

The Guildhall, where one of the exhibitions will take place

The project, called Leicester's Magna Carta 800, will tell the story of the city's links with the Magna Carta and the impact of the document through to the present day.

The project is a joint venture between the Leicester Civic Society and Leicester City Council's arts and museums service. It will coincide with the milestone anniversary in June 2015.

Project staff and volunteers will be researching the subject and creating an exhibition that will be hosted at the Guildhall before touring around the city. As well as this, there will be an exhibition in Leicester market recognising Magna Carta's role in introducing standardised weights and measures to the country. There will also be a programme of exciting events, talks and walks and new pages on the Story of Leicester website.

Commenting on the award, Stuart Bailey, Chair of Leicester Civic Society, said: "We are delighted to be involved in a project to celebrate this Magna Carta anniversary and will be highlighting Leicester's connection to the document. The society is very grateful for the support of the council's arts and museums service and the award from the Heritage Lottery Fund."

Cllr Piara Singh Clair, assistant city mayor responsible for culture, leisure and sport, said: "I'm very pleased we have been able to support Leicester Civic Society in their bid for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

“It is wonderful that we in Leicester will be joining in the celebrations as the nation marks this important anniversary for the ‘Great Charter’.

“Since 1215, this document played a role in shaping the lives of people not only in this country, but in many other nations around the world, as the principles of the document have been used as a basis for many countries when shaping their constitutions.

“We look forward to working with Leicester Civic Society to produce exciting exhibitions and events for people to participate in.”

Vanessa Harbar, Head of HLF East Midlands, noted: “The signing of the Magna Carta was one of the most pivotal moments in our country’s history. This 800th anniversary is a time to reflect on its continuing importance for us today. That’s why the Heritage Lottery Fund is helping to empower communities to explore, research and share what this document means to their area and the country 800 years on. We can’t wait to see the results in Leicester.”

The project will begin work in March and the exhibitions will open in June.

Notes to editors

About the Leicester Civic Society

Leicester Civic Society was established to promote interest in Leicester’s heritage, particularly the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the city. The society holds a regular events programme including lectures and guided walks. Currently the society has 350 members.

Further information

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