V&A’s Exhibition Road project awarded grant

08/10/2013

The V&A’s Exhibition Road development will create a new purpose-built underground gallery for the museum’s internationally renowned exhibitions, a magnificent courtyard space and a new entrance from the recently landscaped Exhibition Road on the west side of the museum.

The V&A has already secured over £30million towards the £42million total from donations by the Monument Trust; the Dr Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation; the Headley Trust; the Garfield Weston Foundation and other donors.

Martin Roth, V&A Director, said: “We are delighted to have been given this support from HLF for the Exhibition Road Project. It is an essential development for the future of the V&A which will transform the way we present our major exhibitions as well as how we welcome our increasing number of visitors. The HLF grant takes us another large step towards delivering this important project.”

Sue Bowers, Head of HLF London, said: “This visionary project will transform the V&A’s entrance on Exhibition Road by creating a new public courtyard and exhibition space in one of London’s foremost cultural quarters. We have been impressed with the quality of this project and are pleased to be awarding a grant for plans which will be enjoyed by visitors from around the world.”

The V&A’s Exhibition Road scheme, designed by AL_A, will transform previously inaccessible back-of-house space into an open courtyard for installations, events and a café, and will create a new relationship between the heart of the V&A and the rest of the reinvigorated cultural quarter known as ‘Albertopolis’. The V&A is currently enjoying more visitors than ever before and the project is vital to sustain increasing audience numbers.

The large, uninterrupted major exhibition space will allow the V&A significantly to improve the way it designs and presents its world class exhibition programme. The project will also reveal the beautiful Victorian facades on the west side of the V&A’s Grade 1 listed buildings which have been restored to their former glory but never before been on public view.

AL_A won the international competition to design the project in March 2011 and have since been progressing the design. Planning permission was awarded by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in July 2012. Enabling work to divert services within the site was completed in June. Work to temporarily to remove the Aston Webb screen to allow access for building is underway. The main construction work is due to start in early 2014 and complete by the end of 2016, opening to the public in 2017.

Further information

V&A press office: Olivia Colling on 0207 942 2725 or email o.colling@vam.ac.uk.