

Press release

Migration Museum secures permanent home in the City of London



- Planning approved for a permanent home for Britain’s Migration Museum in the City of London.
- New venue a stone’s throw from Aldgate and the Tower of London will provide state-of-the-art-home for “Britain’s missing museum”, exploring how the movement of people to and from these shores across the ages has shaped who we are – as individuals, as communities and as nations – allied to a network of venues across the UK.
- Development to be delivered in partnership with real estate company Dominus, founded by refugee Sukhpal Singh Ahluwalia.
- Migration Museum backed by high-profile board and supporters, including George Alagiah and David Olusoga.
- Migration Museum plans to remain in temporary venue in Lewisham, south-east London, until at least 2025/26.

The Migration Museum has today (Tuesday 21 February 2023) been given the green light for a permanent home in the City of London.

The City of London’s planning sub-committee has approved plans for a new development at 65 Crutched Friars, which will provide a state-of-the-art permanent home for the Migration Museum on the first three floors of a new student accommodation development, in partnership with real estate company Dominus.

The new venue, a stone’s throw from Aldgate, Fenchurch Street and the Tower of London, will provide a purpose-built permanent home for Britain’s first museum exploring how the movement of people to and from these shores has shaped who we all are – as individuals, as communities, and as nations.

The new museum will encompass interactive temporary and permanent exhibition galleries, flexible event and education space, outdoor areas for programming and activation and a cafe/restaurant and shop that will be a core part of the museum’s offer, showcasing the impact of migration on food and business.

The permanent Migration Museum in the City of London will be allied to a network of venues across the

UK providing a platform for people to explore and share migration stories and our connections to each other.

The Migration Museum is currently based in a temporary venue in the heart of a shopping centre in Lewisham, south-east London, where it welcomes 7,000 visitors a month to its acclaimed exhibitions, events and learning programmes. The museum hopes to remain in Lewisham until at least 2025-26.

Sophie Henderson, CEO of the Migration Museum, says:

"We are delighted to have secured this opportunity for a permanent home for the Migration Museum. We are creating Britain's missing museum, exploring how the movement of people to and from the City, London and the UK has shaped who we are – as individuals, as communities and as nations.

"Now more than ever, we need an inspiring space for diverse audiences from across London, Britain and beyond to come together to explore, discuss and reflect on key questions around migration, identity and belonging. And there is no more fitting location for the Migration Museum than in the heart of the City of London, Britain's gateway to the world for thousands of years.

Being based in the City will give us the opportunity to reach and engage audiences from across London, the UK and beyond on a significantly larger scale, while staying true to our ethos and the approaches that are so important to us, with personal storytelling at the core of everything we do.

"Our temporary venue in Lewisham has been a space of real development and reflection for us. We have been welcomed by local communities with open arms and remain hugely committed to continuing our work within the borough.

"With the support of Landsec, which owns and manages Lewisham Shopping Centre, we hope to remain in Lewisham for at least another two years, and invite the diverse audiences, communities, artists and creatives that we are so proud to serve and co-create our museum with to come with us on this exciting next stage of our journey."

Henderson adds that Dominus is a fitting partner for the Migration Museum in this groundbreaking new development, which presents by far the most viable opportunity to create a permanent Migration Museum for Britain in the charity's 10-year search for a permanent home.

Dominus' founder, Sukhpal Singh Ahluwalia, arrived in the UK as a refugee fleeing Idi Amin's Uganda, and the family are personally committed to the Migration Museum and the stories that we provide a platform for.

"We are immensely grateful to everyone who has helped us to reach this stage, and to Dominus' belief in the importance of our museum and the transformational support they are providing. We look forward to continuing to work closely in partnership to help to make our vision for a permanent Migration Museum for Britain a reality."

The Museum will be launching a capital fundraising campaign to raise up to £15m to support the move. More details to be announced in due course.

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Notes for editors

Migration Museum CEO Sophie Henderson is available for interview. Please contact matthew@migrationmuseum.org to arrange.

About the Migration Museum

The Migration Museum explores how the movement of people to and from Britain across the ages has shaped who we are – as individuals, as communities and as nations.

Migration is a pressing contemporary issue, but there's an underlying story of comings and goings stretching back many centuries. Britain has thousands of museums, but unlike countries from Australia to France, Brazil to the USA, we don't have a permanent Migration Museum. Now more than ever, we need a welcoming space to come together to share stories, understand our connections to each other and explore how migration has shaped our lives.

Since 2020, the Migration Museum has been staging acclaimed exhibitions, events and workshops from a venue in the heart of Lewisham Shopping Centre in south London, as it has searched for a permanent location allied to a network of venues across the UK. It hopes to remain in Lewisham until at least 2025/26. It will be announcing plans for a capital fundraising campaign to raise up to £15m to support the move in due course.

Its board, led by Guardian Media Group and Oxfam GB chair Charles Gurassa, comprises leading historians Professor David Olusoga OBE and Professor Margot Finn; BBC broadcaster George Alagiah OBE; Eric Langham, founder of leading cultural consultancy Barker Langham; Sarah Caplin, co-founder of Childline; Mohan Mansigani OBE, former CFO of Costa Coffee and Chairman of Bob and Berts, a chain of coffee shops; Ayesha Hameed, who leads on community engagement for the GLA; best-selling author Robert Winder; and Kuljit Dhillon, head of strategy at the General Medical Council.

The Migration Museum has welcomed over 400,000 visitors to its exhibitions, events and workshops since 2013, while more than 24,000 school, college and university students have participated in workshops run by the museum's learning team.

Website: www.migrationmuseum.org

Twitter: [@MigrationUK](https://twitter.com/MigrationUK)

Facebook: [@MigrationMuseumUK](https://www.facebook.com/MigrationMuseumUK)

Instagram: [@MigrationMuseumUK](https://www.instagram.com/MigrationMuseumUK)

About Dominus

With a proven track record in the City, with the recently opened Lost Property, Curio collection by Hilton and its latest PBSA under construction at 61-65 Holborn Viaduct, Dominus is one of the fastest growing real estate platforms in the UK, rapidly expanding its property portfolio with diverse investments, from industry-leading hotels to award-winning residential properties, regeneration projects and mixed-use schemes and hospitality.

About 65 Crutched Friars

65 Crutched Friars is located in London's Square Mile situated close to Fenchurch Street, Tower Hill and Aldgate stations. The 785-bed development is designed by award-winning Danish architectural practice 3XN.

Media images

A selection of media images can be found [here](#).