

Key facts

- There are over 2,500 museums in the UK, in cities, towns and villages, providing creative inspiration, education, social mobility, health and wellbeing, economic growth and civic pride.
- 89% of UK adults think museums are important to UK culture and three quarters (76%) of UK adults think museums should receive at least half of their funding from government.
- Two thirds (63%) of museums in 2024 are concerned about funding shortfalls, which has increased from half in 2022. Museums need a 10 – 20% increase in funding just to stabilise.

Scan the QR code to read this year's Museum Directors Research results

Visitors to Shakespeare's Birthplace
© Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

Policy proposals for government:

Sustainable Funding

- An enquiry into regional museum funding to address regional disparities and equity of public access.
- Promote philanthropy through tax incentives.
- Ensure a robust arm's length principle for public funding and board appointments.

Public Access to Collections

- Protect free entry to the UK's national museums and publicly owned collections.
- Introduce a Museum Collections Bill (as recommended by the Law Commission) to enable museums to continue to share rich heritage by managing their collections more effectively.
- Expand central and national governments acquisition and commissioning funds to promote a diversity of collecting and enable museums to share their collections more widely.

Cultural Education

- Ensure every schoolchild experiences a visit to a museum or gallery every year, within the national curriculum.
- Put engagement with museum collections at the heart of inspiring communities and young people to protect biodiversity and tackle the climate crisis.

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Art Fund_