

**Bristol
Museums
Development
Trust**

Helping treasure to shine

IMPACT REPORT





Welcome

Bristol Museums Development Trust (BMDT) is an independent registered charity which supports the work of Bristol's museums and archives within **Bristol City Council**.

There are seven sites across the city which play a huge role in enhancing the cultural life of the city's residents and visitors. The BMDT board of Trustees encourages fundraising and awards grants towards collections and activities across the venues.

In doing so, the Trust supports the maintenance of the seven sites and over two million objects; supports conservation, research, documentation, archiving and digitisation; and supports new acquisitions, displays and community events.

Foreword

By Nigel Hardy,
Chair, Bristol Museums Development Trust

Museums and galleries have the capacity to inspire creativity, foster new ways of thinking about the world and bring communities together.

To continue to do all the above and much more, the sector needs to become more sustainable in the way it approaches funding models. Bristol Museums Development Trust is sowing the seeds that, in time, will enable us to provide much greater financial support for the work of Bristol Museums.

Whilst we are eternally grateful for those donations, grants and legacies that support specific projects, we are also committed to increasing general donations which enable us to support a greater breadth of work.

I hope this brief introduction to the Trust demonstrates the many exciting projects that are giving both the people of Bristol and visitors to this wonderful city greater and more interactive access to our internationally acclaimed museum and archive collections.

The sites



br
bristol
museum &
art gallery



M shed




THE
GEORGIAN HOUSE
MUSEUM




KINGS WESTON ROMAN VILLA



 BRISTOL
ARCHIVES




Blaise
Museum



THE
RED
LODGE
MUSEUM

Bristol Museums & Archives

in numbers

2,000,000+

artefacts, specimens and archive material held across all sites

Bristol Museum & Art Gallery alone holds over

1,300

paintings,

200

sculptures

and

20,000

works on paper

1.3M

There are over **1.3M** visitors a year across our venues making Bristol Museums the most visited free attraction in the South West

Over **40,000** items have been digitised since 2002, making them accessible online

Bristol Museums and Archives holds around

500,000

photos,

2,000

films, sound

2,000

recordings

and

10,000

objects which were transferred in 2012 from the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum

Bristol Museum & Art Gallery alone attracts

450,000 visitors
a year;

with **8,000** visitors over one
weekend for the
Chinese New Year
celebrations

The museums hosted

47,104

pupil and student visits in
the 2018-19 financial year;

with

95% of all Bristol schools
having visited or
participated in museum-
led activities at least once
in the last three years

400

More than
community events are
organised across the
museum sites each year

The museums are supported by

940 enthusiastic
volunteers

giving over

45,300 hours

of their time, which equates to over

£372,000
each year

The natural sciences
collections in Bristol
are the largest in the
South West, comprising

1.15M

geology and biology
specimens collected
since the late
18th century

Over **30%**
of visitors come from
outside the city

From mission to impact



“It has a relaxed effect, it gives me a wonderful opportunity to do something different and it helps me have a more fulfilling life.”

Art Shed participant



Art Shed: Museums as medicine



The Trust funds a fortnightly arts and health project that provides workshops for people experiencing anxiety and depression. Art Shed, held at M Shed and Blaise Museum, allows participants to enjoy being creative with a variety of art forms and museum collections. Evaluation of participants showed a marked decrease in feelings of negativity and an overall increase in well-being.



“It’s given me a safe place to go away from home... A relaxed, friendly environment where I can unwind from stress.”

Art Shed participant

Celebrating 50 Years of St Paul's Carnival



To mark the 50th anniversary of this iconic event, our Participation Team worked with the community to create a commemorative exhibition at M Shed. The Trust funded a local young African-Caribbean photographer to capture images of people involved in the carnival and record their stories and a young illustrator to create carnival scenes. Funds also supported training in oral history techniques for local people and materials for a family launch event.



