



# Hull Culture and Leisure Annual Report 2023 - 2024







Spencer Tunick Sea of Hull Rosebowl, Hull, 2016. © Ferens Art Gallery

Somewhere and something for everyone - at the heart of our communities, animating the city.

We are the heart of Hull's commitment to ensuring residents can keep physically and mentally active, can learn about their heritage and the world they live in, and enjoy world class art, sport, performance and creativity, a commitment that is the envy of many places around the country. The work of our teams and the services they deliver for everyone makes an incalculable contribution to not only the delivery of the City's Community Plan but also to the civic pride and sense of place that Hull is rightly proud of.

# Welcome to Hull Culture and Leisure from Chair and Managing Director

We exist to provide our residents and visitors with access to world class art, creativity, learning, literature, sporting and leisure activities simply because these opportunities change lives!

This report looks back over the year 2023 to 2024, providing a glimpse of the myriad of amazing opportunities that our residents have enjoyed, the memories they have made in doing so, and the appetite created for more.

Looking back at the wonderful events, exhibitions, performances, collections, sporting endeavours and activities leaves us in awe of our amazing team who have delivered all of this, and at the same time ensured our residents also have access to wonderfully welcoming spaces where they can learn, practice, share or quite simply enjoy the displays, reading, researching, keeping active, or meeting new people.

Our teams are delivering world class culture and learning opportunities, they are creative and ambitious in their planning and fundraising – securing £1,827,000 in grant income in 2023 – 2024, and in seeking out partnerships locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. They are responsible for two of only eight Arts Council National Portfolio Organisations in the City.

This can only be a snapshot of the year, we hope you enjoy it. If you have questions please contact us, and do please join us in sharing, not just the contents of this report but news of the amazing opportunities on offer to people in Hull – whatever their interests.



Simon Green  
Managing Director



Mike Ross  
Chair



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# Introduction

Our absolute commitment to ensuring Hull's residents have access to amazing opportunities in art, creativity, learning, literature, sport and leisure is illustrated in this review of our business during 2023 – 2024.

**Our customers use our facilities and services by choice** - we really appreciate this and place the customer at the heart of our planning and delivery!

Customer feedback helps us develop and improve our offer and is critical to our success. We provide a customer feedback scheme, measure take up of activity, use of our facilities and actively seek the views of our customers to help us improve and adapt. Alongside this we use information available from other sources such as national statistics and Hull City Council to help us to plan future activities and services.

We also talk to our customers and residents about what they enjoy, what stops them doing the things they want to, and how, when and where they and their families want to spend their leisure time.

**Creating opportunities for Hull residents to have fun, learn, and keep active is our core mission.**

We lead on, and contribute to, strategies, funding applications and partnerships to ensure Hull residents have the best opportunities and access to excellent services and facilities – all delivered to the highest quality as efficiently as possible. We know that working in partnership delivers more and increases investment to improve and increase the culture, leisure, and library offer in the City.

In 2023/2024  
we welcomed  
**3,127,850** people  
through our doors,  
**3,120,360** online and  
millions more joining us  
at other venues and  
outdoor spaces.

**95%** of our visitors  
rated their visit as 'good'  
or 'very good'

**98%** of people participating  
in our activities and events  
said they were 'Good' or  
'Excellent'



# Introduction

In 2023 – 2024 we produced:

**More than 4,180 events** and activities – excluding classes and sessions in our Leisure Centres

**422 Shows** at Hull City Hall and Hull New Theatre

**Over 200** Healthy Holiday Activity Fund activities

And cared for more than **1 million** museum objects.



Hull Culture and Leisure exists to improve quality of life for the people of Hull, our focus is our customers. We want to create the best and most welcoming facilities and programmes that appeal to all tastes. We care for and conserve the city's heritage, collections, and archives for future generations.

We bring world class art, performance, literature, sport, and creativity to our communities for everyone, and we support and nurture the city's talent providing opportunities to enable people to live *their* best life.



We secured **£1,827,000** in grant funding in 2023 - 2024





We also work, share skills with, and learn from colleagues across the country to share best practice and bring ideas and opportunities to Hull, for example masterclasses for aspiring athletes, artists, writers, entrepreneurs, and creatives, or sharing the learning and expertise of our award winning Wilberforce House Advisory Board with other museums around the country and working with the British Library to bring world class exhibitions, skills, knowledge and activities to Hull.

In this report we will give you a glimpse of how we do this... but we encourage you to come along and experience it for yourself!

There are more than **260,000** books available to borrow.

**4,352** Museum Object records were updated.

We now have **over 57,000** e-book, e-audio, e-magazine and e-newspapers available to borrow.

We received **29** new collections of archive materials totalling 6.8 linear metres.

More than **200,000** reference books and special collections are in store at the Central Library for anyone to consult.



# Fostering Community Cohesion

Helping to create Safe and Welcoming Neighbourhoods

We take pride in making everyone welcome in our venues, through our promotions, our programming and collections, and in the care we offer customers.

Creating safe and welcoming spaces is one of our core aims from maintaining venues in neighbourhoods to ensuring accessibility to the highest quality events and activities that are low cost, free or have concessions available wherever we can apply them.

All our staff receive training to help them understand the different needs of people who live in our communities such as awareness sessions in autism, dementia, deafness, anti-racism, Prevent and many more.

Safe and welcoming neighbourhoods grow out of strong knowledgeable communities, our libraries, museums, and archives facilitate this by providing access to a huge range of validated resources to enable people to learn and stay informed.



Over **18,000** new items were purchased for libraries and the History Centre.

**20** new exhibitions

**3,825** Project loans to schools from libraries and museums

Our leisure centres and green spaces provide facilities which enable people to maintain, or regain, their physical health.

**12** lunchtime talks at Hull History Centre were attended by over 500 people who were all eager to learn about their City and its culture.





The very presence of our venues is a symbol of welcome and gives a clear message that the community they serve is worthy of investment and that they matter.

There is universal understanding of what our buildings stand for in society and the inherent benefit of our services, but often this obscures the complexity and breadth of our offer. There is an intrinsic trust in our buildings and services, and the people who work within them.

Our Libraries Team offered over 30 free weekly workshops, clubs and activities for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities that enable people to feel part of the community, meet other people, and reduce social isolation – over 28,900 people took part.

We foster this by ensuring all members of our communities can access our services. In 2023 – 2024 we offered the following inclusive activities:



✓ Women, and men only swim sessions every Tuesday and Thursday at Beverley Road Baths

✓ All our libraries are Warm Spaces

✓ Regular ice skating and athletics sessions for people with special educational needs



✓ Run and ride sessions

✓ Reminiscence sessions for people struggling with memory and to stimulate conversation

✓ Adapted Cycles at East Park



✓ LGBTQIA+ Book Club

✓ Free swimming during school holidays for children (funded by HAF),

✓ Conversation Cafes and Read & Chat sessions for people whose second language is English,

✓ Freedom Women's Collective exhibition

✓ Relaxed performances

✓ Sensory Storytimes

✓ Digital learning sessions and work clubs

✓ Social stories that allow people to understand what to expect when they visit our libraries

✓ Signed and dedicated audio described and captioned performances

✓ And much more...



# Fostering Community Cohesion

Our teams are highly skilled at engaging with marginalised and vulnerable people and communities, and in seeking partnerships that help us to learn and improve our offer.

Our Museums and The Big Malarkey Festival worked with Elephant in the Room to evaluate the accessibility of our offer. We also commissioned Concrete Youth to create sensory storytimes and experiences specifically for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities.



## Hear Them Roar

Gave a safe space to local women's voices to reflect on challenging subjects with community activists and survivors of violence and abuse.



