

**PRESS RELEASE****Leighton House Museum awarded £337,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant for final phase of redevelopment**

- **Viscount Linley announced as Patron of Leighton House Museum and 18 Stafford Terrace**
- **Sir David Verey CBE announced as Chairman of the Friends of Leighton House and Fundraising Campaign**

Leighton House Museum, the former home and studio of eminent Victorian artist and President of the Royal Academy Frederic, Lord Leighton (1830-1896) has been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant of £337,000 towards the planning and development of the final phase of its restoration programme.

In 2010 the major restoration of Leighton House Museum was completed to bring the historic house back to its original glory, recreating the exotic interiors that Leighton devised and furnishing them as he intended. Following this award-winning project, the museum will now embark on a third and final phase concentrating on the extensions added to the east end of the building, first in the late 1920s and then in the mid-1950s, long after Leighton's death. The support from National Lottery players will allow the museum to begin detailed planning and development of a scheme that will transform all aspects of the visitor experience. Public areas will be increased by over a third with new facilities created including an additional exhibition gallery, new learning and interpretation spaces and the restoration of the original fabric of the building lost within the later extensions.

The Friends of Leighton House will play a leading role in fundraising for the project with Sir David Verey CBE agreeing to become Chair and Lady Verey as Vice Chair. Sir David is a former Chairman of the Trustees of the Tate and the Art Fund and is currently the Lead non-Executive Director at the Department of Culture Media and Sport and a member of the Council of the British Council. He was knighted in the 2015 New Year Honours for services to arts philanthropy. Sir David brings a wealth of experience to the role, and as a local resident together with Lady Verey, has had a long-term interest in Leighton House Museum.

To mark the beginning of this new chapter in the history of the museum, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is honoured to announce Viscount Linley as Patron of Leighton House Museum and its sister museum 18 Stafford Terrace. Viscount Linley is Honorary Chairman for Christie's in Europe, the Middle East, Russia and India and as a leading furniture maker has a keen interest in



the history of interior design. He is the great-great-grandson of Edward Linley Sambourne who lived at 18 Stafford Terrace from 1875. Together with Leighton House, 18 Stafford Terrace, is now owned and operated by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and is preserved as a unique example of a Victorian artistic interior.

**Councillor Timothy Coleridge, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Cabinet Member with responsibility for Arts** said: “The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is thrilled to receive a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the planning and redevelopment of Leighton House Museum. Our ambition is to secure a long term future for the museum and allow greater access and enjoyment of this special place for residents of the Royal Borough and visitors from all over the world. We are equally delighted that Viscount Linley has agreed to become our Patron and look forward to working with both him and Sir David Verey as we enter this exciting phase in the history of our two museums.”

**Viscount Linley, Patron of Leighton House Museum and 18 Stafford Terrace** said: “I have always admired the extraordinary interiors of Leighton House and those at 18 Stafford Terrace created by my ancestor Edward Linley Sambourne and his family. I am delighted to have accepted the position of Patron of these two special places and look forward to supporting the exciting plans for their future as they unfold.”

**Sir David Verey, Chair of the Friends of Leighton House** said: “I am thrilled to have been appointed Chair of the Friends of Leighton House. This is a small yet world-class museum whose collection and calendar of exhibitions tell the unique story of a great British artist and his contemporaries. I look forward to being involved in the museum’s final phase of restoration. With the Design Museum opening just three minutes’ walk from Leighton House, the timing could not be better as a new cultural quarter begins to emerge in Kensington.”

**Daniel Robbins, Senior Curator at Leighton House Museum** said: “We are delighted to receive the funding from HLF towards the planning of this vital project. With the interiors of the house restored, we need to provide our growing number of visitors with the facilities and amenities expected of a modern day museum. Once the project has been completed, we will be able to showcase much more of our collection and tell the full story of the Holland Park Circle, the unique group of studio-houses that surround the museum.”

**Stuart Holey, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund for London** said: "Leighton House Museum is truly a remarkable gem in the heart of London; an eclectic mix of grand Victorian life, art and passion. And now, thanks to National Lottery player's, this historic house will begin its final phase of transformation, offering the public greater facilities and more details on the treasures within."

