

Press release

Portal Trust becomes inaugural donor of Britain's first permanent Migration Museum



The Portal Trust has become an inaugural donor of the UK's first permanent Migration Museum in the City of London.

The Portal Trust will provide £0.5 million in funding over the next three years to help the Migration Museum establish Britain's first permanent museum dedicated to exploring how migration has shaped who we are – as individuals, communities and nations.

The funding will support the salaries, capital and project costs of delivering the Migration Museum's award-winning learning programme in its new permanent home from a dedicated learning suite to be used for educational activities including interactive workshops, creative activities, and meaningful discussions. The Migration Museum will name one of the classrooms within the learning suite 'The Portal Trust Education Room' for a period of 20 years.

The Migration Museum is a registered charity that has been staging award-winning exhibitions, events, learning and community programmes from a series of temporary venues for the past decade, most

recently in a former retail unit in a shopping centre in Lewisham, south-east London, where it welcomed over 200,000 visitors.

It engages more than 4,000 primary, secondary, college and university students a year via facilitated workshops and self-guided visits, outreach sessions and online workshops around the topic of migration. It also trains teachers in how to approach teaching about migration and how to integrate it into various curriculum subjects, and promotes individual migration stories that emphasise lived experience. The Migration Museum's Learning team won the award for Education and Training at the Charity Awards 2024, the longest-running and most prestigious awards scheme in the charity sector.

The Portal Trust is an educational grant-making charity that enables young people in London, particularly those from disadvantaged or low-income backgrounds, to access educational opportunities. It has been supporting school groups to visit the Migration Museum since 2023 through funding for its Transforming Migration Education Programme, which works with teachers and students at Key Stage 3 and GCSE level.

The Portal Trust is based across the road from the site of the Migration Museum's new permanent home, at the intersection of the City and the East End, areas with rich, multi-layered migration histories stretching back many centuries, and just minutes away from well-known landmarks including the Tower of London, Tower Bridge and the Bank of England.

When it reopens at its permanent home in 2028, the Migration Museum will be the UK's first permanent museum dedicated to migration, welcoming 140,000 visitors a year to its exhibitions, events, learning and community programmes, including 20,000 learners.

Announcing the agreement, Richard Foley, Chief Executive of the Portal Trust, said:

"We're excited to be on this journey with the Migration Museum until its opening in 2028 and beyond. Our support for the Migration Museum will place the study of migration where it belongs – at the heart of Britain's history. It will also improve accessibility, ensuring more schools and families can visit the museum and benefit from the immersive, hands-on learning experiences that make visiting a museum so special.

We're especially excited to support the Portal Trust Education Room within the museum. By engaging with real-life migration stories, students will deepen their understanding of the world around them. The Education Room will be a powerful tool for educators, and a resource that brings these important conversations to life.

In today's world, where discussions about migration can be divisive, the museum offers a much-needed space for reflection and understanding. It's a place where young people can engage with complex issues in a safe and supportive environment, equipping them with the tools to become more inclusive and thoughtful citizens. The museum is not just about learning the past, it's about shaping the future."

Sophie Henderson, CEO of the Migration Museum, said:

"We are delighted to welcome the Portal Trust as an inaugural donor of our permanent home. Their support will be instrumental in growing our award-winning learning programme, which equips learners with the skills

and confidence to better understand and contextualise who they are and how they fit into and are a part of Britain's long history of migration.

The Portal Trust's generous support will enable us to engage tens of thousands of young people a year on migration and intersecting themes from our dedicated education suite at our new permanent home in the City of London.

Now more than ever, we need an inspiring space for learners from across London, Britain and beyond to come together to explore, discuss and reflect on key questions around migration, identity and belonging – and the Portal Trust's support will enable us to deliver this.”

ENDS

For more information, please contact:

Matthew Plowright, Migration Museum

Email: matthew@migrationmuseum.org Phone: 07585 117 924

Amy Cayzer, Portal Trust

Email: amycayzer@portaltrust.org, Phone: 07886 138 664

Notes for editors

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 award-winning, 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.

We have been based in a series of temporary venues, most recently in Lewisham, south-east London, where we welcomed over 200,000 visitors between 2020 and 2025. After a 10-year journey, the Migration Museum has been given the green light for a new permanent home in central London, in the heart of the City of London. Our permanent museum, opening in 2028, will encompass interactive temporary and permanent exhibition galleries, a learning suite and event space, outdoor areas, a cafe/restaurant and shop, enabling us to deliver a wide programme of exhibitions, events, learning and community programmes and activities.

The permanent Migration Museum site in London will be part of an ecosystem encompassing temporary venues across the UK, a digital storytelling platform, and partnerships with other museums, galleries and heritage sites to platform and amplify migration stories across the UK.

Find out more at migrationmuseum.org

About the Portal Trust

The Portal Trust is an independent grant-maker with a mission to support educational opportunities for young people in 14 London Boroughs. Over the past decade, it has awarded over £55 million in funding and support to individuals and projects at every level of education. Through bursaries and grants, they remove financial barriers to education, giving young Londoners the chance to reach their full potential.

Learn more at portaltrust.org



Media images

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

For more information, please contact:

Matthew Plowright, Migration Museum

Email: matthew@migrationmuseum.org Mobile: 07585 117 924

Amy Cayzer, Portal Trust

Email: amycayzer@portaltrust.org, Mobile: 07886 138 664

Image: The Migration Museum's Head of Learning Liberty Melly facilitates a school workshop at the Migration Museum's temporary venue in Lewisham, south-east London