“

“If this doesn't make people wake up then I don't know what will”

“Shed a few tears, so happy I came. It was very healing”

Quotes from Hear Them Roar audience members

”



## Taking the Knee

**14,337** people visited this exhibition which was part of ongoing community engagement work between the University of Hull's Wilberforce Institute for Slavery and Emancipation, Hull Museums, and people from racially marginalised communities, in the city.

The exhibition charted the pose from Ancient Egyptian times when it was a greeting to the rising sun, encompassed its use in the campaign for the Abolition of the Slave Trade and explored contemporary use in sport to raise awareness for racial equality and fighting oppression.



The culture, learning and leisure, programmes we offer raise awareness, and stimulate discussion of the challenges faced by individuals and communities in society. We help people to understand and make sense of the world around them to foster a more cohesive society.

## Sunflowers Travelling

Stimulating discussion and challenging people to think about others fosters societal change, for example our Sunflowers Travelling project saw disabled young people use their experiences of using public transport, and their hopes for accessible transport in the future, as inspiration for digital artwork that was exhibited during Disability History Month. The launch was attended by representatives from Stagecoach buses who are now taking forward plans to raise awareness of neurodivergence and disability within their organisation – **a small but powerful step towards making our communities safer and more welcoming.**



# Fostering Community Cohesion

Sharing stories of our heritage is critical to help us understand the world we live in and one another, using our two temporary exhibition spaces in the museums quarter and library spaces as community galleries allows us to provide a platform for community groups and organisations to do just that. **Over 10** community led exhibitions were held and **over 120,000** people visited them, they included:

- **Making Freedom: The Life of Venture Smith – Beecher House USA**
- **Why We Matter – the Warren Youth Project**
- **Our Environment - Artlink Hull**
- **Young Maritime Creatives – Sirius West Academy**

## Active Through Football

We are committed to collaborating with partner organisations on programmes that enable wider engagement and encourage a shared understanding of cultures, such as, Active Through Football, funded by the Football Foundation Hull Culture & Leisure act as strategic lead for a consortium made up of Hull City Council, Tigers Trust (Project Delivery Partner), East Riding County FA, Active Humber, University of Hull, Humber All Nations Alliance, the Football Foundation and Sport England.

Recognised nationally as the most successful of all Active Through Football projects in the country. Hull has delivered over **400** sessions over the last 12 months, with over **120** participants from the BAME community each week and bringing football to some of our most deprived wards, Orchard Park, Marfleet and Newington and Gypsyville.







## Home Library Service

Our **Home Library Service, Library Link** takes the Library Service to people's homes when they are not able to visit, providing a vital lifeline for some of our most vulnerable residents.

Our team supported **1,808** older people to access our **Forever Young** activities in 2023 – 2024. And they secured funding to work with residents to organise activities in libraries, visits to museums and the theatre. This programme has helped to reduce social isolation by giving people something to look forward to and in all cases made people feel happier and created new friendships.

Hull Culture and Leisure is indebted to all of the volunteers that give their time to support our work, from cataloguing and indexing our collections, dressing up to help animate our events, leading a reading group, helping someone to use a computer for the first time, coaching a sports group or giving their time to Hull Maritime.

We very much appreciate everything all our volunteers do – we really could not do it without them!

More than  
200 regular  
volunteers  
are used  
companywide



# Encouraging healthy minds and healthy bodies

Helping to create a Healthier and Fairer Hull

Hull Culture and Leisure's entire offer is the most cost-effective means of prevention, reducing health inequalities and helping people to remain independent for longer.

Local authority spend on libraries, leisure, parks, and culture provides huge health and well-being benefits for residents and our teams secure significant amounts of income and grant funding that brings greater opportunities and benefits for all.

Hull City Council contributed 37% of the operating costs of Hull Culture and Leisure in 2023 - 2024 compared to 52% in the year of inception, 2015.

Although unquantified all of the evidence available shows this investment saves significant sums of money for NHS and social care budgets across the city.

We offered over **100 dementia friendly sessions** and activities in our museums and libraries and our volunteers delivered weekly Read & Chat sessions in libraries, sheltered accommodation and other venues.

Our Library Service secured **£88,000** Know Your Neighbourhood funding to reduce social isolation by encouraging residents to get involved in their local community to support and create opportunities for others, for example by running an interest group such as yap & yarn or gardening – in fact anything that people living in their area might be interested in. **46** new volunteers, **121** people benefited in 2023 - 2024.

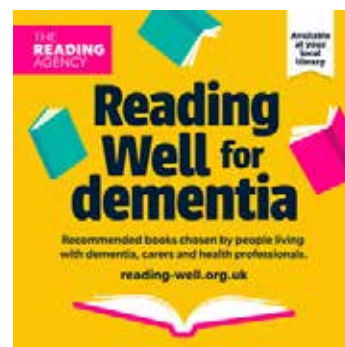


Hull Culture and Leisure is committed to supporting positive mental health and well-being. As an employer we provide all staff with mental health awareness training, some of our staff are mental health first aiders and we have a free counselling service available to our staff.

## Reading Well

Our library staff assist people to find accurate, appropriate information to support their health choices both online and printed.

Each library has collections of 'Reading Well' materials - all recommended by health experts to support mental health and dementia - **139** items from these collections were borrowed more than **879** times during 2023 - 2024. There are also special collections for children and teenagers - the Library Service has donated sets to all primary schools in the city that are members of our Schools's Library Service and sets of the teenage collections to secondary schools.





All of our venues are physically accessible for our customers and many have facilities such as a Changing Place, adapted changing facilities and equipment to aid access, such as a Pool Pod at Woodford Leisure Centre providing disability swimming pool access, Adapted Cycling at East Park, audio described, captioned and signed performances in our Theatres and at The Big Malarkey Festival, dedicated wheelchair positions in the New Theatre auditorium, and access schemes to ensure those who need a carer to enable their visit are not disadvantaged.

Our leisure centres have modern facilities with state of the art equipment, including a virtual fitness studio that enables you to jog through Central Park, take a yoga class on a beach in Bali -virtually of course, and you can also access live expert support and teaching. We offer a wide range of fitness memberships, with no hidden fees, no contract, and no joining fees, enabling access to physical activity for all. A membership can be used at any of our leisure sites across the city - **10,942** memberships and **1,029,406** visits.



2023 saw the re-opening of Albert Avenue Pools following an **£11m** rebuild and refurbishment which brought back into public use its stunning Lido. The interior was completely remodelled to include a new poolside sauna and a state of the art fitness studio with an immersive virtual fitness experience, so if you want to cycle across the Alps, you can – virtually. There is also new equipment to enhance the experience.

The Lido also provides much improved facilities for Kingston Kayak Club and Humberside Water Polo Club who train and play there.

And for those who enjoy cold water swimming, we introduced this at the Lido between October and April... **1535** people participated.

In 2023 –  
2024 Love It  
Memberships  
increased by 20%  
and doubled for  
those over the  
age of 66.

## Encouraging healthy minds and healthy bodies

For some residents' membership fees are unaffordable but all our parks and green spaces are free to use, and several have free to use outdoor gym equipment. There is a growing body of evidence that access to good quality green and blue spaces leads to improved environmental conditions and better health and wellbeing outcomes. The benefits of our work to the latter is significant, indeed the entire Hull Culture and Leisure offer reduces demand on intensive social and health care services and has potential to do more.

We offer **24** different types of instructor led fitness classes across our five leisure centres that had **over 50,000** attendances, as well as our amazing virtual fitness studios at Albert Avenue, Ennerdale and Woodford leisure centres.

Swimming is not only an excellent means of keeping fit it is an important life skill everyone should learn. We offer swimming lessons for all ages, and Hull schools made over **20,500** visits to our pools to enable their children to learn to swim. Our free swim sessions in partnership with HCC Healthy Holiday Activity Fund help children learning to swim to feel more confident in the water.

We have introduced new leisure management software which allows people to customise it. As a result, more than **50%** of all our bookings are now made online.

**90%** of attendees at our fitness classes are female. Most are over the age of 50 and the most popular is Aqua Fit.





## Healthy Holidays in Hull

We are a strategic partner of the Hull City Council Healthy Holiday Activity Fund programme (HAF), delivering hundreds of free sessions each school holiday in activities such as swimming, ice-skating, athletics, cycling, football, Flourish with the Ferens: Music with Humber Drum Circles, science with Microbits, Spectac-u-lab and Slime workshops, Street Dance, Bollywood Dance and musical theatre, craft and creativity workshops, enjoy nature with Nature Detectives, Nature Scavenger Hunt, Nature All Around Us, and so many more... and children get a free healthy lunch or snack pack. Almost **10,000** children took part in 2023/2024, for example **70** children attended our Summer Archaeology Club and we distributed **104,000** Magical Museums activity booklets.



And, having created an appetite to participate we invite all children who take part in our HAF sessions to attend the regular programmes on offer in our facilities – over **30** weekly sessions in libraries and museums and hundreds more in our leisure centres and parks. We also share information about activities provided by our partners such as sports clubs and theatre groups.

# Supporting residents to live their best life

Reaching our potential

**Facilitating residents of Hull, of all ages, to reach their potential and live their best life is the foundation of everything Hull Culture and Leisure does.**

We create opportunities for people to learn something new and enjoy themselves – at the same time... and to know how they can do more. And we provide accessible facilities that anyone can use independently, or to access expert support to achieve their goals.

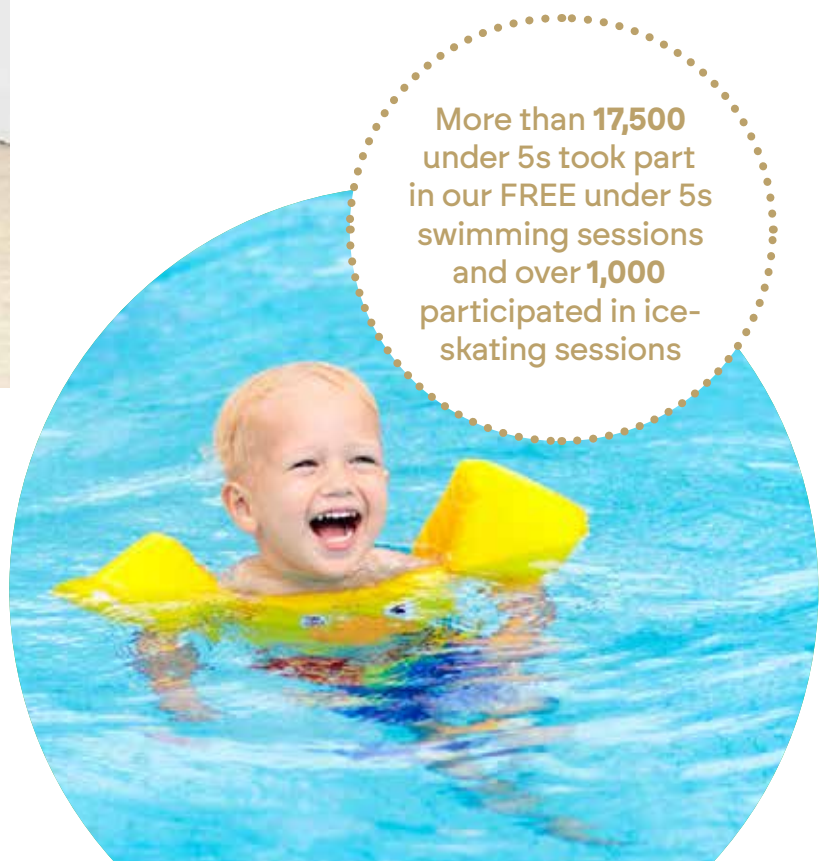


We inspire and encourage the next generation, nurture existing talent, and celebrate the achievement and effort of those who participate.

The focus of much of our work is children and young people to ensure every child has equality of opportunity from the earliest age. Our work with families and carers of babies and children under 5 is widely recognised as best practice by others working in our sectors.

Our museums hosted **1,252** under 5s at 15 targeted events such as Explore Art and Mini Masterpieces.

More than **17,500** under 5s took part in our FREE under 5s swimming sessions and over **1,000** participated in ice-skating sessions





## Giving babies the best start

Giving all babies and children the best start is the focus of our Language and Literacy Co-ordinators who deliver, and train library staff to deliver **18** weekly language and literacy development sessions during term-time, such as Toddler Tunes, Baby Bounce and Storytime.

Parents reading and talking with their babies and toddlers is critical to supporting a child's speech and language development. The Library Service team partner with BookTrust and local Family Hubs to deliver a nationally recognised best practice programme.

Hull is gifted **2,800** Bookstart Early Years Book packs each year. Our team worked with HCC Early Years Standards and Improvement to devise a strategy to fairly gift the book packs to 1-4 year olds in low-income families across Hull – achieving a **100%** success rate!

The Hull 0-19 Integrated Public Health Nursing Service and Health Visiting Team also worked with the team to trial an innovative approach to gifting BookTrust dual language and SEND resources to break down barriers to health for families who have traditionally been less engaged. This was so successful in the trial in the West Base that the team approached BookTrust for **560** additional dual language resources to replicate the approach in other health bases across Hull. This will be published as a national case study which celebrates this approach as an example of excellent practice.

Our team works with and coordinates the involvement of the seven Hull Family Hubs and their co-located nursery settings, taking storytimes outside of our traditional library settings into the Family Hubs. Our team provides training for family support workers and nursery practitioners on storytelling and sharing books with babies and toddlers for this to be shared with parents and carers.



## The Big Malarkey Festival

The Big Malarkey 2023 brought the magic of stories alive through over 60 writers, artists, musicians, illustrators, dancers, poets and actors and performance. For one week we created a festival experience in East Park, totally focused on children and their families - over **2,500** over the weekend.

And in the week running up to the Festival we opened the gates to **45** local schools, giving **1771** pupils the opportunity to experience the magic of The Big Malarkey.

Our James Reckitt Hull Children's Book Awards saw a further **5,980** students take part – in school and at The Big Malarkey Festival.

**Picture Book Award – 40 schools**  
**Key Stage 2 Award – 36 schools**  
**Key Stage 3 Award – 7 schools**



“

*I love the Big Malarkey festival so much. This year it was a delight to be involved for four days of the festival, hosting the awards and running school sessions and talks.*

*The atmosphere was fantastic as always, the kids were entertained, looked after and given a brilliant experience that they won't forget. The books and authors that were nominated were all fantastic, as were the authors and performers offering sessions across the site.*

*The way the event is organised and managed is really brilliant. The organisers clearly know what they are doing, and they put on a great show for everyone involved. I have done a lot of events, and this is definitely one of my absolute favourites! Well done and huge thanks to everyone at the Big Malarkey.*

Helen Rutter, MC of the 2023 Book Awards and winner of KS2 JRHCBA 2022 with 'The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh'

”







## Reading for Pleasure

It's well known that reading for pleasure is the one thing that can significantly change life outcomes for a child, more so than socio-economic background, for this reason we invest our resources heavily into encouraging babies, children, and young people to develop an enjoyment for reading. We also seek and secure grant funding to help us to do this - over **£180,000** in 2023 - 2024.

Our Schools' Library Service is a fully traded service that supports **75%** of schools in the city. Providing expertise, resources, reading materials and training in many curriculum areas, specialising in reading for pleasure and information literacy skills.

We revamped **16** school libraries and **128** Book Corners, loaned **2,153** sets of Class Reads, Story Sacks and Book Clubs in a Bag and **1,672** Project and Resource boxes which include lesson plans to support key curriculum areas. More Than **52,000** pupils enjoyed a visit to the library, a session with an author or our World Book Day activities – inspiring them to read for pleasure.

“

“We recently went through a Section 5 OFSTED, and an audit from Outwood English Hub. During both, we went through a deep dive for Early Reading and Phonics. We presented all of the support we have had from the library service: CPD, setting up our library, training librarians, reading corners in classrooms, support creating our reading spine and all of the incredible books you lend us each term. They were absolutely overwhelmed with what you have to offer, and it was commented on that they don't know another authority that has such an excellent level of support for reading.

The classrooms have never looked so amazing – they are like mini libraries and the children are loving the high-quality fiction and non-fiction they get to choose from. Your support has played a pivotal role in promoting a love of reading at our school so thank you very much!”

EL, Trust Reading Lead,  
Horizon Academy Trust

”

# Supporting residents to live their best life

## Hull Curriculum Exhibition – Our City Our Story.

**The Hull Curriculum** is a fabulous resource for local schools created by our Museums Education Team. A unique exhibition showcased key histories from our Hull Curriculum online resource, celebrating the fantastic work produced by Hull schools through our Pop-Up exhibition project that develops children's knowledge, key skills, and aspirations, along with a deep sense of pride in the city - **435** children from 3 member schools took part in the Hull Curriculum exhibition and **28,700** people visited]

**Our work in schools intertwines with our work in communities providing all children and young people with access and opportunity to participate and develop their interests. Our teams are creative in developing programmes and proactively seek partnerships to strengthen our offer.**

**Flourish with Ferens** was designed, developed, and delivered with **10** disabled and neurodivergent artists. **127** disabled and neurodivergent children and young people took part in **12** sessions with the **10** different artists.

Our **Library Explorers programme** has been developed in partnership with Artlink Hull for children aged 7-11. Each group works with real artists to develop their skills, try new art forms and have fun! **27** Library Explorers were invited to exhibit their work at The Big Malarkey Festival and bring their families to see them in situ.





**Future Ferens** are our young volunteers aged 18 – 25. They played an active role in the Ferens programme co-curating two exhibitions and a programme of events at the gallery.

**We offer work placement and volunteering opportunities to support skills development and to inspire and encourage our potential future workforce.**

In 2023 – 2024 we supported:

**14 Work experience placements**

**56 New volunteers**

And more than **200** people regularly volunteer with us

## The Egyptian Collections

The temporary display of our Egyptian collections in the 'Tutankhamun 100 years of Discovery' exhibition was the perfect opportunity to revitalise our Egyptian learning programmes and redevelop our permanent gallery at the Hands on History Museum. The Egyptian Collections are now back on permanent display in their new Gallery at the Hands on History Museum and have been developed specifically to support schools with new displays and interpretation - inspired by the approach taken for the temporary exhibition at the Ferens.

**70%** of Hull Schools are engaging with Hull Museums and Gallery

## Saturday Club

Our partnership with The Institute of Arts, Hull College, and the National Saturday Club has delivered an inspirational four years of the Saturday Club for young people aged 13 – 15 in Hull. Participants in the Saturday Club programme have achieved arts award qualifications and produced portfolios of outstanding creative work. The Saturday Club has provided young people with unique new skills, new friendships, and new tools for thinking about their future as creative people. The culmination of the year is a public exhibition of Club members' work at London's prestigious Somerset House and end-of-year Graduation Ceremonies. In 2023:

- **33 young people took part in 30 weekly sessions.**
- **7 young people achieved Bronze Arts Award.**



# Supporting residents to live their best life

## Rediscovering the Ferens

Rediscovering Ferens was co-curated by young people from the Future Ferens and the Warren Youth Project. The exhibition showcased key works that young people selected from the Ferens permanent collection that resonated with the theme of identity, alongside new works made by the young people in response. The exhibition was supported by a young curator tour and a late event to give young people opportunities to engage the public with their work. **42,173** people visited the exhibition.

## Ferens Open

Our ever-popular Ferens and Young Artist Open exhibitions continue to be a highlight of the year for artists of all ages. Record numbers applied for the amazing opportunity to have their work exhibited in the region's most prestigious gallery. Our member schools were also supported by Artist Esther Cawley with a series of workshops at the gallery to develop work for their schools' entries.

## Nurturing Talent

Working with Get It Loud in Libraries (GILIL) we established a GILIL Academy programme that provides young people with opportunity to learn about the music industry - supporting and encouraging talent development in all areas. Young people who complete the programme are invited to get involved in the GILIL gigs at the Central Library – six young people in 2023 - 2024.

Our Theatres team worked with production companies to offer workshops linked to productions, such as the Sao Paulo Dance Company who delivered a workshop with Hull's Northern Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA) and curriculum linked education packs where appropriate.

**2,147** artworks by  
**945** artists were entered  
into the Open Exhibition

**330** artworks selected  
for display

**31** works sold

**600** children entered work  
in the Young Artists Open

**25** school groups  
entered work







## Zoos and Aviaries

Our Animal Education Centre and Pickering Park Aviary are licensed zoos. Each is home to a variety of different species of animal including Llamas, Meerkats, Squirrel Monkeys, Alpaca, Wallabies, Emu, and many small birds. Both have excellent education spaces including a classroom that we use to deliver National Curriculum based school activity sessions - **36** in 2023 - 2024.

We know children and families love spending time with our animals and learning about them, so we introduced a fabulous programme of activities and events such as, 'Bee Kind, Bee Positive, Bee Happy'; 'Monkey Madness'; 'Our Green Planet'; 'The Joy Of Autumn' and 'Our Feathered Friends' - each event is a mix of free-to-use activities such as site-trails, origami and natural picture making. And we introduced a range of paid-for crafts, such as decorating bird houses, water bottles and bee feeders. Over **1,000** people took part.



There are **10 different ice-sports clubs** who use the Hull Ice Arena

Use of our leisure centres and outdoor spaces has inspired and nurtured Olympic champions, international football and rugby stars and has helped residents to maintain and improve their physical and mental fitness.



We have over **50** clubs and community groups who extensively use our leisure facilities to run many different activities, from bowls to rugby, and much more in between – at grassroots and competitive level. These clubs and groups play a crucial role in the community by providing opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to participate, meet people and keep active. They are critical to identifying, nurturing and developing talent, and to providing opportunity for like-minded people to come together reducing social isolation and encouraging people to be more active.

## Reducing the Digital Divide

Our libraries make available over **200** public access computers with internet access – free of charge. Residents can use them for any purpose from carrying out job searches to using office software and keeping in touch with family online. Scanning facilities and low cost printing facilities are also available – We helped over 28,200 people to use a computer.

One to one support and workshops are also offered to learn how to carry out basic tasks such as set-up an email account and use the Internet safely, to coding and using design software.

In 2023 Hull Libraries secured a DCMS Library Improvement Fund grant of £395,000 to create four state of the art digital makerspaces by 2026 in our four hub libraries – Bransholme, Fred Moore, Greenwood Avenue and Ings



As one of only 15 UK Patent Libraries we are one of only three organisations in the Yorkshire and Humber region accredited by the Intellectual Property Office.

## Makerspace Hull

Located in the Central Library this is the largest public library makerspace in the country. It has state of the art manual, digital and electronic equipment and tools, skilled staff providing support and workshops, as well as space to create, invent, explore, learn, think, and exhibit. It is a self-led space where people can learn new skills or rediscover old ones with support from our team. We ran several highly successful programmes, for example of our sessions for ex-offenders **80%** had not returned to reoffending after 6 months. And **13** Looked After Children all graduated from a programme designed specifically for them.

Businesses also use our space and resources to test ideas and develop prototypes before investing in tools and equipment or committing to manufacture their concept.



# Stimulating and supporting the local economy

Economic growth that works for all

Hull City Council has made a commitment to culture led regeneration, the investment in our theatre, museums and leisure centres is testament to this. Investment which is recovered by increased visitor spend in the local economy – bars, restaurants, hotels, and shops alongside the invaluable media coverage generated by our world class programming.

**Our offer is remarkable, the outstanding exhibitions, partnerships with national institutions, shows, festivals, sports, events, activities, and collections we continue to produce attracts visitors not only from within the city and its outskirts, but from all over the globe.**

We have a strong reputation for producing high-quality work with knowledgeable and friendly staff - a combination that encourages audiences to keep coming back, and attracting new people to the city.

Hull New Theatre and Hull City Hall are regularly the only venues high quality touring shows will visit in the region which drives footfall to the City, benefitting the local hospitality and retail industries.

Our programming policy ensures we frequently receive shows direct from the West End, offering local people a West End show experience without having to travel. 2023 - 2024 shows included Dirty Dancing, Heathers: The Musical, Life of Pi, The Bodyguard, The Proclaimers, Steve Backshall's Ocean to name only a few. Our new bar and snack seat service further adds to the experience – over 7,000 sales were made using this service in the first six months of operation.

Grant funding enables us to create more imaginative programmes, to improve and expand our offer to residents, and that attract visitors from all over the world

Our museums alone generated almost £6million of spend in the local economy in 2023 - 2024



# Stimulating and supporting the local economy

## Business and Intellectual Property

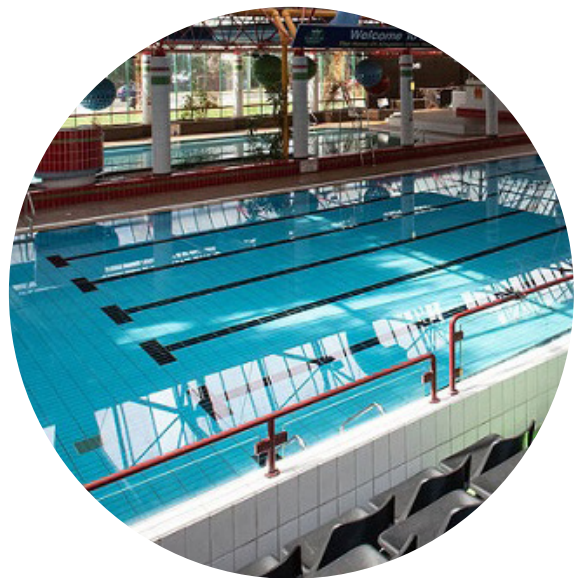
Our teams also contribute to the wider economic prosperity of the city by supporting people to learn new skills, to find work and by supporting people to make a business idea a reality - our libraries team helped to create **534** new businesses and **142** additional jobs through its Business and Intellectual Property Centre (BIPC) and **51%** of those people receiving support were from the most deprived areas.

Our BIPC is one of only of only **22** in the country and our central library is one of only **15** UK Patent libraries. Our highly skilled staff are trained by the UK Intellectual Property Office and are the only people locally that are accredited to support and guide individuals and businesses to protect their intellectual property (IP) and help them to navigate the most appropriate route to do so before they invest in the more expensive aspects of protecting their IP.

Our BIPC and Makerspace teams work together to encourage and support businesses to invest in research and development and innovation by providing space, resources and expert confidential advice and guidance – we supported **220** businesses to protect their IP and invest in research and development through our Innovate Humber project.



For every **£1** of public funding spent on our BIPC, Hull Libraries generated a payback of **£6.63**



## Corporate Memberships

Our leisure centres offer generous corporate memberships enabling businesses to support their staff to stay healthy and active. We have **110** local employers on our Corporate Membership list and almost **30%** of our members are on the corporate scheme.



Our longstanding partnership with the Royal Philharmonic and Hull Philharmonic orchestras brought **9** classical music concerts to Hull City Hall. Each also offered a pre-concert talk giving concert goers a unique insight into the music.

Our monthly comedy nights LOL provide a platform for up-and-coming comedians. We also regularly host productions by local choirs, orchestras, theatre and dance companies – which include masterclasses and beginner workshops for all ages. These not only support the local nighttime economy, but they also offer skills and experience of working and performing in a large regional theatre or concert hall.



We also support people who are seeking work, wanting to find different employment, or who want to learn new skills with weekly Work Clubs at five of our libraries – we held **107** sessions in 2023 -2024 and helped more than **476** people to find employment. And, we regularly provide people with volunteering opportunities, work experience and internships. For example, one of our most successful and innovative employment programmes is '**Maritime Futures**' which offered young people, aged 16-25 and unemployed the chance to complete a recognised training programme.

**72%** of participants secured work in the maritime sector within 30 days of completing the course and **7%** have gone on to further training.

This intensive course is delivered in partnership with East Coast Maritime Training and is designed to support those who are looking to start their career in the fishing or offshore sectors, whether that is on oil rigs, the fast-growing wind farms, or the fishing industry.



# Fostering a culture of sustainability

Responding to the climate and nature emergency

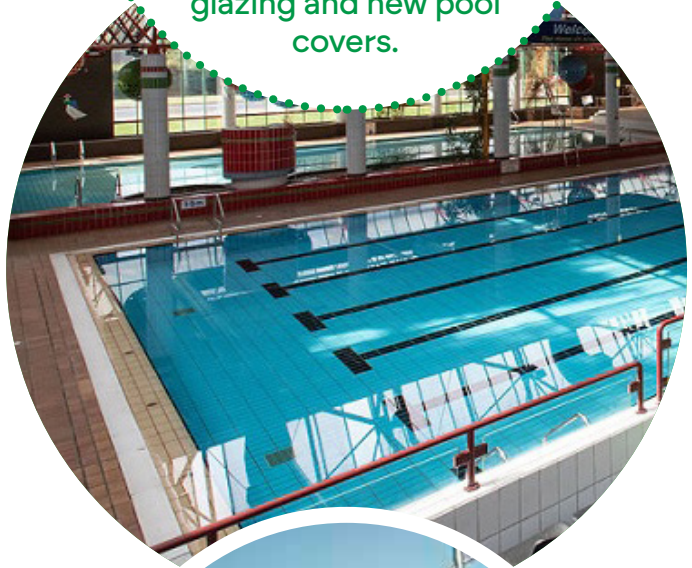
We are committed to reducing our impact on the environment and working with Hull City Council to be a Carbon Neutral City by 2030 and Net Zero by 2045. We incorporate environmental and sustainability factors into our business decisions, for example by seeking to use local companies whenever possible and considering environmental and sustainability factors when we are planning events and services.

We continued to work with Hull City Council to maximise our energy efficiency with a programme to replace all lighting with LED, the installation of energy efficient boilers, and placement of solar panels on our buildings. Western Library was the first of our buildings to be fitted with solar panels during its refurbishment – in 2013.

Our National Portfolio funded projects use Julie's Bicycle tools to understand their environmental impact and how they can reduce it. This learning is shared across the organisation.

Wherever possible we opt for the most sustainable and environmentally friendly means of achieving our goals.

Our Leisure Services team secured £780,000 from the Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund to support Ennerdale Leisure Centre to become more energy efficient with the implementation of triple glazing and new pool covers.



We are a lead partner in delivery of Hull's 10-year strategy 'Towards an Active Hull'. Part of this work is to encourage people to walk or cycle more to improve their physical fitness and reduce their carbon footprint.



## Making the Most of Digital

Hull Culture and Leisure is committed to improving our digital offer to improve access to our services whilst at the same time reducing our impact on the environment. Examples of our achievements in 2023 – 2024 are:

- Residents can download our Live It Hull app giving them quick and easy access to check swimming and fitness class timetables and to book sessions online.
- Our museums team have developed exciting and interactive content on their website and introduced dedicated online interactive access for schools.
- The treasures of our History Centre catalogue can also be searched online allowing people to identify the materials they wish to see before visiting.
- You can buy tickets for Hull City Hall and Hull New Theatre online and choose your seats. You can also pre-order drinks and snacks to be delivered to your seat. 66% of Hull New Theatre visitors choose to receive e-tickets rather than printed.
- Residents can join the library online via our website, they can search the catalogue and reserve an item they want to borrow, and when their items are due back they can extend the loan period by logging in to their library account.
- We now have over 57,000 titles available through our Borrowbox and Libby apps expanding the selection of e-books, e-audio books, e-newspapers, e-magazines and e-comics.
- Other digital resources available through the Hull Libraries website from home include, Medici TV, COBRA (Business information database), Public Information Online, Oxford encyclopaedias and dictionaries.
- Digital resources available in the library include, Which?, British Standards Online, Ancestry and Find My Past.

For people who can't access the internet they will still have access to our services by visiting our venues, and staff will be happy to help people to use the resources that are only available online.

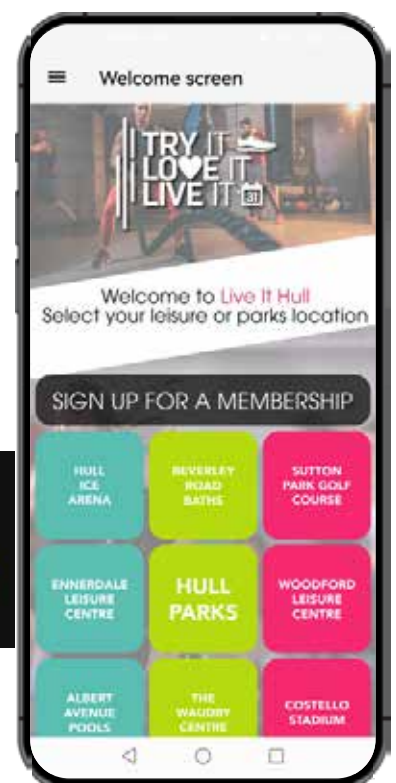
More than 28,000 people were helped to use the internet, 3,120,360 used our websites and over 15,000 people are using our apps

**DOWNLOAD THE  
LIVE IT HULL APP**

FITNESS CLASS TIMETABLES / FITNESS CLASS BOOKINGS  
SWIMMING TIMETABLES / PURCHASE MEMBERSHIPS  
SPORTS HALL BOOKINGS / SESSION NOTIFICATIONS

TRY IT  
LOVE IT  
LIVE IT

Available to download for free from Google Play and Apple stores



# Fostering a culture of sustainability

## Exploring Environmental Issues

Our programmes often deal with key, current issues. Art, culture, sport, literature and learning can stimulate discussion and thinking but most importantly it helps people to understand the world they live in and how they can make changes to improve it.

## Art and Environmental Change Season

Inspired by the loan of Canaletto's Regatta on the Grand Canal from the Royal Collection. We dedicated a full season at The Ferens art gallery to exploring how art can evidence environmental change over the centuries, with a focus on our flooded histories and underwater futures.



## City of Water

City of Water drew on the Ferens' important maritime art collection, exploring Hull and East Yorkshire's relationship with the sea, highlighting 800 years of flooding in a region that exists below sea level at high tide. Maritime work and leisure, the move from sailing to steam, exploration and Empire, wrecks, and whaling were all explored as the Ferens' collection was reimagined, displayed as if underwater, raising issues around Hull's risky future and hopes of defence against the rising tides.



## Artist in residence

**Anna Brass** created an exciting new body of work, *Hinterland*, which was her response to the two Canaletto paintings of the Grand Canal featured in our Royal Collection partnership exhibition.



## Hull on the Rise

**60,054** visitors enjoyed this exhibition which was also part of the **Art and Environmental change season**. The exhibition was made up of newly commissioned artworks from Future Ferens members, and works by local artists inspired by Hull's maritime legacy and its history of flooding. The exhibition reflected personal reactions to local environmental disaster, and the role that art can play in shaping our vision for the future.

## Curious about climate

Our libraries make available validated printed and digital resources for residents of all ages to be able to satisfy their curiosity on this important subject. Arts and culture are a powerful means of asking those big questions that challenge society, providing a route into discussion and exploring new ideas – and a safe to space to join in the debate.

## The Stacks Intermittence

Artist Matt Fratson spent six months researching the Central Library collections to develop a body of work that reflected on our historical understanding of climate, memory, weather and childhood and explored our historical understanding of climate change, including the way we record, interpret, and understand climate shift.

Central Library hosted the first Humber Eco Fest a showcase of projects from green groups artists and community organisations, that included lectures, workshops and exhibitions.

# Our culture, our heritage, our city

Something for everyone - at the heart of our communities and animating the city

**Our venues are at their best when filled with people from this City exploring their heritage, having fun, being physically active, or learning something new. Culture and heritage are unique to each individual but connected and shared with others... we all need to feel we belong and feel able to share our stories.**

Our teams work in, and with communities to understand their needs and challenges. They work with them to explore and celebrate their culture and learn about that of others.

**We are custodians of the City's collections and assets, preserving and caring for them in perpetuity for future generations to enjoy.**



By collaborating with communities, we celebrate and reflect diverse stories and experiences through our events and engagement programmes, activities, permanent displays, and temporary exhibitions. Our Museums collections are Designated by DCMS and the History Centre is an accredited archive.

**Our world class collections and programmes underpin the culture and identity of our city, celebrating our history and heritage, and creating and sharing new stories and perspectives.**

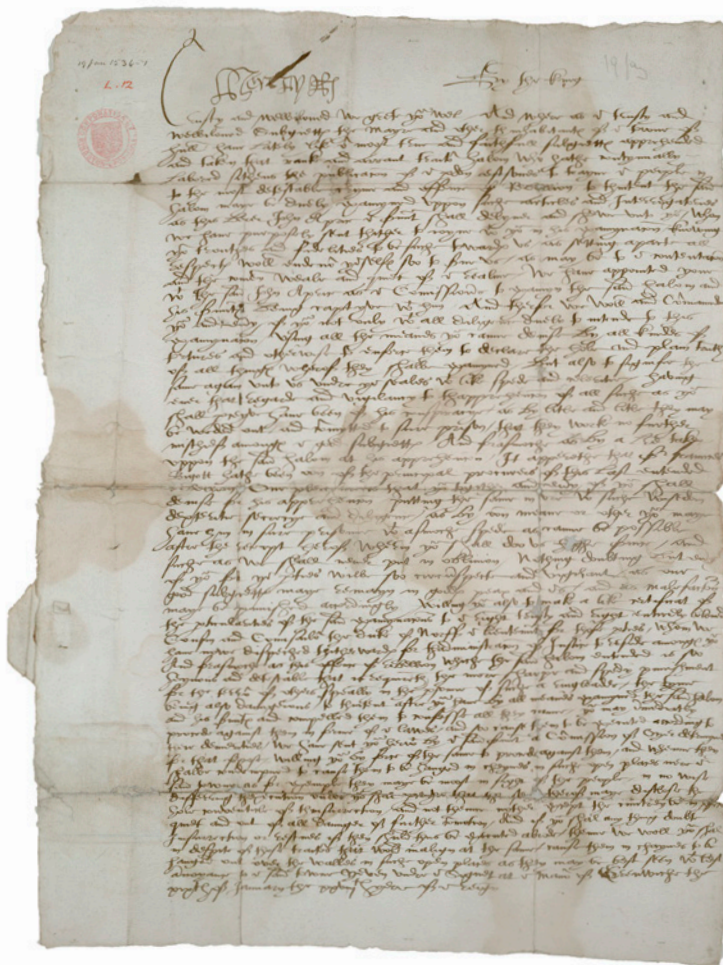


Our **History Centre** is home to Hull's collective memory. We care for the materials which record those memories, from Hull's charters to recorded minutes of the City's governance, and archives of Hull's well-known people and families. We provide excellent facilities for people to research independently, and we programme exhibitions and talks where people can learn from experts.

Over **700** enquiries were made from people all over the world seeking remote access to our collections, and advice from our expert staff. People are curious about where they live and their heritage, our remarkable **History Centre** team not only help satisfy the enquiries put to them, they also produce and publish articles of local interest in publications such as The Hull Story, in Blogs etc.

We made major investments to update the equipment used to care for our collections. For example, our Hanwell system was updated - allowing us to collect data 24/7 on the environmental conditions within the History Centre collection stores. The information collected enables us to monitor and evidence the environmental conditions in our display cases to secure and prepare for a loan from the National Archives in 2024.

We also invested in an overhead scanner which has provided us with the ability to produce high quality images easily and quickly. With conservation treatment, a document can often be made stable, however conservation repair is not always an option when the original material is too weak and brittle.



Signed letter from Henry VIII, 19 January 1537, authorising the Mayor of Hull to investigate John Hallam's attempt to seize the town, including the use of "all kinds of tortures."

Our collections at Hull History Centre continued to grow as we accepted the following archives:

- **Photographs relating to the Building Schools for the Future**
- **Music and oral history of Hull Folk Club**
- **Records of Ruddock & Sons wine merchants**
- **Photographs of Thornton Varley department store**
- **Methodist Church Hull West circuit records**
- **John Tickell, History of the Town and County of Kingston upon Hull (1796) in original 26 parts.**



Repair work done to stabilise the edges of the paper for future handling.

We continually seek to add to our digital offer, the History Centre secured a £3,000 grant from Townsweb Archiving to digitise records of Caribbean plantations prior to the passing of the Slavery Abolition Act in 1833, each giving us a glimpse into the lives of enslaved people. This project will have a significant impact on Britain's understanding of the stories of people who were enslaved as part of the Empire.



We celebrated Hull's uniqueness through our exhibition programmes such as:

**'We were there too'** - British Jews in WW1 was a national touring exhibition acknowledging the contribution of Hull's large Jewish community to the war effort 1914-19. Hull had one of the largest Jewish communities in Yorkshire for much of the 20th Century and the History Centre holds the archives of the community going back to the 1880.

**'Gaul 50'** was a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the loss of MT Gaul, which was an era-defining event for Hull and one that local people have a strong connection to. We contributed to the commemoration with an exhibition and a series of talks.

**Dettol 90** was an exhibition funded and curated by Reckitt Heritage celebrating this significant anniversary of the iconic world-changing disinfectant manufactured in Hull. The Reckitt Archivist gave a popular lunchtime talk and led two family craft activities.





Hull Central Library loaned **192** items from its back catalogue to other public libraries around the country.

## Sir James Reckitt: The Man and his legacy

In March 2024 it was the 100th anniversary of the death of Sir James Reckitt, a Victorian philanthropist who not only grew the successful Reckitt company but invested in the public good by fighting to establish Hull's public libraries, building good quality housing and green spaces for his employees and much more. Hull Libraries commissioned Mike Covell to research and tell the story of **Sir James Reckitt: The man and his legacy** in an exhibition and series of talks at the Central Library.

## Loans from our Collections

Hull History Centre, Hull Museums, The Ferens, and Hull Libraries hold nationally significant collections of materials that are often loaned to other venues across the UK, helping to raise the profile and awareness of our remarkable heritage and collections.

**Eight** works from the Ferens collection and **one** from Wilberforce House were loaned to eight venues across the UK, they included, "**The Seated Woman from the Ferens collection**" to the Chichester's Pallant House Gallery, Frans Hals "**Portrait of a Young Woman**" to the National Gallery and the long Term Loan from Wilberforce House to the Bishop Auckland Faith Museum of a bible from William Wilberforce's library. The Faith Museum has also paid for the book to be professionally conserved.





## Gypsies and Travellers in Hull

A new permanent gallery at Streetlife Museum opened in June 2023. It was developed in partnership with York Traveller's Trust and members of the local Gypsy and Traveller communities. Generous loans of items and family photographs from local communities and national online engagement produced a display and narrative showing that Gypsy and Traveller heritage is part of Hull's broader history. It emphasised the strong connections to horses and features a new life-sized replica piebald horse, painted to bespoke details provided by our partners.

Our partnership with York Traveller's Trust was vital to the project's success. Once engagement and trust began to build, it quickly became apparent just how proud people were of their heritage and how much they wanted to tell their story. In the evaluation the permanent nature of the gallery was repeatedly mentioned as being important to the community.

- **32 people attended the launch event, 30 of these being from the Gypsy and Traveller community.**
- **The project was winner of Hull City Council's Team Hull Award for Respect.**

## Inspiring curiosity

Inspiring children and satisfying their natural curiosity about where they live and the people who have lived there before them is a role we are committed to fulfilling through our libraries, museums, and the History Centre. Our museums created the Hull Curriculum and tours pop-up exhibitions and Museums In A Box to schools – **17** schools, **1,096** children benefited. And, our Schools Library Service loaned **1,672** Resource and Project boxes with artifacts and lesson plans on local heritage and other subjects.

All our venues hold school experience days, and we take sessions out to schools – **52,272** school children experienced a visit to a museum, library or gallery, or received a visit from one of our experts... sometimes with a special guest such as a writer or illustrator.

**22,848** people attended Museums Quarter events with our Victorian Christmas and Medieval themed Festival of Archaeology being by far the most popular - **98%** of people rated their visit as very good or good!





## Our venues are for everyone

We also celebrate our culture and heritage by inviting schools and other organisations to use our venues to add a sense of occasion to their events, for example over **20** local schools held their school sports day at Costello Stadium giving Children and Young People a full athletics meet experience.



Hull New Theatre hosted local dance schools to offer aspiring dancers the opportunity to grace the same stage as the Royal Ballet, Northern Ballet, and Matthew Bourne's New Adventures. And, local companies such as Hessle Theatre Company, Hull Philharmonic and Hull Music Service are also given the opportunity to use Hull New Theatre and Hull City Hall.

East Park is home to a 1920's Wicksteed Splash Boat, one of only two in the country that are still in working order.



We have four spectacular Victorian Parks, one of which, Pearson Park, has a stunning conservatory - also a beautiful wedding location.



We care for some of the City's most beautiful venues that have provided a backdrop for many key moments in the City's history... and we make them available for people of the City to create memories and celebrate their own key moments. For example, the stunning James Reckitt Reading Room at the Central Library makes a perfect backdrop for a wedding – six couples tied the knot there in 2023 - 2024.



# Our culture, our heritage, our city

Hull has a strong history of sport at the heart of its cultural life - our parks, leisure centres and swimming pools all play a key role in supporting and inspiring the next generation of sports people and Hull City Hall is always at the centre of celebrating the city's sporting successes.



Our Libraries team have been working with Arts Councils in schools, encouraging and building confidence for them to be involved in programming decisions for The Big Malarkey Festival and other cultural programmes.

## Culture is for everyone

The work we do to inspire and support grassroots cultural activity – from bowls to ballet and much more in between, is significant. Culture is for everyone, by everyone - for this reason we work with, and listen to residents to design services and opportunities that they will want to participate in.





