
Fork Buffet



Afternoon Tea & Evening Canapés



Drinks Reception
(Drinks packages available)



Fine Dining



Team Building Activities

Workshops

At the Whitworth, we believe in the power of creativity to bring people together. Our programme of workshops and team-building activities offers an inspiring way to support wellbeing, encourage collaboration, and spark fresh thinking within your group.

Working alongside a vibrant community of skilled artists and practitioners, we deliver high-quality sessions tailored to suit teams of all sizes—from focused groups of 5 to larger gatherings of up to 100 participants. Each workshop is thoughtfully designed to be engaging, restorative, and memorable.

Choose from a diverse range of creative and wellbeing-focused sessions, or allow us to design a bespoke experience to meet your organisation's goals. Whether you're looking to spark innovation, strengthen team dynamics, or simply offer your colleagues a refreshing and enjoyable break, we have options to suit every need.

For further details or to start planning your session, please contact Whitworth.Events@manchester.ac.uk.

Art Trail

Looking for something a little more relaxed to enjoy with your team?

Our Events Team can provide a selection of fun quizzes and trails designed to get everyone exploring, discovering, and working together. Create teams and set off on an adventure through our galleries as you hunt for hidden secrets within the art.

Prefer to take things outdoors? We also offer a Sculpture Trail through Whitworth Park—perfect for teams looking to reconnect with nature while enjoying a gentle, creative challenge.

All of our trails are free of charge with any booking, making them a great add-on to your visit.



Gift-giving with the **Whitworth** Shop

Curated, Ethical, Art-Led

The Whitworth Shop is a beautifully curated, ethical, and art-led retail space featuring unique products and designs inspired by our collection, our exhibitions, and our local creative community. Every item is carefully chosen to reflect the spirit of the Whitworth—creative, thoughtful, and rooted in Manchester's vibrant cultural scene.

Why not include a small gift from the shop in your delegate packs? It's a perfect way to add something memorable to your event and give your guests a little piece of Manchester to take home. With items starting from just £2.00, there's something to suit every budget.

By choosing to purchase from the Whitworth Shop, you're not only investing in your team—you're also investing in the gallery. All profits support the Whitworth's ongoing work, including the care of our collections, the upkeep of our spaces, and our outreach programmes with local communities.

Bring a touch of creativity—and a touch of Manchester—to your event.

To find out more head to thewhitworthshop.com

Getting to Us

Walk

30–40min from Manchester city centre.
Flat paved route, not traffic-free.

Bike

Sheffield stands and lockers (£1 coin, refundable) both available at the gallery.

Bus

15, 41, 42, 43, 140 – 143, 147.
Ask for bus stop nearest MRI, Oxford Road.

Tram

St Peter's Square (plus 10 minutes on the bus or approximately 30 minutes on foot).

Train

Oxford Road (plus 10 minutes on the bus or around 25 minutes on foot).

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Car

Limited on-street parking (maximum stay, 2 hours) on Denmark Road. Nearest car park Cecil Street (M15 6GD).

Due to the 'bus gates' on Oxford Road, general traffic is prohibited between Hathersage Road and Portland Street, from 6am–9pm, 7 days a-week. Taxis are allowed down this road with no restrictions.

Driving

Visitors coming from South Manchester via Wilmslow Road are advised to turn left at Moss Lane East, right at Lloyd Street North and then right onto Denmark Road.

Visitors coming from the city centre are advised to come off the Mancunian Way at Cambridge Street, follow the road down, then turn left at Denmark Road.

The Whitworth, The University of Manchester,
Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

[Click here to find out more about parking and access.](#)





Ready to book your event?

the **Whitworth**



Have questions? Email us
Conference@manchester.ac.uk

Website
whitworth.manchester.ac.uk

Address
The Whitworth, The University of Manchester,
Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER