



Partnership Working for public programmes at the Great North Museum: Hancock

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What do we mean by public programmes?

- Exhibitions
- Displays
- Festivals
- Immersive experiences
- Learning programmes
- Community Partnerships with public facing outcomes
- Events – families, adults and more...



Why work in partnership on public programmes?

- Audiences - widen reach and potential impact
- Complementary skills and learning opportunities for all partners
- Inspiration
- Being part of the cultural community of the region
- Pooling of resources
- Access to additional funding sources
- Co-created content for programme activity
- It is FUN!

Some examples of recent partnership working for public programmes at GNM:H include...



Festivals

Moving Parts Arts – Newcastle Puppetry Festival and beyond...





NOVUM



Blossom – National Trust

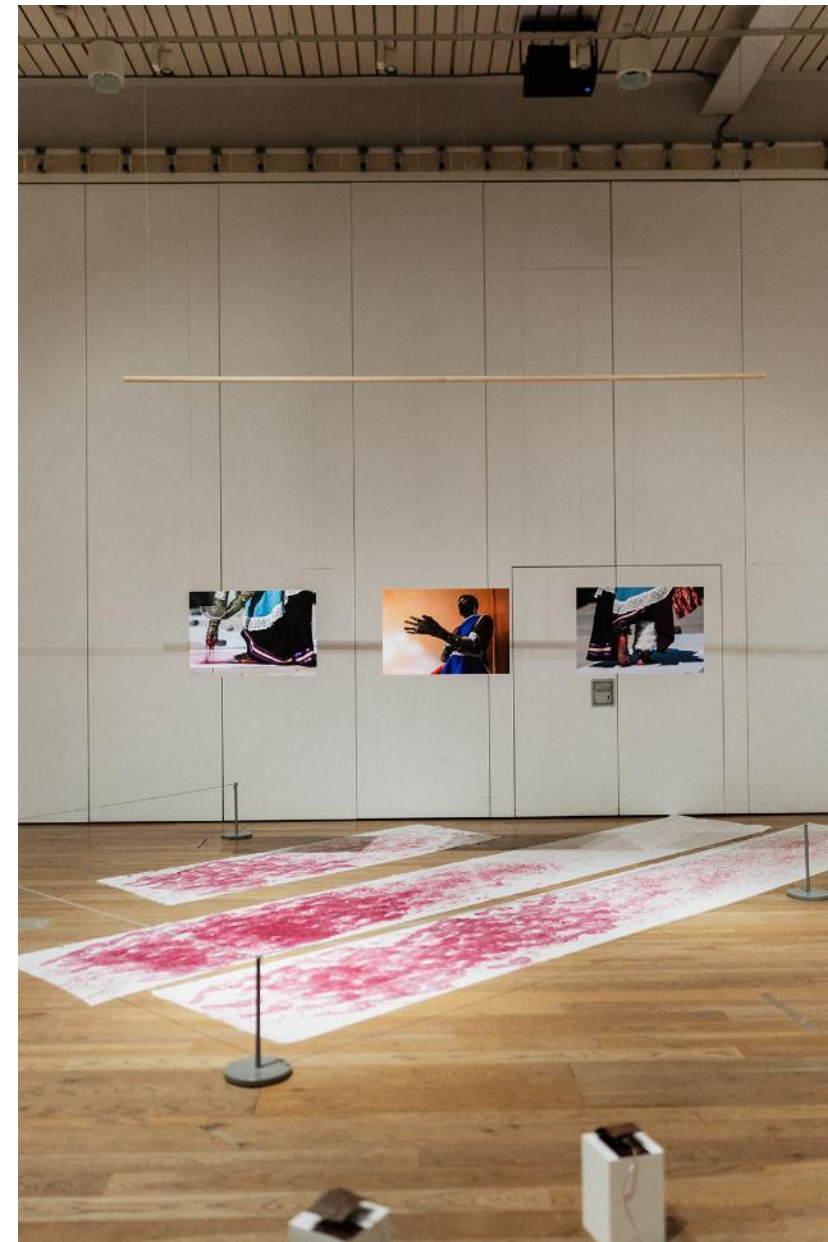




Exhibitions



D6 – Culture in Transit





Working with students

Destroying Nature: Histories of people and environments at the Great North Museum: Hancock



A Harpoon from the 'Unicorn of the Sea' *Sophie Vintin*



This nineteenth century harpoon was crafted from a narwhal tusk, a prized material in Inuit culture. With a bone peg bound by sinew and leather, this harpoon was designed to be an attachment to a throwing board allowing it to be propelled. This design made it a powerful tool for hunting. For generations, Inuit hunters have relied on narwhals for food and materials, skilfully using harpoons like this to survive in the harsh Arctic environment.

Today, the Arctic is changing. As valuable ice melts due to climate change, narwhals face increasing threats. Rising ship traffic disrupts their echolocation, making it harder for them to navigate and hunt in the dark sea. At the same time, shifting ice patterns challenge Inuit hunting traditions, disrupting a way of life that has been practiced for centuries.

Protecting narwhals and supporting Inuit traditions is becoming increasingly important as communities and scientists work together to find solutions for a rapidly changing Arctic.



