

Since 2011 The [Happy Museum](#) (HM) has brought together thinking around well-being and sustainability, shedding light on how this conjunction might offer the key to providing a more resilient future and investigating the particular role that museums and culture have to play. In the four years since its inception HM has:

- Funded creative interventions in 22 museums (including London Transport, Derby Silk Mill, Lightbox, Beaney House, Reading, Chiltern Outdoor, Cinema, Imperial War and Manchester Museums) creating individual development and organisational change.
- Undertaken evaluation using the Story of Change taking learning from creative interventions and research to develop a set of common Principles (below).
- Created a suite of case studies, tools and resources for use by the wider sector and shared learning through events and symposia bringing the UK museum sector together with think tanks, NGOs and academia eg New Economics Foundation (NEF) and Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT).
- Developed complementary HMP activity in Wales and Scotland supported by funding from CyMAL and the emergent Cantie Museums in Scotland with the backing of Museums and Galleries Scotland.
- Commissioned a ground-breaking piece of econometric research in 2013 with Daniel Fujiwara of the LSE [Museums and Happiness – the Value of Participating in Museums and the Arts](#) measuring the value of museums to people’s happiness. Developed a major new research programme - the [LIFE survey](#), to explore how museums create well-being, and how significant that well-being is.
- Has international reach with the HM team presenting papers across UK, Europe, to Australia, the US and soon to Brazil.

The Happy Museum Principles

- Create the Conditions for Wellbeing
- Value the environment and be a steward of the future as well as the past
- Pursue Mutual Relationships
- Be Active Citizens
- Learn for Resilience
- Measure What Matters

What next – a 5-year plan

HM is one year into a 5-year programme at the completion of we intend to disband. The programme aims to make Well-being and Sustainability as familiar and relevant to museum thinking as Learning and Participation. A key part of the programme is an depth 5-year study working with a small group of museums including Manchester, Derby, Beaney House in Canterbury, Lightbox, Woking, Woodhorn and Ceredigion.

We are delighted to have received funding for the period 2015/6 from the ACE Museum Resilience Fund to take forward the first year of this activity, working in partnership with [People United](#). For more information see www.happymuseumproject.org or follow us on twitter at [@happymuseum](#)