

Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund Projects

The Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund has awarded grants twice a year, since spring 2011 with the 2020 rounds amalgamated into one due to Covid 19. Below are summaries of the grants awarded to date.

Successful projects awarded July 2022

Brunel Museum, £62,046 for “Sophia’s Story: supporting young women in engineering”, a project to develop engagement with young women and girls both within and outside of school settings using a collection of engineering drawings.

Food Museum, £77,500 for “Re-thinking the Rural Life Museum”, a programme of creative collections engagement for young people and community groups using remote methods to democratise its collection of large objects.

Foundling Museum, £90,000 for “Curated with Care: a two-year programme of co-curation with care-experienced young people”. The project will work with graduates from their young care-leavers training programme in partnership with the National Gallery.

Manchester Museum, £80,000 for “Elder and Wiser: reimagining botanical exchange” an intergeneration project with young people in Manchester, older people in Manchester and Indigenous Noongar people in Australia using the museum’s botany collection.

National Holocaust Centre, £80,360 for “Sharing Their Testimonies” a project to test and evaluate ways to use Holocaust survivor recorded testimonies and associated artefacts to support primary and secondary schools to address racism.

New Forest Heritage, £80,000 for “Embroidered tales: hidden histories and silent voices of the New Forest”, a project working with members of local LGBTQ+ and Romani Communities to develop a haptic tactile version of the New Forest Embroidery incorporating new stories.

Tyne & Wear Archives and Museums, £90,000 for “Exchange; continue”, a programme of community consultation on social history collections of the Discovery Museum and South Shields Museum & Art Gallery to help devise a decolonisation strategy.

Whithorn Trust, £89,580 for “Whithorn ReBuild: re-envisioning the artisans behind the artefacts from Whithorn’s early architecture” a project to reveal the medieval artisans who

created today's archaeology collections and linking them with careers in heritage construction.

Successful projects awarded December 2021

Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, £89,915 for “Extinction Silences: exploring legacies of colonial violence and new ecological possibilities”, a project to develop a new model of collaborating with Bristol communities impacted by legacies of colonisation and young environmental activists, to examine silenced colonial histories of ecological crisis.

Dulwich Picture Gallery, £86,767 for “Community-led action research at Dulwich Picture Gallery: discovering new ways for Old Master paintings to connect and speak to contemporary society”, an action learning project to build connections with local communities to uncover key themes previously unexplored with the collection.

Dundee Industrial Heritage, £55,000 for “Creative Communities Network: A New Approach to Involving Communities in Interpretation and Collections Planning”. A project to create a network of partners to connect young people and people with disabilities with collections related to arctic exploration and work with them to feed into planning, development and delivery of a new Climate Change gallery.

National Museums Northern Ireland, £80,187, for “Global Voices Local Choices” to bring diverse cultures and perspectives into NI local and national museums, empowering people to make choices relating to World Cultures collections and how they are interpreted.

Royal Pavilion & Museums Trust, £50,000 for “Discovering our Dioramas: Understanding our natural world at the Booth Museum”, a project to address the challenge of climate change in the 21st century using a unique bird diorama collection and the work of 19th century collector Edward Booth

Salisbury Museum, £87,828 for “Fashioning Our World: exploring historic fashion to inspire a sustainable future”, a project to create a new model of working with young people to explore sustainability through historical fashion collections and share this model with the wider museum sector.

Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery, £90,000 over 24 months for “Readying our Collections, Engaging Audiences and Delivering Social Impact”, to use social prescribing to reduce loneliness and isolation through work with their archaeology and prehistory collections.

The Hunterian, £90,000 for “Power in this Place: Unfinished Conversations”, a project to embed anti-racist, participatory approaches that will create opportunities for engagement, debate and reflection that have positive impact on participants.

The Scottish Crannog Centre, £54,470 for “Engaging Vulnerable Women and Families in Perthshire with Prehistoric Pottery Collections”, to deliver a series of community engagement activities to vulnerable women and families inspired by the collections, and to co-curate with them.

UCL Culture, £63,780 for “Tutankhamun the Boy: Growing Up in Ancient Egypt” a project to facilitate child-led exploration of childhood at the ancient site of Amarna through the lens of childhood today both in modern Amarna and East London.

