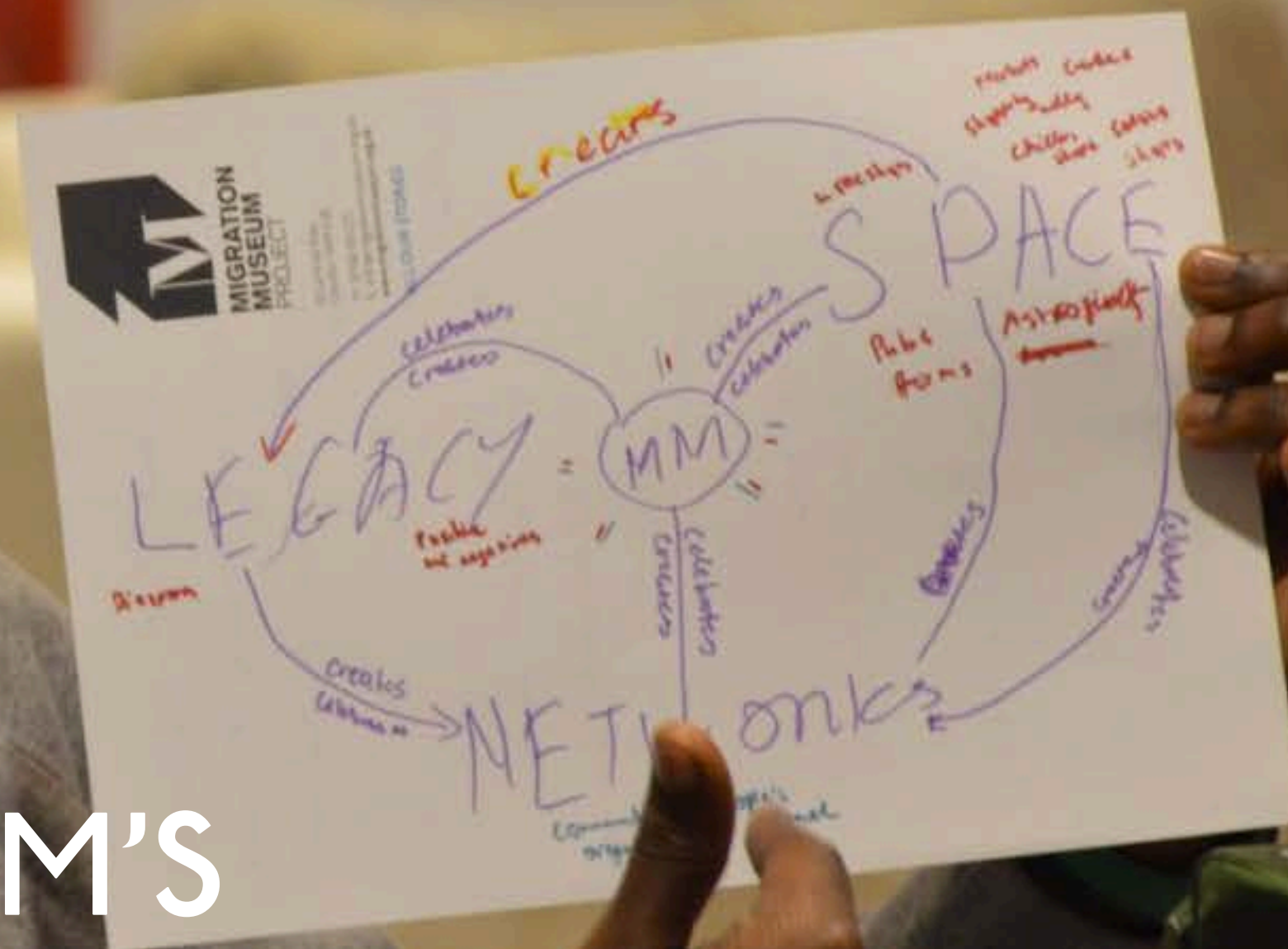


JOIN THE MIGRATION MUSEUM'S PEOPLE'S PANEL



SUMMARY

As the Migration Museum prepares to move to the City of London, we are seeking 30 community-minded individuals to join our People's Panel – a group of critical friends that will shape key aspects of our permanent home.

The People's Panel programme will have three key strands:

1. [Migration Stories](#) – training members to document and preserve migration stories from their communities, to form part of our collection.
2. [Events](#) – developing an events strategy and experimenting with a co-produced programme of events.
3. [Permanent Home](#) – shaping our visitor experience strategy, food and drink offer, and spatial design of the permanent home.

This programme runs between February 2026 and December 2027. People's Panel members must have a connection to either the City of London, Tower Hamlets, or Lewisham – through either living, working, studying, or organising in these local areas.

People's Panel members will be reimbursed for their time (see pg. 15 for full details).

To apply, please complete this [application form](#) by 23:59 on 12th January 2026.