Images © Jon Craig

“a great introduction to the world of dinosaurs... and great to handle fossils and think about where they came from and what they were.” **Teacher, Cam Everlands Primary School, Gloucestershire.**

Pliosaurus: face to face with a Jurassic beast

This interactive family exhibition took visitors back in time to when Bristol was covered by Jurassic oceans. The ambitious centre piece was Doris, a life size replica of a pliosaurus that would have swam over the city in shallow seas some 150million years ago. The exhibition took over two years to create and now Doris has a permanent home in the museum. The exhibition was partly funded by the Trust which also contributed to the recruitment and training of a large volunteer team to answer visitor questions. The exhibition attracted more than 76,400 visitors, making it one of the most popular of the past decade.

Engaging with schools

The Trust contributed towards a Philosothon, a free annual event aimed at GCSE and A Level students. Working in partnership with Bristol Grammar School and the Philosophy departments at the University of Bristol and University of the West of England, this evening event on the theme of 'Tobacco' was attended by 50 students from seven different schools from across the Greater Bristol area. During the event the students engaged in philosophical discussion, listened to other people's viewpoints within different 'communities of enquiry' and thought through their own opinions.

"I felt I was exposed to many new ideas, points of view and ways of communicating or sharing ideas"
GCSE student participant





Transforming Blaise Museum



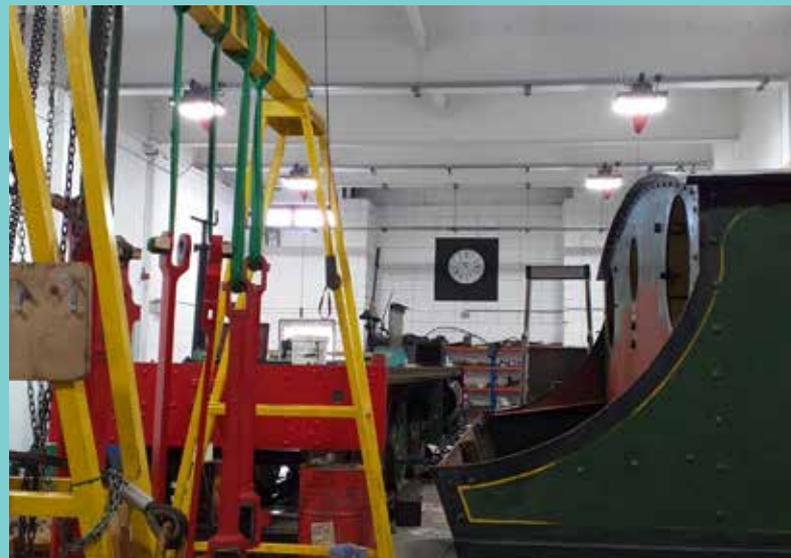
Image © John Seaman

Blaise plays a key role in preserving and chronicling the city's social history. Funds were allocated to carry out critical repairs to masonry and the roof and to repurpose the Library and the Kitchen. The Library has been transformed from a curator's office into a public space for community initiatives. The Kitchen, previously a store, is now a central workspace for staff and skilled volunteers, providing greater capacity for research and collections access, and for registering new acquisitions. The Dairy has also been retatched and re-opened to the public. Since these developments, the Participation team has been able to expand access to the Art Shed project by holding workshops at Blaise. The Trust has also funded the development of a community consultation space at Blaise so staff can seek views from the local residents on future plans for the museum.