Successful projects awarded July 2021

Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, £90,000, for “Swansea Stories”, a project to use its collections relating to Swansea to create more truthful, inclusive “cultural memories” for the people of Swansea.

Hastings Museum & Art Gallery, £84,480 for “Democratising the collections for the 21st Century”, a project to develop a new model of working with communities to establish community participation in museum decision making. Participants will undertake a collections review and rationalisation, reinterpretation, and contemporary collecting.

Paxton Trust, £90,000 for “Parallel lives, worlds apart”, exploring historical slavery-related collections at Paxton House and connecting 21st century lives and African, Caribbean and other minority diaspora communities.

Seven Stories: The National Centre for Children’s Books, £89,815 for “Whose books are these anyway?”, using co-curation of their children’s literature collection to empower children and young people to interrogate and shape the landscape of children’s books.

St Paul’s Cathedral, £90,000 for “Challenging History”, a community engagement project bringing poly-vocal narratives to the interpretation of St Paul’s Cathedral’s monuments and imperial connections. It will build meaningful relationships with a wider and more diverse audience and enhance understanding of the collection.

Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust, £89,350 for “Once Upon a Planet” a project to use natural science collections to inspire, engage and advocate around the climate crisis through people-centred engagement, with a particular focus on young people and primary school aged children.

Wolverhampton Arts and Culture, £65,000 for “Living with Difference” a project using its contemporary Black Art and historic world collections to facilitate conversations around identity, home, belonging and heritage in a multicultural city.

Innovation and Engagement Fund 2020

Successful projects awarded December 2020

David Livingstone Birthplace, £84,800 for “Power Play: Exploring narratives of privilege and power through people, places and objects”, a project to work with local young people and members of the African diaspora in Scotland to explore the stories that make up the Livingstone narrative through a lens of 21st century issues.

Fitzwilliam Museum, £89,431 for “Working together to confront the legacies of empire”, a programme of work to confront the legacies of empire and enslavement within collections.

Mansfield Museum & Art Gallery, £89,680 for “Creative Women Together” a project to empower Women at Risk to take positive control of their lives through a programme of engagement with the painting, jewellery and ceramics collections.

Museum of Free Derry, £75,432 for “Museums and Conflict Legacy”, a project to develop a network of heritage and legacy institutions in the north of Ireland, and to help build capacity in those involved to look after and develop their own collections.

National Museums Liverpool, £88,000 for “House of Memories: Connecting with Yemeni Elders Heritage”, a digital community collections project, enabling young participants to capture, preserve and digitise familiar and untold community stories, traditions and culture linked to museum collections.

Waterside Arts, £56,600 for “Engaging With Animation” a project to share the Cosgrove Hall Films Archive with communities across Greater Manchester and beyond, to increase wellbeing, learn about heritage and develop animation skills through the collection.

Round 18: Successful projects awarded December 2019

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, £120,000 over 36 months for “The Valleys re-told”, a project to re-frame collections inspired by south-east Wales in partnership with museums and communities from the area challenging stereotypes around the landscape and people.

Fife Cultural Trust, £114,896 over 24 months for “Flooring the World – the Fife Linoleum Industry”, a project to review an internationally significant linoleum collection, engaging, involving and inspiring the people of Fife.

Museums Northumberland, £117,523 over 30 months for “From Femmer to Firmer”, a project working with communities to collect the stories of Northumberland supporting future collections work, community cohesion and placemaking.

National Justice Museum, £120,000 over 36 months for “Ingenuity, creativity and hope”, a project to share historic objects crafted by people in prison as a creative stimulus for rehabilitative activity and response.

Sunderland Culture, £114,516 over 24 months for “The People’s Pyrex: A celebration of glass to mark the 100th anniversary of Pyrex in Sunderland”. A project to unite the city’s glass collections and raise awareness of the importance of glassmaking in the city.

Round 17: Successful projects awarded June 2019

Hampshire Cultural Trust, £61,799 over 36 months for “On the Move!” – making new connections through Hampshire’s industrial collections to improve collections knowledge and storage and providing hands on volunteering opportunities for men affected by mental health issues.

Leeds Museums and Galleries, £115,799 over 36 months for “Dead Inspiring” a project to promote a women-in-science agenda using and developing the Designated entomology collections.

Museum of London, £119,995 over 36 months for “Listening to London: using oral histories to attract and involve different audiences in our new museum.” Exploring the oral history collection to find ways to involve and represent Londoners in the new West Smithfield site.

National Holocaust Centre, £70,117 over 12 months for “Stories of Survival” to create a unique Holocaust survivor testimony resource to inspire engagement and reflection amongst diverse audiences by fostering debate around prejudice and hatred and encouraging personal responsibility.

Rotherham Heritage Service, £93,370 over 18 months for “Our World: discover objects, explore stories and make connections” to use the World Cultures collection to diversify audiences, improve understanding of different cultures and develop a greater sense of belonging amongst local communities.

Royal Museums Greenwich, £119,999 over 24 months for “Migration, Heritage and Belonging: new collections perspectives” exploring the migration-related collections of Bristol Culture, Royal Museums Greenwich and Time and Tide Museum, Norfolk to better represent the diversity of migrant experiences.

University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge, £119,963 over 24 months for “Butterflies through time: Using wildlife of the past to guide conservation of the future”. To engage people with the natural world and environmental change, both past and present by linking historical collections with contemporary conservation initiatives.

Round 16: Successful projects awarded December 2018

Bridport Museums Trust, £101,100 over 36 months for “The Right Stuff - innovative community collections review and rationalisation at Bridport Museum”. A project to

formulate, deliver and share a collections review and disposal programme in partnership with their local communities.

Derbyshire County Council – Buxton Museum and Art Gallery, £120,000 over 18 months for “Revisiting 20th century acquisitions – uncovering truths and stories in the search for new audiences”. A project to undertake a detailed and thoughtful review and rationalisation of the Derbyshire and Derby Schools Library Service collection.

Dylan Thomas Centre, £118,850 over 36 months for ‘Blooming under the tall tales’. A project to imaginatively interpret the Dylan Thomas collection in order to engage a wider audience of young families through intercultural family learning activities on and off site, a volunteer programme, and training opportunities.

Glasgow Women’s Library, £119,868 over 24 months for “Lesbian Lives: Revealing Hidden Herstories”. A partnership project with Glasgow International (Festival of Visual Arts) to unlock the potential of the Lesbian Archive to improve representation, knowledge and interpretation of the history of Lesbian and Bisexual Women and Women who have Sex with Women (LBWSW).

Horniman Museum and Gardens, £120,000 over 36 months for ‘South London Music’. Developing new understandings of the Horniman’s Musical Instrument collection and South London’s digital and ephemeral music, with a particular focus on genres including Grime, R&B, Afrobeat and Soca, co-produced with Black and Ethnic Minority (BAME) musicians and communities.

Museums Worcestershire, £113,100 over 36 months for “A Glove Affair – Worcester’s hand in the global gloving industry.” A project to review their glove collection to create a community-based project that reconnects people to their past, promotes better understanding of the collection’s international significance and leaves a legacy of glove making in the county in which it once thrived.

Round 15: Successful projects awarded June 2018

Canterbury Museums and Galleries, £46,210, for a project to review the stored Art collection with volunteers who suffer from debilitating anxiety, to rediscover the collection, increase knowledge and make it more relevant and accessible to visitors whilst benefiting the volunteers’ mental health and developing team skills and experience.

Manchester Art Gallery, £103,000, for a project using Platt Hall gallery and its collections to test and develop a new sector leading model as the UK’s first fully user-generated museum.

Nuneaton Museum & Art Gallery, £119,711, for “Exploring Eliot”, an exploration of George Eliot’s relevance and significance today using internationally important collections. Exploring her radical life and the choices she made with local people, reflecting their concerns and experiences in order to contribute to their wellbeing.

The Whithorn Trust, £88,976, for “Questions of Life and Death. Whithorn Archaeological Cold Case” Unlocking the potential of Bone Collections for the understanding of Early Mediaeval Scotland.

Wisbech and Fenland Museum, £87,000, for 'Articles for Change' widening access to the Thomas Clarkson collection of 18th Century Anti - Slavery documents and artefacts, opening debate about issues of modern slavery in England, and in particular with the extensive migrant communities in the East of England today.

Round 14: Successful projects awarded November 2017

Cardiff Story Museum, £110,530, for ‘Cardiff’s Communities: Our City, Our Story, Our Museum’ Working with new and existing community partners to ensure the core collections is representative of Cardiff's cultural diversity and creating a team of ambassadors to link community and museum.

Cornwall Museums Partnership, £96,197, for ‘Citizen Curators’ to work with Accredited museum partners to deliver a work-based training programme for volunteers from the local community in modern curatorial practice and bringing together object to form a Cornish National Collection.

National Museums Scotland, £119,500, for Revealing Stories: Reviewing the Ancient Egypt and China, Japan and Korean collections to widen engagement with young people, BAME and individuals with additional support needs and create a partnership for Scottish Museums.

Parc Howard Museum, £103,350, for a project revealing the importance of the Llanelly Pottery collection making connections with new and diverse audiences.

Scottish Maritime Museum Trust, £120,000, to restore the Golden Orfe motor yacht and to use her as a floating exhibit, learning resource and oral history collecting point visiting coastal communities.

The Salisbury Museum, £115,360 for a project working with young people and the costume collection, rediscovering items hidden in storage and creating links between generations.

Round 13: Successful projects awarded June 2017

Doncaster Museum, £78,850, for a project building skills and raising aspirations in Doncaster's ex-mining communities using Doncaster Museums' mining collections to inspire intergenerational collaboration and encourage community cohesion.

Groundwork South Tyneside and Newcastle, £99,863, for 'A New Sun', Illuminating history, national identity and the modern world through the Jarrow-Wearmouth collection and the life and works of Bede, the father of English History.

Museum of East Anglian Life, £119,103, to research and identify items in the collection that tell the story of the spread of news and ideas and to take objects out to rural communities to share this knowledge, strengthen communities, reduce social isolation and build intergenerational relationships.

Pitt Rivers Museum, £119,912 for a project working with forced migrants to create community curators and guides to enhance the understanding and use of the Pitt Rivers and the Museum of the History of Science collections.

The Silk Heritage Trust, Macclesfield Museum, £71,100 for researching, documenting and redisplaying the museums' Jacquard and block printing collection and providing STEM learning opportunities for young people including digital coding and design.

Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums Development Trust, £117,732 for a project engaging diverse groups of girls and women to create a women's collection and festival which explores issues of gender inequality, with health and social care partners.

Round 12: Successful projects awarded December 2016

Cannon Hall Museum, Barnsley, £88,100, to engage new audiences, especially young people from deprived communities, with the ceramics collection, working with local technology companies and exploring its visual and tactile nature to create digital and sensory interpretation.

Blackpool Museum Project, £97,000, to enhance understanding and knowledge of the Blackpool Tower Circus Collection and develop a variety of engagement opportunities for audiences and professionals in education, health and social care as well as the circus community.

Essex County Council, £95,445, for 'Snapping the Stiletto', working in partnership with 11 museums in historic Essex to re-examine museum collections relating to the last 100 years from the perspective of women's history, and to deliver a touring exhibition and themed displays.

Derby Museums, £77,637, to work with BAME communities to explore how to use the World Collection to create a more inclusive museum relevant to peoples' lives today, drawing on the principles of Human-Centred Design.

Glasgow Museums, £52,748 to map, revisit and revitalise Glasgow's migrant community collections, supporting volunteer researchers and community curators from migrant backgrounds.

Ripon Museums, £67,500, to engage diverse audiences with the police collections of North and West Yorkshire over contemporary issues of policing and justice, in partnership with Bradford Police Museum

Round 11: Successful projects awarded in June 2016

Coleraine Museum, £77,150, to work with communities to explore the collection of Sam Henry (1878 – 1952) who chronicled local folk songs and culture and their accompanying stories; and to stimulate contemporary collecting.

Glenside Hospital Museum, £29,440, for 'Captured on paper: drawings of life in a mental hospital', to research and exhibit the works of Denis Reed (1917-1979), artist and patient, and use them to raise the profile of mental health museums, in partnership with The Mental Health Museum in Wakefield and Bethlem Museum of the Mind.

Inverness Museum and Art Gallery, £68,512, to research and promote its Highland decorative arts and Jacobite collection, share it with harder to reach audiences, and support other museums in the region.

Museum of Cambridge, £89,375, to connect Cambridgeshire museums, collections and communities through the folklore and oral history collection of Enid Porter, the museum's longest serving curator.

National Holocaust Centre and Museum, £64,500, to bring together Holocaust survivors and communities to capture testimony, shape long-term approaches to interpretation, and enrich its Journey exhibition for young visitors onsite and online.

Pontypridd Museum, £56,131, for 'Whose history is it anyway' to train the community to assess and co-create new interpretation for its social history collections.

Time and Tide Museum of Great Yarmouth Life, £90,500, for 'Sea History Differently', to conserve and interpret its significant boat collections, involving audiences in consultation, co-curation and work-based skills training, and to deliver exhibitions in Great Yarmouth and other venues in the East of England

Round Ten: Successful projects awarded in November 2015

Hackney Museum and Archives, £94,792, to research, document and share the photographic studio collection of R.A. Gibson 1952-79, working closely with local community members, connecting the memories of those photographed there with the collection, and developing heritage education and reminiscence resources.

Newry and Mourne Museum, £61,400, to enhance public knowledge and long term engagement with the museum's performing arts collection.

National Museums Liverpool, £96,910, to research, understand and share stories from collections relating to transatlantic slavery and its legacy, and black social history, and to test a model for working with community groups in Liverpool, Hull and London to care for and share collections held outside museums, involving a wide partnership of organisations including Bristol Museums Galleries and Archives and Anti-Slavery International.

The Research Centre for Museums and Galleries, University of Leicester, £86,415, to use natural heritage collections to support active and successful ageing – working with several museums in the North West Museums Partnership, and a wide range of third sector partners including Age UK, the Eden Project, and The Wildlife Trusts.

Museums Sheffield, £83,530, to research and share collections and ideas relating to protest and activism in Sheffield.

Tower Museum, Derry, £96,462, to engage audiences with the Peter Moloney and Conflict Textiles Collections and support dialogue about conflict resolution and reconciliation – in partnership with the Museum of Free Derry, Libraries NI and Ulster University.

Round Nine: Successful projects awarded in July 2015

De Morgan Foundation, £86,575 for a touring exhibition 'Sublime Symmetry: The Mathematical Devices Underpinning William De Morgan's Fantastical Ceramic Designs'.

Gawthorpe Textiles Collection, £92,540 to research, share and reinterpret the museum's collection using the context and beliefs of its collector.

Newman Brothers at the Coffin Works, £56,700 to research the industrial and social history of the collection relating to death, funerary rituals and mourning; and expand and diversify engagement with audiences.

Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery, £65,300 to research and conserve the museum's Leedsichthys fish as a gateway to the museum's internationally important Jurassic marine collection.

The Canal and River Trust, £85,000 to research the historic boat collection, plan for its future and use new technologies to increase meaningful access.

The Whitworth, £99,834 to conserve, research and share the Musgrave Kinley Outsider Art collection.

Round Eight: Successful projects awarded in November 2014

Bentley Priory Museum, £37,092 to increase access to the collection of predominately Battle of Britain artefacts, for online and physical visitors who are hearing impaired, deaf, partially sighted or blind. This will include digitisation and research of the collection, audio descriptions for both digital images of the collection online and for visitor tours and to create accessible guided tours.

Bruce Castle Museum, £90,000 to research, digitise and develop a public programme using a collection of early topographical and portrait photographs, focusing on collection of glass lantern slides and negatives. Training workshops, volunteering opportunities, 'guest curators', together with three artist-led all-day workshops, will be offered to young people in Tottenham and Haringey.

Cadbury Research Library, £94,468 for 'Spreading the Word' to research, document and run activities to share the Mingana Collection of Middle Eastern manuscripts. These include developing new services and resources for schools, community-based projects and pop-up photographic display for community libraries.

Museum of London, £90,000 for a major rationalisation of the museum's social and working history collection using creative methods of disposal. The project will include seminars and workshops to share learning with other museums.

National Mining Museum Scotland, £21,550 to preserve the museum's boilers and boiler house and explore options for its future use and interpretation, with community and stakeholder consultation events.

National Museums Liverpool in partnership with Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove, £91,830.50 'Pride and Prejudice' to research and reinterpret collections from a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) perspective.

