



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2022

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Updates

To inaugurate the 2022 - 2023 academic year, the University Museums Group is circulating this communication to update our members of developments within the Group and across our sector and to garner interest and participation in our upcoming events.

- **Introducing UMG Executive Assistant: Mary Mansfield**

I would like to introduce myself as the new executive assistant for UMG, stationed at the Ashmolean Museum (Oxford). My position is exclusively dedicated to working for the success of the Group in whatever capacities that may require. I am very eager to hear of any concerns which the Group would do well to address, and I look forward to working closely with you to support, facilitate and advocate for the vital functions of our university museums.

- **HEMG review announcement**

The Chair of the HEMG fund review has been announced and we are very happy to say that our one time member (and ex-chair of the UMG) Dr Nick Merriman has been appointed to chair the review.

There will be a call for panel members within the next week, with a deadline for applications in late November. Do keep an eye out for the release of further announcements concerning the review here. [Museums, Galleries and Collections Fund review: Chair appointed - UKRI](#)

- **VAT33A applications are now open**

The VAT Refund Scheme for museums and galleries is once again open for applications. Newly published guidance from DCMS can be found here: [Applying for the VAT Refund Scheme for museums and galleries - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Be aware that applications to the Scheme are due **3rd January 2023 at 5pm**.

Museums may direct any enquiries they have about the Scheme to vat33a@dcms.gov.uk

It is also worth highlighting this list of university museums that are not currently on the order that are believed to already meet the eligibility criteria for the Scheme. These museums are further encouraged to apply:

- Durham University Museum of Archaeology
- Museum of Classical Archaeology, University of Cambridge
- Museum of Design in Plastics
- New Hall Art Collection at Murray Edwards College
- Research and Cultural Collections, University of Birmingham
- University of Salford Art Collection

o **DCMS Energy survey**

The Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) established the Energy Bills Relief Scheme to support businesses through the autumn and winter. The scheme runs for six months, and after three months BEIS will be publishing a review of where further support may be needed after that ends, focusing on vulnerable sectors.

To assess the vulnerability of the sector, DCMS will be issuing a survey on energy to sector organisations to complete. In order for responses to feed into BEIS' work, the questionnaire has a short deadline, closing on **27th October**.

What DCMS is looking for is a general indication of the vulnerability of the sector, as well as specific issues and concerns that they need to be aware of.

It is probable that you have already received this call, but the object of this update is to put together as far as possible a joint/coordinated response from our sector.

We are collaborating with other sector organisations (AIM, NMDC, MA) to submit a single high-level response and will be meeting on **Monday next week (October 17th) at 1pm** to discuss. Forgive the short deadline but please email Xa <xa.sturgis@ashmus.ox.ac.uk> if you have any points you would like us to feed into this conversation. If you cannot make this deadline please send comments to Kathryn Simpson <kathryn.simpson@nationalmuseums.org.uk> by **Monday, 24th October**.

Institutional responses for museums that have the capacity to do so are encouraged in order to demonstrate the wealth of activity in the sector.

2022 AGM

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held virtually on **Tuesday, 29th November at 2.30pm**, via Zoom and preceded by presentations of sector case studies on University Museums' responses to the climate emergency (see call for papers below).

More information and invitation will follow but please save the date in your diary and we very much hope to see you there.

If you have any suggestions for additions to the Meeting's agenda, please get in touch so we have time to add them.

There is also a vacancy on the Committee left by Caroline McDonald with Kate Dunton (UEA) standing for nomination from co-option.

Networking Events

- **University Museums and Climate and Ecological Emergency Breakdown : Submission call**

UMG is making a formal call for presentations for a virtual networking event immediately preceding the AGM on **Tuesday, 29th November at 1pm**, surrounding the theme of the state of emergency in climate and ecological breakdown with a focus on how university museums are responding.

If you have a recent case study on this topic to share that will inspire your peers, share learning, and provoke discussion, please fill out the form linked below.

We are looking for short and informal presentations of no more than 10 slides that share examples of recent and innovative climate conscious and ecologically driven practice within the university museums sector.

Projects can be of varying scales and can be either completed or in-progress.

Each presentation will last around 10 minutes and there will be additional time for Q/A.

The deadline for submissions is **Tuesday, 8th November, at 5pm**. The panel will then review submissions and applicants will be notified of the results the week of 15th November.

Please fill out the form linked below to submit your proposal:

<https://forms.gle/97kPh6jofE3EfD4V9>

- **Spring Conference at Manchester Museum : Heads Up**

UMG will be gathering at Manchester Museum in **Spring 2023** (late March - mid April) to celebrate the reopening of the Museum and to hold a conference with a keynote speaker, providing a platform for open discussion and to strengthen the visibility and resources of the network community of university museums across the UK. Further details will be forthcoming as the date approaches.

Contact Information:

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