Successful applicants will be required to attend two introductory sessions on Saturday 7th February and Saturday 28th February 2026.

ABOUT THE MIGRATION MUSEUM



‘If there is any country that needs a museum to tell the story of migration it is the United Kingdom; four nations bound together and set at the heart of the Commonwealth. Migration made us.’

PROFESSOR DAVID OLUSOGA, Migration Museum Trustee,
Historian, Broadcaster And Author

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. We stage engaging exhibitions and dynamic events, alongside a far-reaching education programme for primary, secondary, university and adult learners. We have a growing digital presence and convene a knowledge-sharing Migration Network of museums and galleries across the UK.

ABOUT THE MIGRATION MUSEUM



Migration is the story of our time. It frequently hits the headlines and dominates political discourse. But it is not a new story. There's an underlying narrative of comings and goings stretching back many centuries that connects us all. And it goes to the heart of who we all are, where we've come from and where we're going. Migration is often misunderstood, misrepresented and misinformed. It's also conspicuously missing from the UK's cultural map and national curriculum. The Migration Museum will fill this gap, creating a moving and inspiring institution that reflects the central role that migration has always played in our national story.

OUR PERMANENT HOME



We will be a museum with a difference - evoking an arts centre feel that challenges perceptions of what a museum is and who it is for. Since 2014 the Migration Museum has delivered a cultural programme of award-winning exhibitions and lively events. We will build on our track record of engaging young, highly diverse audiences, ensuring they feel welcome in the heart of the City of London. Our museum will be a national platform for learning and a place where everybody feels seen, heard and represented. Now more than ever, it's time to put our shared migration story at centre stage.

OUR PERMANENT HOME

Our purpose-built venue will include :

- [Flagship permanent exhibition](#) – communicating the sweeping history of migration to and from Britain.
- Dynamic temporary exhibitions – co-produced with community partners.
- [Education suite](#) – curated with artistic projects that offer a stimulating backdrop for workshops and training.
- [Food and drink offer](#) – working in partnership with renowned migrant chefs and restaurateurs, creating an immersive dining experience.
- [Shop](#) – platforming migrant makers and supporting early-career creatives and entrepreneurs.
- [Studios](#) – inviting artists with migrant or refugee heritage for short-term creative residencies.



WHY WE'RE RECRUITING A PEOPLE'S PANEL

Collaboration and co-production is at the heart of the Migration Museum's values. As we work towards our permanent home, we want to deepen our understanding of local needs and community interests, whilst broadening our civic engagement practices through key decision-making processes.

The Migration Museum's core civic engagement objective is to ensure that audiences are represented, connected and empowered through all the work that we do. Embedding people's voices into the permanent museum is essential. We want to foster inclusion, belonging and connection to Britain's history, as well as between different communities.

We are looking for passionate people who believe that a more inclusive future is possible.



WHY WE'RE RECRUITING A PEOPLE'S PANEL



The Museum aspires to create a space where people from all walks of life can meet, share stories, and feel a sense of belonging in the City. Through this project, we aim to connect our existing Lewisham audiences with future audiences from the City of London and Tower Hamlets.

We are building on our learnings from previous work, and developing our People's Panel from its first iteration in Lewisham (2022-2023). This panel will be instrumental in shaping key aspects of the permanent museum, including exhibition content, events programming, an inclusive and exciting food and beverage offer, and general spatial design. Another aspect of this project will involve People's Panel members documenting and preserving migration stories – they will be invited to contribute their own stories to our collection, as well as undergo training to share stories from their communities using a participatory action research approach.

OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT VALUES

All our work follows the Migration Museum's community engagement values, co-produced with the People's Panel and Network in 2023:

The Migration Museum is...

- [A space to celebrate legacies and forge networks](#) – where everyone is valued, welcome, counted and present.
- [Providing space for marginalised voices to be heard](#) – inviting discussions around the intersectionality and complexities of migrant experiences.
- [Promoting learning and curiosity by sharing all our stories](#) – inspiring us to be more unified with the people around us.
- [Generating meaningful connections through cultural exchange](#) – allowing us to respect and elevate one another.
- [Accessible, transparent, and open to change](#) – we ensure that our values are in line with key priorities of the diverse communities that we serve.
- [Making room for self-reflection and acceptance](#) – we invite everyone to join us on this journey.



PEOPLE'S PANEL PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The People's Panel programme will have three key strands:

- [Migration Stories](#) – where members will be trained to document and preserve migration stories from their communities, to form part of our collection.
- [Permanent Home](#) – shaping our visitor experience strategy, food and drink offer, and spatial design of the permanent home.
- [Events](#) – developing an events strategy and experimenting with a co-produced programme of events.

Individuals can support one, two, or all three activity areas. If some areas are oversubscribed, then you must specify your preferred strand.