National Museums Northern Ireland in partnership with Derry City Council Museums & Visitor Service, £92,073 to share the Arts Council Northern Ireland collections with local audiences in Derry through community-led initiatives, to include workshops with artists and development of touring exhibitions.

Round Seven: Successful projects awarded in June 2014

The Atkinson, £68,000 for 'Rediscovering Our Collections' to conserve and share the works on paper collection through courses, study days, workshops, lectures and exhibitions. The museum will work with communities and students from Southport College, volunteers, students and young people through digital engagement, national and international partners.

Birmingham Museums Trust, £84,500 for 'Science of the Staffordshire Hoard' to conserve and share knowledge of the hoard. In-depth analysis of materials to give greater understanding of Anglo-Saxon manufacturing techniques, with findings feeding into public programmes, for example Meet the Expert events, written resources available in galleries, blogs and vlogs.

Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, £84,600 to research, conserve, digitise and display the 'Age of Sail' Invincible collection, engaging with an inter-generational team of volunteers from the local community and the University of Kent, with a series of conservation workshops and dedicated online resource.

Leeds Museums and Galleries, £98,500 for 'Rethinking John Sell Cotman' a research and digitisation project to connect experts with collection of drawings, prints and watercolours. Planned partnership with University of Leeds to develop public study days and student internships, together with schools education sessions and work with community groups focusing on those with mental health challenges.

Royal Institution of Cornwall, £95,534 to develop the access, use and care of the museum's 60,000 item photographic collection which demonstrate some of the earliest photographic techniques, particularly those relating to underground photography in 19th century mines. Facilitating knowledge share between communities in Cornwall and abroad, training and supporting volunteers and establishing a series of community-based exhibitions.

Scarborough Museums Trust, £94,500 for 'Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside' to review and develop use of the seaside heritage collections in partnership with Whitby Museum, Filey Museum, Southend Museum Service and Turner Contemporary. To develop a touring exhibition for participating museums and an events programme to complement the exhibition to engage wider audiences.

Round Six: Successful projects awarded in November 2013

Chetham's Library, £45,000 to work with local historians, community groups and academics to research and digitise the Belle Vue collection and develop an online virtual exhibition.

Gainsborough's House, £58,000 to research the 18th century 'painting room' and Gainsborough's practice.

National Army Museum, £71,292 to research and digitise the Indian Army Collection, developing partnerships with British Indian communities, as part of world war one commemorations in 2014.

The Polar Museum, £99,386 to undertake research of museum's collection of material relating to the exploration and science of Antarctica and create an online catalogue, to coincide with the centenary of Shackleton's Endurance expedition in 2014.

Royal Armouries, £72,400 for an archives digitisation project to reveal the personal stories of the First World War.

Southend Museums Service, £50,000 for the sorting, conservation and interpretation of finds relating to the excavation of the HMS *London* shipwreck.

Round Five: Successful projects in June 2013

Fermanagh County Museum, £46,500 to develop 'Fermanagh: a story in a hundred objects' to research and share knowledge via a community of practice one hundred key items from Fermanagh's collection.

Glenside Hospital Museum, £53,000 for 'Postcards from a War Hospital 1915-19' to research, digitise and display collections relating to the Beaufort War Hospital.

Harris Museum and Art Gallery, £65,000 for 'Money Matters', a project working with the museum's coin collection to relate it to contemporary audiences, for example in discussing financial management with young visitors.

The Museum of Hartlepool and three partners, £62,000 for '999: What's Your Emergency' to review and share with audiences (online and integrated into displays) collections relating to the emergency services.

Shetland Museum and Archives, £26,800 to conduct in-depth research of a collection of taatit rugs, unique to Shetland. Results will be published online and incorporated into permanent displays.

Vestry House Museum, £80,000 to catalogue, rationalise and increase use of the museum's collections. Long term plans for the collection will be shaped by community interest as the project develops.

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, £67,000 for a year-long programme to use international partnerships to develop understanding and use of the museum's pop art collection.

Round Four: Successful projects in November 2012

Bristol Museums, £91,839 for conservation and digitisation of the Adela Breton collection of watercolours and tracings of ancient Mexican art.

Carisbrooke Castle Museum, £41,450 for review and plan for future use of the whole museum collection.

Fitzwilliam Museum, £100,000 for conservation science work on the illuminated manuscript collection. The manuscripts and the research resulting from their conservation will underpin the museum's bicentenary exhibition in 2016.

