UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS IN ACTION

Whistler 2003 – collections and tourism
The University of Glasgow’s Hunterian Art Gallery used its superb collections of works by James McNeill Whistler as the springboard for a citywide festival of 322 events in his centenary year. The festival attracted around £200,000, including European funding and private sponsorship, to deliver an 88% increase in attendance at the Hunterian and almost £1m to the local economy. The marketing campaign won The UK Museum and Heritage Show 2004 Award for Excellence. Trials on the scale and of the international calibre of Whistler demonstrate that Glasgow continues to use culture as a platform for growth, tourism and economic development.

Markéta Vokes, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport)

Collections for a healthy Scotland
Scotland’s Universities and Royal Colleges are world famous for their role in the development of modern medicine. A partnership led by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and eight university museums aims to increase public access to Scotland’s outstanding medical collections – promoting health, citizenship, cultural, social and economic development throughout Scotland.

Cultural entitlement and creativity in Dundee
Chinese and Korean art students at the University of Dundee recently took part in Past & Present, a project in which they curated an exhibition of oriental objects from the collections alongside their own artworks. The exhibition contributed to the understanding of the collections and highlighted the importance of overseas students in the University.

Learning with museum resources in Aberdeen
As well as being used by students of Art History, Anatomy and Anthropology, students studying Biopics, Women’s Studies, Law and Divinity are now learning in the University of Aberdeen’s Marischal Museum. Three classes intimated conventional teaching and stimulate critical discussion. The JISC-funded £240,000 £1M UKI/learning with Museum Resources project has created an on-line database and virtual museum for higher education throughout the UK.

** This leaflet has been originated and funded by University Museums in Scotland supported by the Scottish Museums Council. It is published to complement and provide a Scottish perspective on the report of the UK University Museums Group, University Museums in the United Kingdom: A National Resource for the 21st Century. May 2004.

www.dundee.ac.uk/umis/

Published June 2004

Above
James Abbott McNeill Whistler 1834-1903
Degas in Red. Camille 1884-1886
Oil on canvas
© Hunterian Art Gallery, University of Glasgow

Middle
Doors Open Day, Pathology Museum, Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh.

Right
Korean Tea Kettle, Courtesy of University of Dundee Museum Services

Above
Jan K bla s a, Three Samurai: The Young Man, 1983

Middle
Jan K bla s a, Three Samurai: The Young Man, 1983

Right
Korea Yeo Kima, Courtesy of University of Dundee Museum Services
INTRODUCTION

Research, discovery, creativity, innovation, teaching, learning, analysis: all contribute to the diverse and immensely rich museum collections of more than 18 million items in Scottish universities, all of which are members of University Museums in Scotland (UMIS). These museums are the result of Scottish universities’ distinct and ancient traditions of higher education, which inspired explorers, scientists, scholars, artists and teachers in almost every field of human endeavour. Our museums have already won national awards, but the potential is even greater. Workshops for schools, hands-on activities, real-life and summer school courses can now open new doors to many of these ideas. Valuable research activities can also introduce project work to new people. In summary, there is much more to be done.

Provide friendly, stimulating public spaces to encourage access to some of the country’s best museums for people of all ages and abilities.

Use the collections to widen access to higher education from all parts of the country and every section of the community.

Contribute to the mission of universities to conduct innovative research and inspirational teaching.

Contribute to professional museum training and skill development.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to widen access to higher education.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to contribute to the profession as a whole.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to provide friendly, stimulating public museums.

Contribute to the mission of Universities to promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.

Promote the development of a national and international cultural heritage.
Whistler 2003–
collections and tourism

The University of Glasgow’s Hunterian Art Gallery used its superb collections of works by James McNeill Whistler as the springboard for a citywide festival of 122 events in his centenary year. The festival attracted around £200,000, including European funding and private sponsorship, to deliver an 88% increase in attendance at the Hunterian and almost £6m to the local economy. The marketing campaign won the UK Museum and Heritage Show 2004 Award for Excellence. Testimonials on the scale and of the international calibre of Whistler demonstrate that Glasgow continues to use culture as a platform for growth, tourism and economic development.

(Frank McAveety, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport)

Collections for a healthy Scotland

Scotland’s Universities and Royal Colleges are world famous for their role in the development of modern medicine. A partnership led by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and eight university museums aims to increase public access to Scotland’s outstanding medical collections – promoting health, citizenship, cultural, social and economic development throughout Scotland.

Learning with museum resources in Aberdeen

As well as being used by students of Art History, Anthology and Anthropology, students studying Biographies, Women’s Studies, Law and Divinity are now learning in the University of Aberdeen’s Marischal Museum. Three classes used conventional teaching and stimulate critical discussion. The JISC-funded £240,000 EUMR: Learning with Museum Resources project has created an on-line database and virtual museum for higher education throughout the UK.