Each strand will operate slightly differently to one another, and require differing levels of engagement. Please assess your own availability and capacity when choosing which strands to apply for.



PEOPLE'S PANEL PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

People's Panel members will be required to attend two mandatory introductory sessions in 2026:

Saturday 7th February 2026

Saturday 28th February 2026

These will be in-person sessions (specific timings and venue TBC).

These sessions will bring all participants together, introducing the programme and learning more about your interests, passions, and migration stories.



STRAND I

MIGRATION STORIES

This strand of the People's Panel is the most interactive and flexible – we will train up to 30 people to document and preserve migration stories. Members will be invited to share their own stories, and collect stories from their loved ones and wider diasporic or local communities.

This is a chance for us to collect contemporary stories for the Migration Museum's growing collection. People's voices will be preserved as part of this collection project, with the intention that they will be stored and platformed for generations to come.

Workshop attendance requirements:

14th March 2026 (training)

+ one 1-1 follow-up call to monitor progress

Estimated number of hours – flexible, between 3 and 16 hours (your choice!)

Maximum number of participants – 30



STRAND 2

EVENTS

This group will develop the Migration Museum's events strategy and guiding principles for collaborative and creative programming in the permanent home. After completing the four workshop sessions, members will be invited to an 'experimentation phase', helping to programme events in 2027 – testing out new methods for co-production and creating an exciting events programme that will help shape plans for the permanent home.

Workshop attendance requirements:

Saturday 28th March 2026

Saturday 25th April 2026

Saturday 16th May 2026

Saturday 27th June 2026

Follow up surveys will be sent out after each workshop to evaluate the session and vote on key decisions discussed.

Estimated number of hours – 8 (workshops) + up to 16 (events programming and facilitation)

Maximum number of participants – 10



STRAND 3

PERMANENT HOME

This group will be an essential guiding force for the Migration Museum's development of the permanent home site. Whilst core construction is underway, the Permanent Home People's Panel group will shape the spatial design and visitor experience of the space. They will work with the museum's newly appointed internal architects to explore the best options for the cafe/restaurant area, gallery spaces, and multi-use event areas. They will influence the look and feel of the space, as well as advise on inclusive safeguarding and wellbeing.

Workshop attendance requirements:

Saturday 25th July 2026

Saturday 22nd August 2026

Saturday 19th September 2026

Follow up surveys will be sent out after each workshop to evaluate the session and vote on key decisions discussed.

Estimated number of hours – 10

Maximum number of participants – 15



PEOPLE'S PANEL PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Overview

All participants in the People's Panel programme will be required to attend the two introductory sessions in February 2026. They will then split off into their different strands, focusing on migration story collection, events, and permanent home planning. Facilitated workshops (and follow-up surveys) will run throughout 2026. In 2027, those on the migration stories strand will continue to independently collect migration stories. Those on the events strand will be invited to co-produce events with the museum.

Payment*

After participating in each workshop (and completing follow-up surveys), members of the People's Panel are offered £50 for their time (via invoice and bank transfer or high street voucher). Any additional time given to the project (e.g. story collection, events programming) will be agreed in advance and compensated at £15 per hour (via invoice and bank transfer or high street voucher).

*People seeking asylum are invited to join the People's Panel. We welcome discussions on how reimbursement can be structured to meet all regulatory requirements.



WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR

People's Panel members must have a connection to either the City of London, Tower Hamlets, or Lewisham – through either living, working, studying, or organising in these local areas. This programme is open to anyone within these boroughs – you do not have to be a museum professional or have previous professional or academic experience to join us.

We are particularly interested in forming a group that represents different community practices and lived experiences, ensuring that the panel is diverse in terms of age, ethnic background, social class, and education attainment.

If you are community minded, interested in making a difference and shaping an exciting new national museum, we invite you to join us.

Previous members of the Migration Museum's Lewisham-based People's Panel are welcome to apply again. Those that have never engaged with the museum are also welcome to join us – we hope to have both familiar and new faces in the room!



HOW TO APPLY + DEADLINE

Apply now!

[Link to application form](#)

Deadline: 23:59, 12th January 2026

Contact us:

Mona Jamil – mona@migrationmuseum.org

Harriet Costello – harriet@migrationmuseum.org

Please note that we will be closed during the festive period and not monitoring emails between 18th December 2025 and 5th January 2025.



Image Credits:

© Dominus | 3XN Architects

© Elzbieta Piekacz

© Nancy Singh

© National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

© Sopo Ramischwili



Website: www.migrationmuseum.org

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

BlueSky: [@MigrationMuseum.org](https://bsky.app/profile/@MigrationMuseum.org)

LinkedIn: [MigrationMuseumUK](https://www.linkedin.com/company/MigrationMuseumUK)

[Join our mailing list](#)

[Donate](#)

The Migration Museum Project is a charitable company registered in England and Wales No. 8544993 and a registered charity No. 1153774.