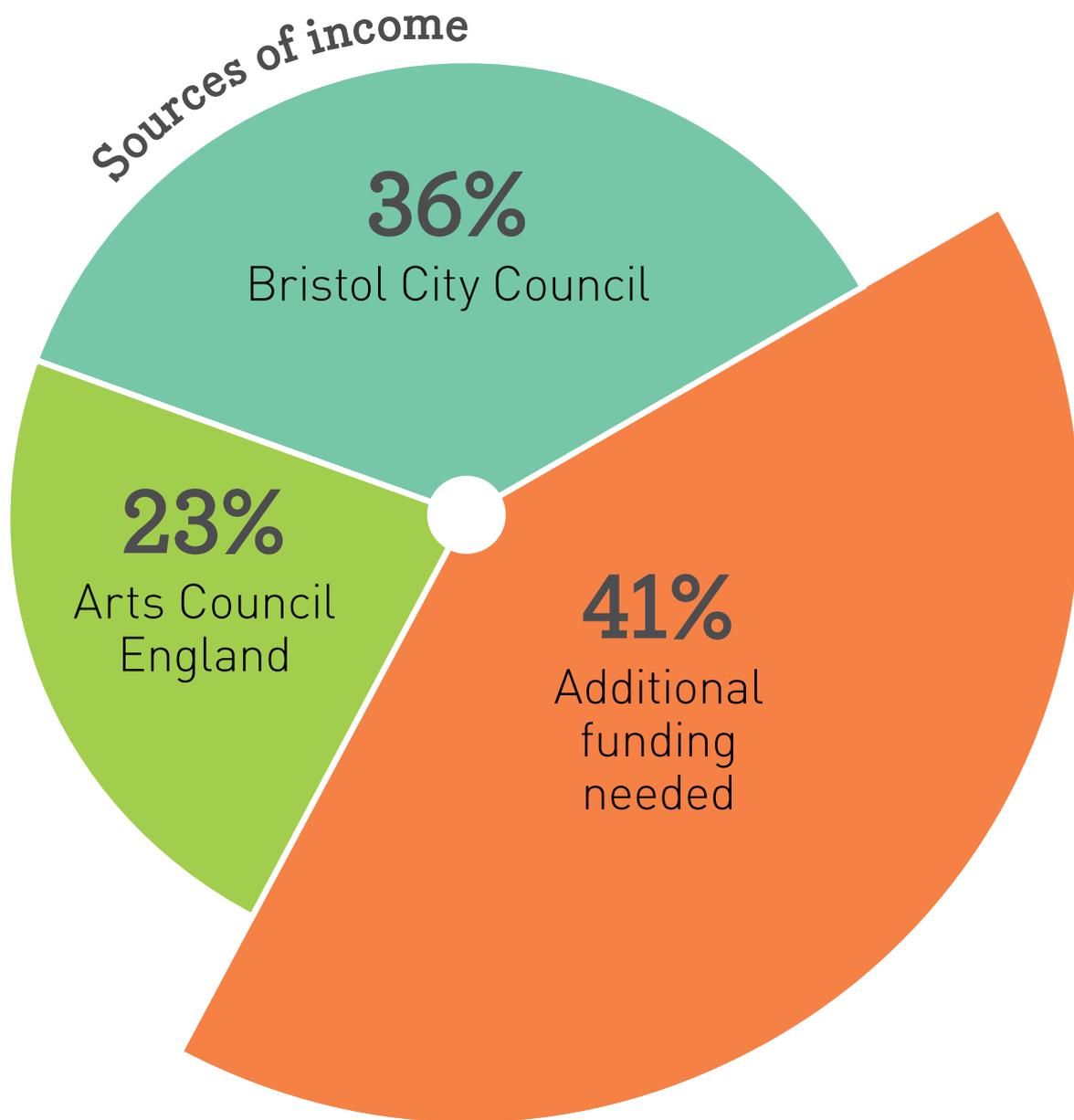


Bristol Harbour Railway

Bristol Harbour Railway is an immensely popular element of M Shed's working exhibits. To maintain its viability, the facilities at M Shed needed to be expanded. The Trust funded the creation of a purpose built garage and maintenance bay which allows the skilled railway volunteers to undertake more repairs and upkeep in-house. This saves both money and time, meaning that icons such as the Henbury locomotive, part of the railway for over 40 years, can continue to run and be enjoyed by the public.



Funding the museums



It costs £5.8 million to run the museums each year. National government budget cuts mean that local councils have less money to spend and Bristol City Council has had to make reductions to spending across many services, including the museums, where the budget has been cut by 50% since the year 2000.

