



#HarrisYourPlace

Every day, almost 1000 people like you, from all walks of life, visit the Grade I listed Harris Museum, Art Gallery & Library in Preston - just as our Victorian founders hoped they would.

But after 125 years of daily use, the Harris is tired.

Our communities have told us what they want – Preston's hidden collections on show, new spaces for you to enjoy, more opportunities for you to be inspired, and for the Harris to be *their* place. And here for the others who need it too - forever.

Now, we have a one in 100 year opportunity to make the Harris uniquely special again – for everyone. We'll create a cultural and community hub for Preston and Lancashire.

We're re-imagining the Harris – and we need your help.

With this £10.7million project we will create:

- A better welcome for more people – another 100,000 annually, taking our visitor numbers up to 460,000 per year - with a re-opened entrance plus welcome area, additional stairs, lift, lockers and toilets including a Changing Places toilet.
- A richer visitor experience with displays blending fine art, glass, ceramics, textiles, history, books and contemporary art, showing off the best of Preston - and our links with the rest of the world. About 10% of the collection will be on show at any one time (currently 3%) including objects which have previously only been available to researchers, like the remarkable historic book collection which is of national importance. There will also be better access for you to collections behind the scenes. Our unique approach will blend a community-led focus with the expertise of our curators.
- Inspiration for Lancashire's communities, including artists and creatives, with better opportunities to imagine, create and get involved. Our key beneficiaries will include families, young people (local residents, students and graduates), local people in need, artists and creatives, the BAME community, Deaf and disabled people and Preston businesses. Our architect, James Hibbert, said, '**nothing is too good for the people of Preston,**' and we agree.

- Support for our local economy with a new café and shop, a dynamic hive of activity on the ground floor plus improved facilities to attract meetings, events, corporate partners and many more tourists. Our offer will encourage young people to learn through culture, helping to boost the next generation of creative workers – contributing to Preston’s critical creative sector. Nationally this is by far the fastest growing in the economy (8% annually), worth over £100bn a year, contributes £23bn in gross value added and pays tax worth £5 for every £1 of investment. **As we recover from Covid-19, this work is even more urgent.**

All of this in a beautifully refurbished historic building, with newly-repaired stonework, roof and windows, fit for the next 100 years of Lancashire weather.

Fundraising Plan

Our project has £3.7 million funding in place already from local sources. It has achieved round one support and development funding from **National Lottery Heritage Fund** and **Arts Council England** and we are now progressing a full £4.5 million application which we will submit in November 2020.

We need a further £2.3million to make #HarrisYourPlace happen. This will come from a range of sources, including donations from our visitors and supporters, local businesses and charities and large scale trusts and foundations.

Further Information

Please contact Hilary Machell at h.machell@preston.gov.uk
Find out more and see the latest #HarrisYourPlace news [here](#).

the HARRIS



CITY DEAL

Preston, South Ribble & Lancashire



Preston
City Council



Supported using public funding by
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