



Re-imagining the Harris - #HarrisYourPlace

Every day, almost 1000 people, 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 to enjoy, more opportunities 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 £10.5million project we will create:

- A better welcome for more people – another 100,000 each year, taking our visitor numbers up to 460,000 per year - with a re-opened entrance and additional stairs/lift replacing 1960s fire exit stairs, welcome area, lockers and toilets/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 nationally important historic book collection. There will also be better access for everyone 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, with better opportunities to imagine, create and get involved. Our beneficiaries will include families, young people (local residents, students and graduates), local people in need, artists and creatives, people of African, Caribbean, Asian and South Asian heritage, D/deaf and disabled people, people who identify as LGBTQ+ 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 Grade I listed building which sparkles, with newly-repaired stonework, roof and windows, fit for the next 100 years of Lancashire weather.

Fundraising Plan

Our project has over £4 million funding in place already from local sources as well as the support of **Arts Council England**. We will submit our round two application to **National Lottery Heritage Fund** for £4.5million in November 2020. Your support will help ensure lottery money comes to Preston instead of being spent elsewhere in the country.

Further Information

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

Thank you to all of our supporters:



And many, many members of the public like you who have made donations so far

Friends of the Harris Registered Charity No. 503726