

For Leicestershire Council's scheme, artists from all over the UK have been commissioned to create *Held in the Hand* boxes, a series of sculptural pieces designed to engage and stimulate young minds. "Some of my quietest children were so inspired they could talk about them all day" said one participant; "The box definitely made a difference in the classroom as we don't have any other resource like this" said another. The project aims to explore ways in which children with special educational needs can work with teachers and artists to develop resources and workshops for the museums service – it is rooted in what pupils need, and in engagement with artists. External evaluation has revealed the big difference it has made to those involved. The new approach is now fully embedded in the Council's work, informing how they engage with audiences in the future.

Working with Manchester City Galleries and Manchester Museum, the Whitworth has been developing – and extensively evaluating – social, imaginative and playful ways to engage early years children, practitioners and parents. The Whitworth has embedded early years work into its service and used this to shape and develop its other learning programmes. This exciting and externally-facing programme has changed how the museum services involved welcome and engage with very young children and their families. Children lead the way in this programme which has significantly increased participation by under-fives (33% across the partnership and 73% at the Whitworth). "I felt excited with my daughter on this fantastic journey" said one participant; "the work has been a model of good practice" said another.

The other three museum learning projects on the shortlist of five were:

- **Camden Arts Centre**, Get The Message – artists working with teachers to develop new approaches to working with young people with profound and multiple learning difficulties
- **Florence Nightingale Museum**, Our Generation's Re-interpretation – local young people developing the museum's audio guide by creating and voicing their own interpretation of the collections
- **Yorkshire Museum**, Celebrating Severus – young people and adults respond in film, fashion, poetry and theatre to the 1800th anniversary of the death of African Roman Emperor Septimius Severus in York

More information on the Clore Award can be found at www.artfundprize.org.uk/clore-award

Ends

Press contact: Philip Abraham, PR Manager, the Art Fund

pabraham@artfund.org / 020 7225 4888

Notes to Editors

The Clore Duffield Foundation is chaired by Dame Vivien Duffield DBE and has a strong focus on supporting cultural learning, particularly within museums and galleries and at heritage sites

www.cloreduffield.org.uk.

It is one of the founding partners of the Cultural Learning Alliance, a collective voice working to ensure that all children and young people have meaningful access to culture in this difficult economic climate: www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk.

The full longlist of ten museum education projects was:

- **Camden Arts Centre**, Get The Message
- **Florence Nightingale Museum**, Our Generation's Re-interpretation
- **Jersey Heritage**, My History Scrapbooks and Discovery Days
- **Leicestershire County Council Heritage and Arts Service**, Held in the Hand
- **Penlee House Gallery and Museum**, Treasures from the Earth
- **The Geffrye Museum of the Home**, Stories of the World: London
- **The Quilt Museum and Gallery**, Unfolding the Quilts
- **The Whitworth Art Gallery**, The Manchester Early Years Partnership
- **Victoria and Albert Museum**, V&A Schools Team Collaboration with Seymourpowell
- **Yorkshire Museum**, Celebrating Severus

The 2011 Clore Award was jointly shared between South London Gallery and a consortium of two Oxford University museums (Pitt Rivers Museum and Oxford University Museum of Natural History). Each project was awarded £10,000.

The winner for **The Art Fund Prize 2012** has also been announced tonight. The Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Art Gallery in Exeter was awarded £100,000 and given the accolade of 'museum of the year' in the UK's biggest prize for arts and cultural institutions.

The Art Fund Prize is administered by The Museum Prize, a charitable company created in 2001 by representatives of National Heritage, the Museums Association, the Art Fund and the Campaign for Museums and chaired by Lady Cobham. These organisations agreed to put aside award schemes they formerly ran (including National Heritage's Museum of the Year) and lend their support to this single major prize.

The Art Fund has sponsored The Museum Prize since 2008. The Art Fund is the national charity which helps museums and galleries to buy, show and share art for the enjoyment of all. Over the past five years, the Art Fund has given £24 million to buy art and supported a range of projects and programmes aimed at helping more people enjoy art. The Art Fund is independently funded and the majority of its income comes from almost 90,000 supporters who purchase a National Art Pass, costing from just £50, which gives free entry to over 200 museums, galleries and historic houses across the country as well as 50% off many major exhibitions.

Find out more about the Art Fund and the National Art Pass at www.artfund.org.uk. The press office can be reached on 020 7225 4888 or media@artfund.org