People’s History Museum

04/03/2010

Friday 5 March sees the official opening of the People’s History Museum in Manchester with the Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP. The museum is a unique centre which explores many of the world-changing ideas fought for by the working people of Britain and charts the history of democracy from the early 18th-century to date.

The museum's extensive £12.5 million re-development project has been supported by a £7.18 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), with £2 million from the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) and additional funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Dr Nick Mansfield, Director of the People’s History Museum said: “The stories behind the rights we take for granted - time off, the vote, social security, the NHS - deserve to be celebrated, and we’re delighted to represent the history of the working people of Britain in such an incredible new space, alongside our beautifully restored former home in the city’s Edwardian Pump House. We’re incredibly grateful to all of our supporters and look forward to welcoming visitors to see our amazing collection and new exhibitions programme.”

Dr Robert Bewley, Director of Operations at the Heritage Lottery Fund, said: "The People’s History Museum does exactly what it says on the tin! For over thirty years it has championed stories charting two centuries-worth of ongoing struggle for democracy and social justice in Britain. The Heritage Lottery Fund is delighted to have played a role in safeguarding the future of this wonderful museum, enabling it to build a four-storey extension as well as create an innovative and far-reaching education programme."

Steven Broomhead, Chief Executive of the NWDA, said: “We have many fantastic museums across the Northwest and the revitalised People’s History Museum can rightfully take its place amongst the best. It’s a unique, world-class attraction which will draw more people to the region and help cement our reputation as a leading cultural destination.”

The museum opened the doors to visitors on Saturday 13 February for previews. Since then over five thousand visitors have been through the doors emerging enthralled by the real life stories and precious historical objects they have seen.

Notes to editors

The People’s History Museum is an independent charity. It is accredited as a national museum by Museums, Libraries and Archives and was awarded designated status by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, which recognises the museum as having pre-eminent collections of national importance.

The £12.5 million re-development of the museum has been funded by a variety of organisations - £7.18 million by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), £2 million from the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA), £2 million from Manchester City Council (MCC), and with additional support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Unite, Clothworkers’ Foundation, Professional Footballer’s Association (PFA), Allied London, Department of Work and Pensions and DCMS/Wolfson Foundation.

Further information

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