Monmouthshire Museums Service, £32,560 for 'What is Fashion', research into costume collections and their use in pop-up exhibitions and workshops with local social enterprise Vintage Vision.

Royal Air Force Museum, £64,000 to research WWI collections, provide online access and use the research to consult audiences on what to include in a new exhibition about WWI.

Royal Albert Memorial Museum, £36,825 to pilot a digital 'Collections Prospectus' to link priorities for collections research with the research agendas of academic and research institutions.

Tate Gallery, £60,000 to restore and develop a long-term strategy for the St Ives working studios of British modernist sculptor, Barbara Hepworth, and to share the results of their research across the museum sector.

Round Three: Successful projects in May 2012

Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales, £100,000, for 'Taxonomy and Taxidermy: Linking Natural Science Collections in Wales', a project to increase understanding and use of natural science collections in 20+ museums across Wales.

National Museums Scotland, £58,471, for 'Pacific Collections in Scottish Museums – unlocking their knowledge and potential', a collaborative project to share collections knowledge.

Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, £89,000, for 'Shine a Light', a project to research and increase access to large object collections.

Natural History Museum, £31,943, for 'Seaweed Collections Online: mobilising data from national and regional museums', a project to gather, analyse and share data on seaweed, with a focus on indicators of environmental change.

People's History Museum, £47,033, Uncovering Ideas Worth Fighting For', a partnership project to digitally link collections across the museum, the Labour History Archive and Working Class Movement Library.

Woodhorn Museum and Northumberland Archives, £63,000, for a programme of guest curatorships to research and interpret the collections.

Round Two: Successful projects in October 2011

Abingdon County Hall Museum, £23,346, to conserve, and develop the display and interpretation of, a mid-sixteenth-century tempera on parchment map of the Thames.

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Arts and Museums Service, £62,400, to research and develop use of Barnsley's archaeological collections to allow research of the collection in partnership with Sheffield University and add to skills sharing across the region for caring for archaeology collections.

Horniman Museum and Gardens, £50,450, to review the museum's natural history collections. Subject specialists and enthusiast groups will be brought together to identify and find significant specimens during a series of bioblitz workshops.

Kirklees Museums and Galleries, with Calderdale Museums, Wakefield Museums, Bradford Museums and Galleries, and Leeds Museums and Galleries were jointly awarded £72,768 to review and reinterpret the textile collections of the partner museum services and to create the West Yorkshire Textile Heritage Trail.

Museum nan Eilean and Archaeology Service (Western Isles), £85,000, to research the Udal archaeological collections and investigate potential for an Archaeological Resource Centre on North Uist.

The National Media Museum, £78,800, to research and develop the use of the Ray Harryhausen Collection.

Round One: Successful projects in May 2011

Museum of English Rural Life, University of Reading, £81,702, for 'A Sense of Place' a project to use collections information to build a series of innovative interpretive tools for use in the galleries and online. The aim is to turn the traditional museum catalogue into a more flexible and interactive resource.

Pitt Rivers Museum, £78,212, for 'Reel to Real' is a project to digitise the Museum's 20th sound collection which ranges from British children's songs to the sound of earth bows being used in the rainforests of central Africa. The project will work in partnership with the British Library and Oxford e-research centre and will find new uses for the collection to enhance visitor experience of galleries and museum events.

Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art (mima), £68,912, a project to put their fine and applied art collection online in order to facilitate loans. The project will recruit a registrar and conservator who will seek to create a business model for corporate loans and a conservation service that could be used by museums and artists in the region.

Paxton House, £56,700, for 'Threads of Power' a project which will conserve, research and develop the use of a unique 18th century costume collection.

Museum of the Manchester Regiment, £53,031, for 'Man behind the medal' a project to research the stories behind the medals on display. The stories will be brought to the public through new displays and a series of events.

Creswell Heritage Trust, £49,857, Creswell Crags is an Ice Age site that has been the focus of excavation work since the 1870s with the result that many of the objects excavated are spread across 40 different museum departments worldwide. This project seeks to create a searchable web portal for the Creswell Crags collection and archive.

Social History Curators Group, £26,000, to create a new and improved version of firstBASE, a web- based resource for all staff working with social history collections.