The delivery of this final redevelopment phase will follow major exhibitions *Flaming June: The Making of an Icon* (4 November 2016 – 2 April 2017) and *Alma-Tadema: At Home in Antiquity* (7 July – 29 October 2017).

– Ends –

**For further information and images please contact:**

Charlotte Sluter at SUTTON | T: 0207 183 3577 | E: [charlottes@suttonpr.com](mailto:charlottes@suttonpr.com)

**EXHIBITION LISTINGS**

**Exhibition:** *Flaming June: The Making of an Icon*

**Dates:** 4 November 2016 – 2 April 2017

**Exhibition:** *Alma-Tadema: At Home in Antiquity*

**Dates:** 7 July – 29 October 2017

**Venue:** Leighton House Museum, 12 Holland Park Rd, London, W14 8LZ

**Times:** Open daily except Tuesdays, 10am - 5.30pm

**Website:** [www.leightonhouse.co.uk](http://www.leightonhouse.co.uk)

**Tel:** 020 7602 3316

**Twitter:** [@RBKCLEightonH](https://twitter.com/RBKCLEightonH)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/LeightonHouse](https://www.facebook.com/LeightonHouse)

**NOTES TO EDITOR**

**About Leighton House Museum**

Located on the edge of Holland Park in Kensington, Leighton House Museum is one of the most remarkable buildings of the 19th century. Owned and operated by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, the house was the former home and studio of the leading Victorian artist, Frederic, Lord Leighton (1830-1896). The house was built to his precise requirements combining studio space with domestic accommodation and entertaining space. Originally constructed on a modest basis, it grew to become a 'private palace of art' visited by many of the great artists of the day and regarded as one of the architectural sights of London.

The Arab Hall, designed to display Leighton's priceless collection of over a thousand Islamic tiles, is the centrepiece of the house. A compelling vision of the Orient is created through the Islamic tiles, mostly brought back from Damascus in Syria, combined with the gold mosaicked interior, marble columns and golden dome. The opulence continues through the richly decorated interiors, adorned with elaborate mosaic floors and walls lined with peacock blue tiles by the ceramic artist William De Morgan. On the first floor, the grand painting studio with its great north window, dome and apse is the room in which all Leighton's important later works were produced, including the celebrated *Flaming June*. Also on the first floor, the Silk Room displays paintings by Leighton's friends and contemporaries. The house was restored to great acclaim between 2008-10, winning an RIBA award and a Europa Nostra award.



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Leighton rose to become the President of the Royal Academy in 1878 and the pre-eminent classical painter of his age. He remains the only British artist to have been raised to the peerage, becoming Baron Leighton of Stretton just before he died. He was buried in St Paul's Cathedral amidst great ceremony.

**About Heritage Lottery Fund**

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife.

[www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk) @heritagelottery @HLFLondon

**About 18 Stafford Terrace**

From 1875, 18 Stafford Terrace was the home of Punch cartoonist Edward Linley Sambourne, his wife Marion, their two children and their live-in servants. The house gives an insight into the personal lives of the Sambourne family, and also provides a rare example of what was known as an 'Aesthetic interior' or 'House Beautiful' style. The Aesthetic Movement of the late nineteenth century advocated the use of foreign or 'exotic' influences in the decoration of the home. This can be seen by the various Japanese, Middle-Eastern and Chinese objects throughout the Sambournes' home.

After the deaths of Linley and Marion Sambourne, the house was preserved by their descendants. In 1980 it was opened to the public by The Victorian Society. This organisation had been inaugurated at 18 Stafford Terrace in 1958 by the Sambourne's grand-daughter, Anne, 6th Countess of Rosse. In 1989, its ownership passed to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Despite the passage of time, the house remains extraordinarily intact as a unique surviving example of a London townhouse of this period.

[www.rbkc.gov.uk/subsites/museums/18staffordterrace1.aspx](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/subsites/museums/18staffordterrace1.aspx)

