

Date Approved: 27 June 2024
Associate Director (Culture & Collections), Library Services

Review Date: Annually by Theatre Collection

Renewal Date: June 2029

Theatre Collection: Exhibition Programming Policy

Policy Statement

We will showcase the collections and encourage access to them so they can be used for the purposes of inspiration and enjoyment as well as research, teaching and learning. We will enable and encourage the public to engage with the Collection through a variety of methods which offer routes to deepening knowledge. This will primarily be through on-site exhibitions but also loans for off-site exhibitions. We will publicise these exhibitions through our website, social media and other digital platforms.

The Theatre Collection complies with the University of Bristol [Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Statement](#) and endeavours to champion representation. Therefore, we will endeavour to promote the work and voices of under-represented bodies, and to ensure that our exhibition content and subject matter is more representative and inclusive.

- We will deliver new, well presented and relevant exhibitions and events to our audiences and will hold a minimum of two temporary exhibitions on site per year.
- We will publicise and market our exhibitions and facilities to the widest possible relevant audience and, to facilitate attendance, we will programme exhibition previews out of hours.
- We will loan out material or supply digital surrogates to other accredited museums and approved venues whenever possible or feasible, in order to enable wider audiences to engage with our collections.

Context

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Access and Learning Policy, Research Policy, Care & Conservation Policy, Care and Conservation Plan, Documentation Procedural Manual and the current Forward Plan.

1. On-site exhibitions

- 1.1 The Theatre Collection (TC) intends to hold a minimum of two on-site exhibitions per year. During the period of COVID-19, the TC began creating online exhibitions to secure the safety of its staff and visitors, according to the University of Bristol, government and PHE guidelines. This process has been continued to enable wider access to our [exhibitions](#).
- 1.2 All TC exhibitions will be free and open to the public.
- 1.3 The TC will encourage the use of the Collection as a catalyst for creative re-use. In order to encourage this, it will endeavour to programme a 'works inspired by the collection' or related exhibition at least every 5 years. This does not preclude smaller one-off installations on an ad-hoc basis.
- 1.4 In order to increase and widen the audience it attracts, the TC will plan some exhibitions to tie in with events and activities that have a wider appeal or profile e.g. national and local anniversaries, projects or other thematic tie-ins.
- 1.5 The TC will work with the University to programme exhibitions that link in with research and teaching activities. For example, this may be exhibitions related to particular research projects, student-curated exhibitions as part of taught courses (such as the MA History of Art 'Curating the Collection' unit), Independent Study units, or themes that tie in with other University activities.
- 1.6 The TC will programme exhibition openings and related events to target the most appropriate range of users. Consideration will always be given to out of hours previews and/or other events to maximise the reach of the exhibition.

2. New accessions

- 2.1 The TC will use exhibitions (as well as other publicity) to raise user awareness of new accessions.
- 2.2 When appropriate, the TC will work with donors to publicise recent acquisitions through related exhibitions and events in order to generate wider interest in those collections.

3. Partnership working and loans

- 3.1 Whenever possible and practical to do so, the TC will work with partners, including those from the Higher Education and Cultural and Creative sectors to develop, co-curate and otherwise contribute to new exhibitions. These may be on TC premises or elsewhere.

- 3.2 Wherever possible the TC will respond positively to loan requests from museums and other organisations meeting the appropriate requirements for use in temporary exhibitions. It will give due consideration for loans for other purposes.
- 3.3 The TC will increase its online presence in the hope of raising awareness and will endeavour to encourage more museums to borrow items from us for use in exhibitions and/or co-curated exhibitions. We will explore the best method of publicising, promoting and managing this in a sustainable way.
- 3.4 All loans will be considered in line with our Care and Conservation Policy and Access and Learning Policy.