## Hull Maritime

A superb example of collaboration, listening and understanding is the Hull Maritime project – Hull Culture and Leisure working with Hull City Council to create and deliver a multi-million pound investment to create a heritage-driven, transformational project drawing on Hull's unique spirit and sense of place. It aims to promote and protect Hull's incredible maritime history, architecture and collections.

Telling the story of Hull's remarkable journey as a global powerhouse for trade and cultural exchange, it will highlight the city's connections to the rest of the world through its role as a major port.



As well as securing the future of Hull's historic assets for us all, the project will also regenerate and re-connect the heart of the river Hull to its historic waterfront, the place where the city's maritime history began.

Our Teams are working with communities to share the story of this fabulous project and to engage residents in the final stages to create an appetite to visit Hull's new world class visitor attraction.





# What a year that was!

2023 – 2024 was an incredibly busy yet rewarding year for Hull Culture and Leisure. We have seen levels of business recover to pre-pandemic levels, and in many instances exceed them.

We produced outstanding shows, exhibitions, activities, learning opportunities and events.

And we continued to improve our business through the implementation of new IT systems and processes, and provided our staff with regular training, support and opportunities to contribute to our future plans.

Our teams welcomed **over 3 million visitors to our venues** – people who chose to visit because they love our offer, and we reached many more online and through our engagement work in other venues and open spaces.



## Welcoming Residents and Visitors

**3,127,850**  
through our doors.

**52,272**  
school children  
visited our venues.

**More than  
150,000**  
people attended  
events – excluding  
shows, exhibitions  
and formal classes.

**3,120,360**  
Online  
engagements





## Caring for and Nurturing the City's Treasures

**4,352**

Museum object records updated and made accessible.

Hull History Centre archived **all** official documents of Hull City Council.

**29** new collections of archive materials totalling **6.8 linear** metres.

**Two** historic library special collections were catalogued – Quaker and Background collections

Over **18,000** books & periodicals were purchased.

We now have over **57,000** e-book, e-audio, e-magazine and e-newspapers available to borrow.

**3,825** project, resource and class read collections loaned to schools.

**Two** Family History databases – Find My Past and Ancestry.com.

**Ten** General reference, business and consumer rights databases.

More than **260,000** books available to borrow.

Over **200,000** reference books and special collections are in store at the Central Library for anyone to consult.

We care for more than **1 million** museum objects

# What a year that was!

## Reaching *our* Potential

### Leisure

#### Two Green Flag Award winning sites

East and Pearson Parks were awarded the standard which recognises high quality, professionally managed parks.

#### Customer Service Excellence Award

Five criteria were assessed, they were customer insight, the culture of the organisation, information and access, delivery, and timeliness and quality of service. We achieved a magnificent 7 Compliance Plus standards.

### Funding

Hull Culture and Leisure funding is made up of **37%** from Hull City Council and **63%** from income and grants.

We secured **£1,827,000** in grant income.





## Museums

- **Museums Association, Museums Change Lives Award for Decolonising Museums:** Winner Wilberforce House Museum for our partnership work with the University of Hull and Wilberforce Advisory Board.



- **PraxisAuril Award for Supporting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion through Knowledge Exchange:** Winners at local and national level, University of Hull in partnership with Wilberforce House Museum 'Homelands: Engaging with Migrant Communities to Challenge Perceptions of Africa in the UK'.



- **Hull City Council Team Hull Awards, Respect Award:** Winner Streetlife Museum and York Traveller's Trust for their commitment to co-production and creating a new gallery increasing representation of Gypsies and Travellers' voice and experience within our displays and narratives.
- **Hull BID awards, Customer Service Excellence Award:** Hull Museums and Gallery Front of House team, for their commitment to making every visitor feel welcome.
- Museums & Gallery are **Visit England Quality Assured Visitor Attractions** and **White Badge Accredited Volunteer Tour Guides**.
- Museums collections are **designated by DCMS**.

## Libraries

- A **British Library accredited** Business and Intellectual Property Centre – one of 24 UK BIPCs.
- **Accredited by the Intellectual Property Office (IPO)** to provide information, advice and guidance.
- **An IPO accredited** Patent Library – one of 15 UK Patent libraries.
- Central Library is a **British Library Living Knowledge Network library**.
- The Big Malarkey Festival was shortlisted for the **Hull Bid Contribution to the Community Award**.
- Hull Central Library's Makerspace was awarded the **Hull Civic Society Good Mark**.

# Quotes

*"Not-so-hidden gem in Hull which rather shows why the city gained it's City of Culture status. Lovely collections of actually fantastic modern art mixed with some older pieces. Bigger than it looks from the outside. Well lit. Very friendly volunteers/staff. Definitely worth a stop if in the area - I'd argue for modern art this is actually almost on par with the TATE Modern in London - there were more pieces that actually related as a Northerner!"*

**BB, Ferens Art Gallery visitor, August 2024 (Google Review)**

*"Brilliant sports stadium, always events on during the summer..."*

**PV, Costello Sports Stadium User, June 2024 (Google Review)**

*"Fab! Really good, definitely couldn't replicate this in the classroom."*

**Y6 Teacher from St Vincent's VC Primary School (Hull Museums Victorian Experience)**

*"One prisoner, who has been in for decades, has repeatedly refused to engage. The Prison Library staff persisted and he eventually started to visit the library. He now visits regularly, his behaviour has improved dramatically. He is learning how to take care of himself and will soon move to an open prison."*

**Prison Librarian**

*"Absolutely amazing, we have been to see a few things lately, but Wizard of Oz & Shrek was fantastic, thoroughly loved them, the cast, set changes, the dragon in Shrek. wow she was an amazing singer, but they all was. Hull New Theatre is easy to find, parking bit of a nightmare. But the theatre is perfect, clean, easy to navigate, the staff are lovely and welcoming, we had food at theatre last time and was nice.*

*Highly recommend"*

**J Palm, Hull New Theatre audience member**



*"Honestly, it was like Club Med this morning. Fantastic experience. I have been to several lidos, such as Hathersage - which is always overcrowded - and Ilkley, which is beautiful but unheated, and Hull's new lido is world class imo. Wish this had been here when I was growing up in Hull."*

**P, Albert Avenue Pools user, August 2024  
(Google Review)**

*"Absolutely perfect. Both me and my wife, have been made to feel so welcome. What lovely friendly staff. We Would like to thank L, she has been so helpful and full of encouragement. Thankyou Ennerdale, thankyou L"*

**RB, August 2024  
(Google Review)**

*"Excellent exhibition of how life was back in the day old cars, Lorry's, trams, horse& carriage, penny farthing bicycle, and tons more to see and its "free" as are all museums in Hull."*

**VC, 2 months ago (Google Review)**

*Winning the James Reckitt Hull Children's Book Award is the single best thing to have happened to 'Little Horror'. Firefly Press is an independent publisher with a relatively small promotional budget and I doubt that any of the young readers of Hull would have encountered my book had it not been selected for the awards. As it turned out, I had the opportunity to visit several schools (both virtually and in person), reading from the book, giving talks and answering the children's questions. I hope that this was enjoyable for the pupils; it was certainly instructive for me as a debut author, as well as being a lot of fun.*

*I am hugely grateful to the Hull SLS team for noticing my book, for guiding me through the experience of working with schools and libraries in Hull and for a truly wonderful day at the Big Malarkey. As a final note, having the award on my CV is proving very useful in generating interest in my next book.*

**Daniel Peak, winner of the KS2  
JRHCBA 2023 with 'Little Horror'**

*"I think it's great to have a part of the museum dedicated to the traveller community who are underrepresented in our society. Thank you!"*

**Visitor to Gypsies  
and Travellers in Hull,  
Streetlife Museum.**



**Hull**  
City Council

Working in partnership

[www.hcandl.co.uk](http://www.hcandl.co.uk)