

PRESS RELEASE
Wednesday 19 April 2017

New funding for sharing works of art across the UK

- *£750,000 initiative from Garfield Weston Foundation with Art Fund*
- *Scheme aims to empower museums around the country to borrow works of art and objects from the UK's National Collections*
- *Up to 50 museums nationwide expected to benefit over next 3 years*

The Garfield Weston Foundation and Art Fund announced today a new £750,000 funding and training programme to support the wider sharing of national collections with museums across the whole of the UK.

The Weston Loan Programme with Art Fund is the first ever grant programme specifically designed to directly fund and empower regional and smaller local authority museums to borrow major works or collections of art from the UK's National Museums and Galleries. The scheme will help widen access to works from the national collections for audiences across the country, strengthen the skills of up to 100 regional museum professionals, and distribute resources across the UK. The scheme will open for individual applications of between £5,000 - £25,000 via artfund.org/supportingmuseums on 6 July, and the successful museums for year one of the three-year funding programme will be announced in December. Loans of works of art will go on display from 2018 onwards.

Art Fund is encouraging interested UK museums to participate in one of the Preparing to Borrow workshops taking place around the country from April to September run by Touring Exhibitions Group (TEG).

Philippa Charles, The Garfield Weston Foundation's director, said 'This much-needed funding scheme will help museums the length and breadth of the country to realise their ambitions – for their institutions, audiences and curators. This collaborative way of working together promises to unlock so much potential. I especially look forward to seeing great works of art going on display in museums around the UK beginning in 2018, the 60th anniversary of the Garfield Weston Foundation.'

Stephen Deuchar, Art Fund director, said, 'We know that our national museums want to widen public access to the collections they hold, and that organisations

around the UK want more opportunities to borrow and display these collections. Our new scheme will not only provide the funds to make this possible, but also broker new relationships between museums, help give curators the skills they need, and empower museums to determine their own priorities in direct response to local audiences. We encourage all interested museums to apply.'

Grants to museums will cover costs including: transportation of works of art and objects, insurance, conservation, installation, advocacy, marketing and audience development. The £750,000 initiative will award a minimum of £600,000 in grants, provide up to £100,000 for training and networking opportunities for museum professionals, and cover up to £50,000 in detailed evaluation and reporting of key learnings for the scheme and sector.

The Weston Loan Programme with Art Fund is intended to complement Arts Council England's 'Ready to Borrow' scheme and TEG's 'Preparing to Borrow' programme as part of a joined-up funding approach to all stages of securing loans of works. The charities are working closely with TEG and other partners to highlight the range of opportunities available.

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Notes to Editors

Garfield Weston Foundation

The Garfield Weston Foundation is a family-founded grant-making trust established in 1958. Since it began the Foundation has donated over £960 million to charities across the UK. In the last financial year, the Foundation donated over £60 million. From small community organisations to large national institutions, the Foundation supports a broad range of charities and activities that make a positive impact in the communities in which they work. Over 1,500 charities across the UK benefit each year from the Foundation's grants. <https://garfieldweston.org/>

Art Fund

Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. In the past five years alone Art Fund has given £34 million to help museums and galleries acquire works of art for their collections. It also helps museums share their collections with wider audiences by supporting a range of tours and exhibitions, and makes additional grants to support the training and professional development of curators. Art Fund is independently funded, with the core of its income provided by 123,000 members who receive the National Art Pass and enjoy free entry to over 240 museums, galleries and historic places across the UK, as well as 50% off entry to major exhibitions and subscription to Art Quarterly magazine. In addition to grant-giving, Art Fund's support for museums includes Art Fund Museum of the Year (won by the V&A, London, in 2016) and a range of digital platforms. www.artfund.org