Creative art outreach

Following on the success of the Hunterian Art Gallery Goes into Schools project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, University Museums in the UK (p. 16), the University of Glasgow has developed its partnership with East Dunbartonshire Council with the help of private sponsorship to publish Art Themes, Creative learning at the Hunterian Art Gallery, an educational resource pack distributed to every cultural coordinator in Scotland by the Scottish Arts Council and available on loan.

Cultural entitlement and creativity in Dundee

Chinese and Korean art students at the University of Dundee recently took part in Past & Present, a project in which they curated an exhibition of oriental objects from the collections alongside their own artworks. The exhibition contributed to the understanding of the collections and highlighted the importance of overseas students in the University.
INTRODUCTION

University museums have a vital role to play in the cultural life of the nation. As part of a university’s rich academic heritage, they serve as a resource for teaching, learning and research. They also have a role in fostering public awareness of the importance of cultural heritage.

The Scottish Museums Council (SMC) produces a report every five years, which examines the activities of the 134 university museums across the country. The most recent report, published in 2019, provides an overview of the state of the university museum sector and identifies key areas for development.

This report highlights the unique and diverse contributions that university museums make to the cultural landscape of Scotland. It also outlines the challenges that the sector faces, including funding and access to resources.

The report concludes with a series of recommendations for the Scottish Executive, the University of Glasgow, and the Scottish Museums Council. These recommendations aim to improve the funding and support available to university museums, as well as to increase public access and engagement with their collections.

ACCESS FOR ALL

Throughout its history, Scotland’s university museums have been committed to offering access to their collections. From the earliest days of the 19th century, when only a small number of people had the opportunity to visit a museum, to the present day, where access to cultural heritage is a fundamental right.

The report notes that university museums have made significant progress in widening access to their collections. However, there is still room for improvement, particularly in terms of accessibility for people with disabilities.

The report recommends that the Scottish Executive should increase funding for university museums to ensure that they can continue to provide high-quality access to their collections.

RECOMMENDATIONS

With the increasing importance of university museums, the report recommends that the Scottish Executive:

- Increase core funding to university museums to ensure that they can maintain and improve the quality of their collections.
- Support initiatives to improve public access to university museum collections, including digital and online platforms.
- Encourage universities to collaborate with local authorities and other organizations to widen access to their collections.
- Consider the potential for university museums to contribute to the Cultural Recovery Fund.

The report also recommends that the University of Glasgow, the Scottish Museums Council, and the Scottish Government should:

- Work together to develop a strategic plan for the university museum sector in Scotland.
- Support initiatives to improve access to university museum collections, including digital and online platforms.
- Consider the potential for university museums to contribute to the Cultural Recovery Fund.

The report concludes with a call for action, urging universities, the Scottish Museums Council, and the Scottish Government to work together to ensure that university museums can continue to play a vital role in the cultural life of Scotland.
Contribute to professional museum practitioners

University museums play an increasingly important role in the cultural life of Scotland. The Robert Gordon University, University of Paisley, University of Aberdeen, University of Stirling, University of Strathclyde, University of Edinburgh, Dundee, University of Paisley, Glasgow Caledonian University, and the Glasgow School of Art are all members of University Museums in Scotland (UMIS). These museums are the result of Scotland’s rich cultural heritage.

The Strategic Change Fund is intended to be the catalyst for a broader, more focussed strategic process that allows museums to shape and achieve their strategic outcomes. The Strategic Change Fund has been a unique initiative, constructed of funding that does not need to be matched.

INTRODUCTION

To July 2002, UMIS had the National Audit of Scotland’s University Museums and Galleries, the first report of its kind in the cultural sector. The Audit has been conducted in Europe. The audit identified that more than 12 million objects in Scotland are held in university collections. The Robinson Report – Museum and Galleries in Scotland: A Key Resource for the Communities of the Future (2000) concluded that public access to university museum collections demonstrated a real boost - 14% of the population had visited such an institution within the last 12 months. Large numbers of university museum collections demonstrated a real boost and subject pressure in access areas such as: education (24% of Scotland’s museum collections), society (25% of the national collections, 24% of Scotland’s fine art), and world culture (18% of Scotland’s ethnographic collections). The scale and significance of university museum collections compare well with those of the large local authorities, and the National Museums and Galleries of Scotland.

INTERNATIONALLY-SIGNIFICANT COLLECTIONS

The National Audit, conducted by the Scottish Museums Council as part of the Government’s National Cultural Strategy showed the significant international collections in Scottish university museums. These collections include a host of seminal imaginative and inspirational teaching, research, and outreach activities. Students are provided with a rich cultural heritage.

The Strategic Change Fund is intended to be the catalyst for a broader, more focussed strategic process that allows museums to shape and achieve their strategic outcomes. The Strategic Change Fund has been a unique initiative, constructed of funding that does not need to be matched.

