

## About Arts Council England

### The Arts Council

Arts Council England (ACE) champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries - from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better.

Between 2015 and 2018, we will invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and an estimated £700 million from the National Lottery to help create art and culture experiences for everyone, everywhere.

### About the organisation

ACE is a registered charity, and was established by Royal Charter on 1 April 1994, taking over those responsibilities in England previously discharged by the Arts Council of Great Britain.

The objectives of ACE as stated in the Royal Charter, its governing document, are to develop and improve the knowledge, understanding and practice of the arts and to increase accessibility of the arts to the public. To this end, it makes grants to arts organisations and engages in other activities on behalf of the sector.

ACE works at arm's length from Government and has the status of a non-departmental public body. As such it is regulated in accordance with a Management Agreement issued by the Secretary of State.

ACE receives grant-in-aid from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and is one of the bodies designated to distribute funds from the National Lottery by the National Lottery etc. Act 1993 (as amended by the National Lottery Act 1998).

### Collections and Cultural Property

The Government Indemnity Scheme (GIS) is managed within the Collections and Cultural Property team at ACE. The Collections and Cultural Property Team (CCP) works in tandem with the museum team and the library team at ACE and the archives development team at The National Archives to support the museum, library and archive sectors. ACE manages a range of responsibilities which support the cultural sector in securing, preserving and enabling access to collections held in museums, archives, libraries and other heritage bodies.

The CCP Team is also responsible for a number of strategic initiatives for collections such as the Designation Scheme, PRISM, Museum Accreditation, subject specialist networks and the ACE/V&A Purchase Fund, as well as performing a variety of statutory functions including the Government Indemnity Scheme, Export Licensing, Reviewing Committee, Acceptance in Lieu and the Cultural Gifts Scheme.

### The Government Indemnity Scheme

GIS allows the public access to objects within the UK which might not otherwise be available, by providing borrowers with an alternative to the considerable cost of commercial insurance. It means that a museum, gallery, archive or library can arrange to borrow objects from UK non-national institutions and private lenders and institutions in UK and Abroad and in the event of loss or damage, compensation will be paid to the owner by the Government.