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## Press release

### Migration Museum finds new home in Lewisham Shopping Centre

Britain's first museum dedicated to exploring how the movement of people to and from the UK across the ages has shaped who we are is opening at a new venue in the heart of a busy South London shopping centre on Friday 14 February 2020.

The Migration Museum will stage a dynamic series of exhibitions, events and education workshops in 2020 from Unit 11 in Lewisham Shopping Centre (SE13 7HB) – a large space that was previously a branch of retailer H&M.

Highlights from the Migration Museum's 2020 programme include:

- *Room to Breathe*, an immersive exhibition inviting visitors on a journey through a series of rooms in which hundreds of personal stories from new arrivals to Britain are brought to life in creative and unexpected ways.
- *Departures*, a major new exhibition exploring 400 years of emigration stories from Britain to coincide with the anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower to North America.
- *Humanæ*, a participatory project by artist Angélica Dass documenting every human skin tone through portrait photographs.
- A wide range of events, from stand-up comedy to art workshops, football tournaments and more.
- Temporary exhibitions exploring the impact of migration on sport and music.

The Migration Museum's move to Lewisham follows a successful two-and-a-half-year residency in Lambeth. It comes at a time of polarised public and political debate about immigration, identity and Britain's relationship with the rest of the world, and with museums and cultural institutions seeking to ensure relevance and accessibility to all.

"As a new museum, we're constantly asking ourselves how we can make what we do more accessible, breaking down barriers and reaching wider audiences. Which is why we're so excited to be opening our new venue in the heart of a busy shopping centre in one of London's most dynamic and diverse boroughs," says Sophie Henderson, director of the Migration Museum.

"The Migration Museum in Lewisham will have something for everyone – whether you live locally or further afield, identify as an immigrant or trace your family roots in Britain back many generations. After all, if you peel back the layers of anyone's family history in Britain, you will find stories of movement and migration.

"We will provide a space for exploration, discussion and reflection on highly relevant themes that go to the heart of who we all are – as individuals, as communities, and as a nation. Come and visit us, share your story and explore how it connects with the bigger picture."

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**For more information, please contact Matthew Plowright:**

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# Notes to editors

## Visitor information

### Address

Migration Museum  
Unit 11, Lewisham Shopping Centre (Entrance in Central Square)  
Molesworth Street  
London SE13 7HB

### Opening hours

All exhibitions are free entry and will be open Wednesdays–Sundays, 11am–5pm. No advance booking is required for individual visits. For group visits (of 10 or more), please contact the museum in advance by filling out a booking form at [www.migrationmuseum.org/visit](http://www.migrationmuseum.org/visit).

The Migration Museum's shop, located at the front of its new venue, will be open 7 days a week, 11am–5pm.

For up-to-date event listings, timings and booking information, please visit the Migration Museum's website ([www.migrationmuseum.org/events](http://www.migrationmuseum.org/events)). Some events may require advance booking.

### Contact details for visitors and general enquiries

Telephone: 020 3488 4508  
Email: [info@migrationmuseum.org](mailto:info@migrationmuseum.org)

### Website and social media

Website: [www.migrationmuseum.org](http://www.migrationmuseum.org)  
Twitter: [@MigrationUK](https://twitter.com/MigrationUK)  
Facebook: [@MigrationMuseumUK](https://www.facebook.com/MigrationMuseumUK)  
Instagram: [@MigrationMuseumUK](https://www.instagram.com/MigrationMuseumUK)

### Transport

The Migration Museum in Lewisham Shopping Centre is easily accessible by public transport, bike and car:

**Train:** Lewisham station is a 5-minute walk, with frequent Southeastern services to London Bridge, London Charing Cross, London Cannon Street, London Victoria and stations across south-east London and Kent.

**DLR:** Lewisham DLR station is a 4-minute walk, with regular direct services to Bank and easy access to Stratford, Tower Gateway, Beckton and Woolwich Arsenal.

**Bus:** A large number of buses stop directly outside or near the shopping centre: 21, 47, 54, 75, 122, 136, 178, 180, 181, 185, 199, 208, 225, 261, 273, 284, 321, 380 and 436.

**Bike:** Free cycle racks are located on Molesworth Street, Rennell Street and Lewisham High Street

**Car:** Lewisham Shopping Centre has multi-storey car parking facilities with lift and stair access. For a list of tariffs and charges, please visit [www.lewishamshopping.co.uk/your-visit/getting-here](http://www.lewishamshopping.co.uk/your-visit/getting-here)

### Accessibility

The Migration Museum and Lewisham Shopping Centre are fully accessible for wheelchair users. If you have specific questions about access requirements, please contact us at [info@migrationmuseum.org](mailto:info@migrationmuseum.org) or on 020 3488 4508.

## Opening programme of exhibitions and events

### Exhibitions

**Room to Breathe** 14 February 2020–Autumn 2020

An immersive exhibition inviting visitors to discover stories from generations of new arrivals to Britain. Journey through a series of rooms in which hundreds of personal stories are brought to life in creative and unexpected ways.