We are grateful to all our donors for their support towards plugging this increasing funding gap.

“Superb show, you can really tell this was a labour of love. Please keep it for future generations to enjoy.”
M Shed visitor to the Bristol Music exhibition

Allocating funds

In recent years, an average of £200,000 is disbursed each year by Bristol Museums Development Trust towards the museums' sites and activities.

The Trust allocates unrestricted income to support four core areas:

- I. Learning - providing cultural learning opportunities for children and young people in formal education from nursery to university.
- II. Community - delivering a range of work aimed at increasing under-represented audiences.
- III. Collections - conserving, restoring, recording, curating and exhibiting a vast range of objects.
- IV. Buildings - maintaining and modernising the buildings and facilities of the museums and historic sites.

The Trust also oversees the dispensing of restricted funds, including ring-fenced donations which support specific areas across the museums.



Did you know..?



- Bristol has the most significant collection of Chinese Glass outside of China
- Bristol Museums & Archives hold Designated Museum status for a number of collections that are of national importance and rank within the top UK museums
- The cranes outside M Shed are managed by Bristol Museums and they are the only working heritage dockside cranes in the UK - nowhere else can the public visit the cabs of cranes like these and take part in their operation
- Records at Bristol Archives date back to the 12th Century and have been stored under lock and key since 1381
- The Banksy vs Bristol Museum exhibition in 2009 was one of the top 10 most-visited exhibitions in the world that year and brought over £10m into the local economy

Securing the future



You can help unlock more of the treasures cared for by Bristol Museums and Archives

We are faced with steep challenges in maintaining the organisation's relevance and impact.

We need to:

- Preserve this vast range of world class collections for the future
- Maintain the historic buildings that house these treasures
- Continue to provide access for millions of people to experience creative and cultural heritage

To meet these challenges, we need support from individuals and organisations.

Whatever your interest in arts, history, education, culture and community, when you donate to BMDT, you are contributing to the work carried out by Bristol Museums - the city's cultural heartbeat.

“InsideJapan Tours is very proud to be a Bristol business and getting involved with Bristol Museums is a way that we can effectively raise our local profile whilst supporting an institution that is at the heart of Bristol’s cultural life. The team have been a delight to work with and help ensure that we get excellent value for money. Being associated with Bristol Museums is great for

our brand, allowing us to share this connection with our existing clients whilst also reaching thousands more via Bristol Museums’ own marketing and those people visiting the exhibition we are sponsoring. It is also something for the team to be proud of as it is great to see the InsideJapan logo when out and about in town.”

Alastair Donnelly, InsideJapan

How you can get involved

- Join our Patron Circle - Individual Patron £500; Joint Patrons £750 per annum
- Give a regular gift by direct debit
- Make a donation at our venues or online
- Make a restricted donation to support the work of a particular collection or project
- Leave a gift in your will
- Sign up to Treasure, our free newsletter
- Organisations can become Corporate Members - £1,500 per annum
- Businesses can sponsor our events and exhibitions - from £2,500

There are many ways to get involved and support our mission.

Please contact Katie Lee if you would like to find out more on ways to support our venues, activities, collections or exhibitions.

E: katie.lee@bristol.gov.uk

T: 0117 3525 568

W: bristolmuseums.org.uk



Thank you

We are grateful to our main funders Bristol City Council and Arts Council England for their support. The Trust would also like to thank all individual donors, Patrons, trusts and foundations and corporate members and sponsors for sharing our vision and helping us deliver great culture for everybody.

“I think that Bristol Museums and Archives is an essential part of Bristol. My children loved exploring the whole museum when they were growing up, especially the nature section on the ground floor and the gypsy caravan, and since then I have continued to visit it regularly. That’s why I’m supporting it as a Patron.” Ros Kennedy



KINGS WESTON ROMAN VILLA



Bristol Museums Development Trust
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bristolmuseums.org.uk/support



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