



Association of Independent Museums

The National Body Connecting, Supporting and Representing Independent Museums

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HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

Launch of Strategic Framework

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has launched its Strategic Framework 2013-18, setting out plans for investing £375 million a year of lottery money over the next five years. The framework includes:

- **Building organisational resilience** through a further round of the *Skills for the Future* programme, offering development funding and professional mentoring to develop robust projects and introducing start-up grants and transition funding for organisations needing to cope with new challenges
- **Kick-starting philanthropy** through endowments and smaller grants for capacity building and support for fundraising training
- **Stimulating local economic growth** with a new Heritage Enterprise scheme designed to fund partnerships – including social and private enterprises – to develop sustainable new uses for the most challenging historic sites
- Recognising the size and scale of the **environmental impact** of HLF funding by becoming the first major funding body to require carbon footprinting as part of the application process for projects over £2 million
- Leading the way in encouraging the sector to use **digital technology**, with HLF-supported projects making digital content widely available at no charge, plus stand-alone digital projects.
- **Extending HLF support for heritage in private ownership** under the *Our Heritage* programme (£10,000-£100,000) for physical works to heritage with a step-change in public access and engagement
- Continuing to make applying to HLF more straightforward, with the introduction of *Sharing Heritage* – a new **very simple grant programme** for smaller projects needing £3,000-£10,000
- **Creating online communities** to showcase good practice and encourage the exchange of ideas and innovations
- **Increasing** the maximum grants for the **Landscape Partnerships Programme** from £2 million to £3 million and expanding the geographical area it will support
- Continuing to support urgent repairs plus additional facilities opening up **places of worship** for greater community use
- A further **Collecting Cultures** initiative in late 2013 to encourage a strategic approach to collection development and acquisition in museums, archives and libraries.

HLF chair Dame Jenny Abramsky said: “We believe that, as the biggest funder for the sector, we should respond to the changing world with flexibility. We want to ensure our heritage is supported effectively and imaginatively, contributing to the economy and helping it continue to flourish for generations to come.” <http://www.hlf.org.uk/aboutus/whatwedo/Pages/StrategicFramework2013to2018.aspx>

Independents fare best in cutbacks survey

The Museums Association’s latest survey on the impact of cuts on UK museums shows that most budget cuts affected museums run by local authorities (60%). This contrasts with just 25% experiencing budget cuts among independent museums (the figures for national museums and others are 10% and 4%). <http://www.museumsassociation.org/download?id=363804>

The Heritage Alliance and the Institute of Fundraising are working to find the best ways to provide support, information and training for the heritage sector in **fundraising**. A short online questionnaire is available to help them help you, at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22FZAQRTPPD>

A new Happy Families Toolkit has been launched by author Kate Measures, aimed at heritage venues keen on improving their offer for family audiences. The toolkit is £12 and can be ordered online at www.katemeasures.co.uk/node/113