**Humanæ** 14 February 2020–Autumn 2020

An ongoing project by artist Angélica Dass documenting every human skin tone through portrait photographs. The

project illustrates that skin colour and race are far more complex than the labels and categories that we are so often forced to fit ourselves into, inviting us all to reflect on and rethink our identities and what we have in common.

### **Departures** Opening April 2020

A new exhibition exploring 400 years of British emigration through personal narratives, contemporary art and a range of media, *Departures* will encourage visitors to connect with Britain's migration story and reflect on the parallels and connections between immigration and emigration on the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sailing of *The Mayflower* to North America. More details to be announced soon.

### **Events and workshops**

#### **Flesh Colour – art workshop led by Angélica Dass Sat 22 Feb**

An art workshop led by Humanæ artist Angélica Dass inviting participants to deconstruct the stereotypical codes and associations between certain colours and racial and ethnic groups.

#### **Stand-up Comedy with No Direction Home, a programme for refugee and migrant comedians Thurs 27 Feb**

An evening of comedy with No Direction Home, a collective of stand-up comics from refugee and migrant backgrounds, hosted by Tom Parry, and with performances from special guest Charlie George and others.

More exhibitions, events and workshops to be announced soon. For more details, please visit [www.migrationmuseum.org](http://www.migrationmuseum.org).

### **Why a Migration Museum and why now**

Migration is a pressing contemporary issue and is at the centre of polarised political debate about national identity and our relationship with Europe and the rest of the world. But immigration is far from a modern phenomenon. There's an underlying story of comings and goings from Britain stretching back many centuries. And this story goes to the heart of who we are today.

We think it is high time that this essential part of the national story is properly addressed in the UK too. Britain has thousands of museums, but none comprehensively focused on this important theme that connects us all. This is a clear gap in our cultural landscape. Countries from Australia to the US, Brazil to Germany have popular, successful migration museums that provide spaces for exploration, discussion and reflection away from the anger and division often found in politics, the media and online.

Furthermore, as museums, galleries and cultural institutions seek to ensure that their venues, collections and programming are accessible and relevant to all, we believe that the time is right for a highly relevant, accessible visitor attraction that goes to the heart of who we are, where we came from and where we are going – as individuals, as communities, and as a nation.

### **The story so far**

Since 2013, the Migration Museum has offered a programme of exhibitions, events and education workshops exploring the central role that migration has played in shaping who we are today.

Between 2013 and 2017, the Migration Museum staged pop-up exhibitions and events and ran education workshops at a wide range of venues across the UK, including the Southbank Centre, the National Maritime Museum and City Hall in London, the Museum of Oxford, Leicester railway station, and the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh.

From 2017 to 2019, the Migration Museum was based The Workshop, a temporary venue in Lambeth, London, where it reached over 30,000 visitors through a series of acclaimed exhibitions and events, as well as facilitated workshops for primary, secondary, college and university students.

The Migration Museum is now moving to a new venue in a large unit in the centre of Lewisham Shopping Centre, opening on 14 February 2020, formerly home to a branch of retailer H&M, where it will stage a series of exhibitions, events and education workshops in 2020. Lewisham is a young, highly diverse borough with excellent transport links via national rail, DLR and bus to central London, south- and south-east London, and Kent.

The Migration Museum will be based in Lewisham Shopping Centre until at least October 2020, with the possibility of a longer residency beyond this date. Longer term, the Migration Museum continues to seek a permanent venue for a national Migration Museum for Britain.

More than 11,000 students from over 200 schools and colleges have participated in workshops run by the Migration Museum's education team since 2013. In addition, the Migration Museum's education team has delivered teacher training to hundreds of new teachers and is engaged in consultation and input into the national curriculum through its partnership with the Oxford, Cambridge and RSA examination board (OCR).

The Migration Museum convened an Arts Council England-funded Migration Museums Network in 2017, bringing together museums and heritage-sector organisations across Britain to share knowledge and best practice, with the aim of increasing and encouraging outputs related to migration across the UK. The museum is reconvening a larger-scale Network of Migration and Museums and will be staging a series of knowledge-sharing events across the UK in 2020/1. More details to be announced soon.

The Migration Museum has secured the support of a wide range of distinguished friends – high-profile supporters with a wide range of professional backgrounds and from across the political spectrum who back its vision and ambitions. The museum receives core and project funding and support from a range of academic, arts, charitable and corporate organisations and trusts.

**Acknowledgments:**

We are grateful to all of our funders and donors, including Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Alfred Caplin Charity Settlement, Arts Council England, Oak Foundation, Trust for London and Unbound Philanthropy. We would like to thank the following for their ongoing support: Hogan Lovells, King's College London's Arts and Humanities Research Institute and, in particular, Landsec for generously enabling us to host our museum at Lewisham Shopping Centre.

**For more information, please contact Matthew Plowright:**

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