

Press release

Heart of the Nation wins Museums + Heritage Awards Temporary or Touring Exhibition of the Year 2024



The Migration Museum's exhibition *Heart of the Nation: Migration and the Making of the NHS* has won Temporary or Touring Exhibition of the Year at the Museums + Heritage Awards 2024.

Heart of the Nation is a national touring exhibition shining a light on the stories and experiences of people who have come to Britain to create, shape and sustain the NHS at all levels since its creation in 1948.

It features dozens of personal stories contributed by NHS workers past and present, alongside photography, film, oral histories, keepsakes, newly commissioned artworks, and a music and film installation co-created by artists Kaia Laurielle and Emmanuel Sugo and seven first- and second-generation migrant NHS workers.

The exhibition, which began as a digital exhibition during lockdown, launched in Leicester in summer 2023 to coincide with the NHS's 75th anniversary. The exhibition was open to the public at Leicester Museum & Art Gallery for four months, accompanied by a series of workshops and events ranging from talks to music and craft workshops to yoga sessions.

It then moved to Leeds, where we staged the exhibition from our Migration Museum Leeds Pop-Up in Trinity Leeds shopping centre from November 2023 until February 2024. In March, we launched the final leg of the national tour at the Migration Museum in Lewisham, south London.

Heart of the Nation was shortlisted in a prestigious field alongside *Titanosaur: Life as the Biggest Dinosaur* at the Natural History Museum, *Black Atlantic: Power, People, Resistance* at the Fitzwilliam Museum; *Irish in Britain's Look Back to Look Forward: 50 Years of the Irish in Britain*; and *Beyond the Page: South Asian Miniature Painting and Britain* at MK Gallery.

The award, decided by a panel of independent judges with extensive experience across the museums and heritage sector, was announced at a glittering ceremony at the Hilton Park Lane London, known as the 'Oscars of the Museum World', on Wednesday 15 May.

Aditi Anand, Artistic Director at the Migration Museum and lead curator of *Heart of the Nation*, said: "We're beyond thrilled that *Heart of the Nation* has won Temporary or Touring Exhibition of the Year and to be recognised by our peers from across the museums and heritage sector – it's a massive honour."

"Heart of the Nation highlights the vital role that migrants have always played in the NHS and the extent to which, just like the NHS, migration is central to the very fabric of who we are in Britain – as individuals, as communities and as a nation. Now more than ever, this is a story that needs to be told."

"I'm so proud of what we created and grateful to all the creative, empathetic and generous people who contributed to making this exhibition so special. This project is dedicated to all the NHS workers from around the world who care for us – we are honoured to be able to share and preserve your stories for future generations."

Bernard Donoghue OBE, one of the award judges and Director and CEO of the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions, said: "All of my fellow award judges and I were hugely impressed with the Migration Museum's *Heart of the Nation* exhibition. The exhibition couldn't be more important, timely and brilliantly executed.

"We were especially impressed, and moved, that the exhibition told the stories of individual people; their individuality, passions, sacrifices and contributions to the NHS, to society, and to the UK came through powerfully. We were delighted to award the Migration Museum this prestigious prize and urge everyone to see this wonderful exhibition."

The Migration Museum would like to thank our funders who have made this exhibition possible: Arts Council England, Garfield Weston, People's Postcode Trust, The Rumi Foundation, The Dorfman Foundation and Unbound Philanthropy.

And a massive thank you to all of the artists, collaborators, designers and current and former NHS workers who have contributed stories, photos, uniforms, party dresses, placards and so much more – this exhibition is for you.

[Heart of the Nation: Migration and the Making of the NHS](#) is at the Migration Museum in Lewisham, south London, until 27 July 2024.

ENDS

For more info, please contact Matthew Plowright: (E: matthew@migrationmuseum.org T: 07585 117 924)

Notes for editors

Where and when

Heart of the Nation: Migration and the Making of the NHS is open to the public at the Migration Museum in Lewisham, south London, until 27 July 2024.

The exhibition can also be explored online at: www.heartofthenation.co.uk.

Opening hours and admission

The Migration Museum is open to the public on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, from 11am until 5.30pm.

Admission free – no booking.

Address

Migration Museum
Lewisham Shopping Centre (Central Square)
London SE13 7HB

For more visitor information, please visit: <https://www.migrationmuseum.org/visit/>

Website and social media

Website: www.migrationmuseum.org

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

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

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

Hashtag: #HeartoftheNation

Media images

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

Supported by:

Arts Council England, Garfield Weston Foundation, Rumi Foundation, Alfred Caplin Charity Settlement, The Dorfman Foundation and Unbound Philanthropy. Thank you to Leicester Museums for hosting the first leg of the tour and to Landsec for providing us with the venue for our pop up in Trinity Leeds – and our current home in Lewisham Shopping Centre.



About the Migration Museum

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

We stage interactive, story-led exhibitions and a wide range of events, alongside high-profile digital campaigns and an education programme delivering workshops to thousands of young people each year and reaching millions more across the country via teacher training and partnerships. We also convene a knowledge-sharing Migration Network of museums and galleries across the UK.

Since 2020, the Migration Museum has been based in a dynamic temporary venue in a busy shopping centre in Lewisham, south-east London. From November 2023 until February 2024, the Migration Museum also operated a pop-up museum in Trinity Leeds.

After a 10-year journey, the Migration Museum has been given the green light for a new permanent home in the City of London, close to Aldgate and the Tower of London. Our new, much larger museum, which we hope to open in 2027, will encompass interactive temporary and permanent exhibition galleries, a flexible learning suite and event space, outdoor areas, a cafe/restaurant and shop, enabling us to deliver a wide programme of events, activities, training and volunteering opportunities. Our plans also include a network of venues across the UK and a new digital storytelling hub.

In the meantime, we are delighted to be able to remain in our current temporary venue in Lewisham for at least another two years.

Find out more at: migrationmuseum.org

For more information, please contact:

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Lead image: Photo © Hayley Bray