COLLECTIONS

A national textile database for the fashion and furniture design, as well as students of the Hispanic studies, will benefit from the live textile collection database that UMIS will deliver. In partnership with the Universities of St Andrews, and Glasgow, the art history of the University of St Andrews and two local authority museums, the project will bring together specialists who will work on a wide-ranging project to conserve the most outstanding items in the St Andrews collections. A wide-ranging project to conserve the Hispanic studies, as well as students of the University’s art history, will benefit from the live textile collection database. University museums should be integral to their universities with strategic access to planning, governance, and governance, and access innovation, open to all university museums in Scotland irrespective of their SHEFC funding status and a simple application procedure, which is likely to be a significant step forward. We recommend that the Scottish Executive increases the funding provided to universities to increase access. Indirectly, it would also enable opportunities for external funding and partnerships to increase access to decision-making and missed opportunities for teaching, research and outreach. Universities museums should be integral to their universities with strategic access to planning, governance, and governance, and access innovation, open to all university museums in Scotland irrespective of their SHEFC funding status and a simple application procedure, which is likely to be a significant step forward. We recommend that the Scottish Executive increases the funding provided to universities to increase access.

ACCESS FOR ALL

All university museums offer innovative, cross-disciplinary learning experiences for higher education. This is an international strength of Scottish higher education that could become more widespread. University museums are also continuing to reflect the profession as a whole, not only through the museum training offered by the University of St Andrews, but also through its specialist knowledge of staff. With their expertise in research and collection and ICT in museum education, Scottish university museums could become even greater centres of excellence for the whole sector.

University museums provide a quality of display and interpretation to match the importance of the collections.

A University for everyone

In 2001-2 the University of Aberdeen’s Mariners Museum which received 450,000 visitors observed the increase in access to decision-making and missed opportunities for teaching, research and outreach. Universities museums should be integral to their universities with strategic access to planning, governance, and governance, and access innovation, open to all university museums in Scotland irrespective of their SHEFC funding status and a simple application procedure, which is likely to be a significant step forward. We recommend that the Scottish Executive increases the funding provided to universities to increase access. Indirectly, it would also enable opportunities for external funding and partnerships to increase access to decision-making and missed opportunities for teaching, research and outreach. Universities museums should be integral to their universities with strategic access to planning, governance, and governance, and access innovation, open to all university museums in Scotland irrespective of their SHEFC funding status and a simple application procedure, which is likely to be a significant step forward. We recommend that the Scottish Executive increases the funding provided to universities to increase access.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- potato, fish, and vegetables.
- potato, fish, and vegetables.
- potato, fish, and vegetables.
Opening doors to learning

University Museums in Action

Whistler 2003—collections and tourism
The University of Glasgow’s Hunterian Art Gallery used its superb collections of works by James McNeill Whistler as the springboard for a citywide festival of 122 events in his centenary year. The festival attracted around £200,000, including European funding and private sponsorship, to deliver an 88% increase in attendance at the Hunterian and almost £6m to the local economy. The marketing campaign won The UK Museum and Heritage Show 2004 Award for Excellence. Testimonies on the scale and of the international calibre of Whistler demonstrate that Glasgow continues to use culture as a platform for growth, tourism and economic development.

Collections for a healthy Scotland
Scotland’s Universities and Royal Colleges are world famous for their role in the development of modern medicine. A partnership led by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and eight university museums aims to increase public access to Scotland’s outstanding medical collections – promoting health, citizenship, cultural, social and economic development throughout Scotland.

Cultural entitlement and creativity in Dundee
Chinese and Korean art students at the University of Dundee recently took part in a project in which they curated an exhibition of oriental objects from the collections along with their own artworks. The exhibition contributed to the understanding of the collections and highlighted the importance of overseas students in the University.

Learning with museum resources in Aberdeen
As well as being used by students of Art History, Anthropology, and Archaeology, students studying Biographies, Women’s Studies, Law and Divinity are now learning in the University of Aberdeen’s Marischal Museum. These classes enliven conventional teaching and stimulate critical discussion. The JISC-funded £240,000 LEMUR: Learning with Museum Resources project has created an on-line database and virtual museum for higher education throughout the UK.

This leaflet has been originated and funded by University Museums in Scotland supported by the Scottish Museums Council. It is published to complement and provide a Scottish perspective on the report of the UK University Museums Group, University Museums in the United Kingdom: A National Resource for the 21st Century. May 2004.

www.dundee.ac.uk/umis/

Published June 2004

---

Above
James Abbott McNeill Whistler 1834-1903
Dormitory in Red Camphor 1864-1866
© National Gallery of Art, Washington

Above
Jan Koblasa
Three Samurai: The Young Man, 1983
University of St Andrews

Middle
Doors Open Day,
Pathology Museum,
Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh.

Right
Korean Tea Kettle,
Courtesy of University of Dundee Museum Services