Find out more about the project here

greatnorthmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/destroying-nature-trail

This trail highlights objects from the Great North Museum: Hancock's permanent exhibition through the lens of environmental history. Undergraduate students from Newcastle University's School of History, Classics and Archaeology were challenged to research artefacts on display and re-write their labels.





University





GREAT NORTH MUSEUM HANCOCK

OTHER WORLDS

THE ART OF ATOMHAWK

Great North Museum: Hancock
Barras Bridge
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE2 4PT
Haymarket

Saturday 7 March
— Sunday 2 August

Donations welcome
(free entry)
#OtherWorldsGNM

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Case Studies

- Hadrian's Wall Education Forum Virtual Day
- Explore Gallery Redevelopment
- Beacon Films



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 - Building on a long term relationship to do something new
 - Growing it year by year

Hadrian's Wall Virtual Focus Day

KS2 Virtual event

Historic Event

This is a historic event or exhibition. It is no longer available to visit and this page is only retained as a record of its details.

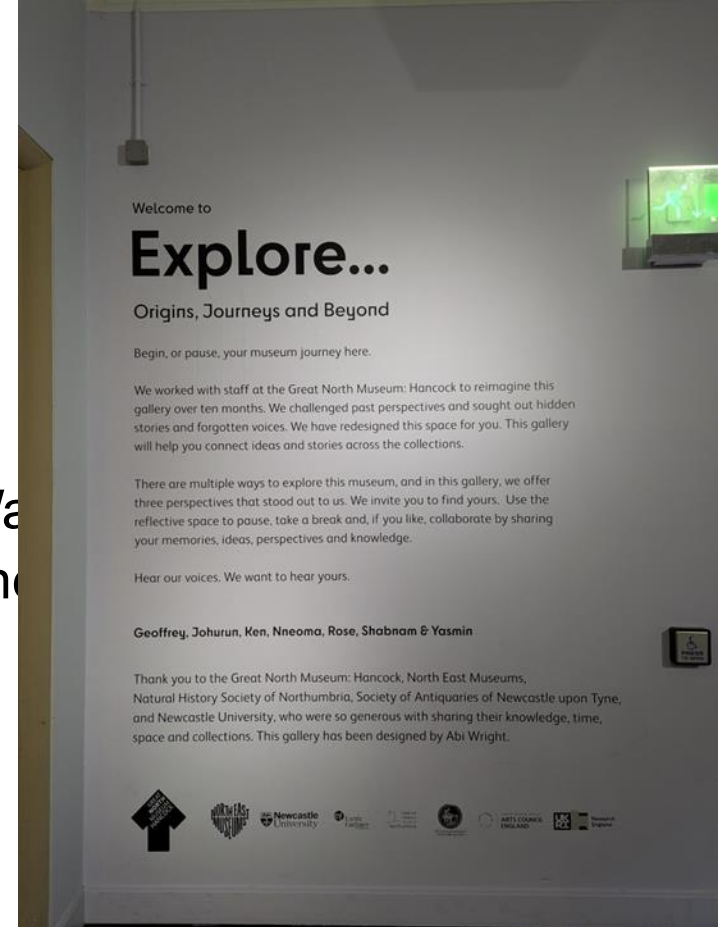
Visit our [What's On](#) page for current and future event and exhibition details.



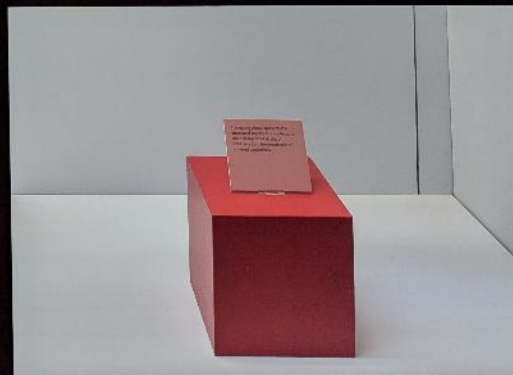


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- Explore Gallery Redevelopment
 - Recruiting a group from the community
 - Working to form a cohesive group
 - Putting together our internal team, a newly formed group and an artist
 - Combining museum strategy with the interests of the group



Gallery Redevelopment – Community Group





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- Beacon Films
 - Building a long term relationship
 - Working with a group who initially came to us
 - Building on a range of activities
 - Balancing the importance of the work and the outcome



Beacon Films – Working Long Term

<https://www.beaconfilms.org.uk/>

- 2017 Summer Project
- 2019 Internship
- 2020 Internship
- 2022 Virtual Visionaries
- 2025-27 So What Heritage



Top tips, challenges and barriers

- Be open about motivations and expectations from the outset
- Be aware of the power dynamics - 'community washing' – or 'co-washing' – the exploitative adoption of terms like 'community' and 'collaboration' by those in positions of power to appear equitable
- But be realistic and clear about what is possible and what isn't
- City Council regulations are not always conducive to working effectively in partnership
- Thinking about work our Communities team is doing – can we think of applying similar frameworks for equitable partnership working?
- Relationships take time to build
- Don't make any assumptions - differences in language can cause problems