

**Funding raised by  
The National Lottery**  
and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



## PRESS RELEASE

### ***Give: Volunteering for Wellbeing* project secures National Lottery support**

UCL, on behalf of the Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance, has received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund – thanks to National Lottery players - for an exciting project ***Give: Volunteering for Wellbeing***, to work in collaboration with the Natural History Museum, Horniman Museum and Gardens, and Valence House.

The project will make heritage more accessible to people experiencing health inequality. Working with our three partner organisations new volunteering programmes will connect people and help open up hidden and unused museum collections to more people.

This project forms part of the work of the ***Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance***, a new Arts Council Sector Support Organisation formed by the merger of the National Alliance for Museums, Health and Wellbeing and the National Alliance for Arts, Health and Wellbeing. By supporting these museums to pilot sustainable collections-led volunteering focused on wellbeing we will:

- At a community level - use our networks and knowledge of best practice to enable a wider range of people to volunteer with their local museum to support their personal wellbeing and be inspired by the organisation's collections
- Organisational level - through our training and evaluation help museums to understand how they can embed collections-led volunteering for wellbeing and support a wider range of people in the future.
- National level - undertake sector-wide mapping of volunteering for wellbeing. This will be combined with learning about the role of collections in improving the wellbeing of volunteers and use this learning to inspire and support other museums nation-wide to undertake this work.

*Prof Helen Chatterjee, (Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance, Co-Founder and Board member) based at University College London said: 'We are thrilled to have received this award and very excited to work with three of London's finest museums. We are very grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund and the National Lottery players for supporting this exciting initiative'*

*Liz Ellis, Policy Adviser, Communities and Diversity, Heritage Lottery Fund said: "The Heritage Lottery Fund recognises the crucial role volunteering has in connecting us with each other and building sustainable wellbeing. This project will demonstrate the significant opportunities ahead for individual volunteers, local communities and heritage organisations to work together to embed improved wellbeing into museum practice."*

## Ends

### **For further information:**

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## Notes for editors

### 1. HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk). Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLottery and #HLFsupported.

### 2. UCL

UCL is London's leading multidisciplinary university, with more than 13,000 staff and 38,000 students from 150 different countries. Founded in 1826 in the heart of London, UCL was the first university in England to welcome students of any religion and the first to welcome women on equal terms with men. The Culture and Health Research team which has over the past seven years been investigating the impact of museum encounters in a variety of settings, including museums, hospitals, care homes and community centres. [www.ucl.ac.uk](http://www.ucl.ac.uk), [www.culturehealthresearch.wordpress.com](http://www.culturehealthresearch.wordpress.com)

### 3. CULTURE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING ALLIANCE

The National Alliance for Museums, Health and Wellbeing and the National Alliance for Arts, Health and Wellbeing merged to become a new Sector Support Organisation, the Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance (CHWA) from 1 April 2018. Funded by Arts Council England as part of the National Portfolio Fund 2018-2022, the new organisation is led by Arts & Health South West.

CHWA combines the complementary strengths of the two sectors and has a strong emphasis on the potential of national strategic developments that can be activated by strong regional and local place based working. CHWA works with the sector to develop training and advocacy, methods and platforms for sharing evidence, as well as opportunities for networking between the cultural and health sectors. It provides the secretariat to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Arts, Health and Wellbeing and will be a key partner in delivering the recommendations of the APPG's 2 Year Inquiry. [www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk](http://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk), [www.artshealthandwellbeing.org.uk/appg-inquiry](http://www.artshealthandwellbeing.org.uk/appg-inquiry), @CHWAlliance

### 3. HORNIMAN MUSEUM AND GARDENS

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 on 29 June 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.

The Horniman Museum and Gardens has a well-established and internationally recognised community engagement programme and works with a range of local and national partners supporting marginalised groups including mental health service users and new arrivals to deliver the programme. The Volunteering programme supports the involvement of over 140 adults and young people each year, the majority of whom are from the local area. The Horniman has a wealth of experience of delivering and developing collections-focussed health and wellbeing provision, and will be the lead partner on this project. [www.horniman.ac.uk](http://www.horniman.ac.uk), @HornimanMuseum

#### 4. NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

The Natural History Museum exists to inspire a love of the natural world and unlock answers to the big issues facing humanity and the planet. It is a world-leading science research centre, and through its unique collection and unrivalled expertise it is tackling issues such as food security, eradicating diseases and managing resource scarcity. The Natural History Museum is the most visited natural history museum in Europe and the top science attraction in the UK welcoming more than 4.5 million visitors each year and receiving over 500,000 unique visitors a month to its website.

The Museum has a large and diverse engagement programme for all including schools, families and adults. It also has a strong history of engaging volunteers in mutually beneficial programmes including the Learning Volunteer Programme which has been running for 13 years with over 70 volunteers involved who enjoy learning more about the natural world and interacting with hundreds of visitors every day in the galleries [www.nhm.ac.uk](http://www.nhm.ac.uk), @NHM\_London

#### 5. VALENCE HOUSE

Valence House is the local history centre for the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, and includes museum, archive and local studies centre. Over 4,500 years of local history is on display in the museum, which is set in a 15th century, timber-framed manor house that is still partially surrounded by a moat. Displays include the Dagenham Idol, one of the earliest forms of human representation in Europe; archaeology from Barking Abbey, one of the greatest nunneries in the country prior to the Dissolution; and the Fanshawe portrait collection, one of the best collections of gentry portraits in England.

Valence House Archive and Local Studies Centre is a unique and fascinating resource, providing information on the people and places of Barking and Dagenham. Highlights include the letters of Sir Richard Fanshawe, a manuscript on Victorian Barking written by William Frogley, the records of Samuel Williams and Sons Ltd, log books on local air-raids compiled by ARP Wardens and the John Gerard Herbal book. [www.valencehousecollections.co.uk](http://www.valencehousecollections.co.uk), @ValenceHouse

