

GARDEN MUSEUM

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT 2019 – 2020

The Garden Museum is the only Museum in Britain dedicated to the history, design and making of gardens. It is also unique as a centre of horticultural and environmental education in the centre of London: we have built the only facility in which school-children of all ages can grow, dissect and study plants in a Learning Space set within a site of Biodiversity.

It is also one of the very few Museums which exist without public funding or a founder's Endowment, and its programme of exclusive and creative venue hire is vital to that work. Our ideal venue hire client supports our work in education and horticulture.

Design

The Museum has been fashioned out of a ruined medieval church, in an award-winning design based on the Swiss technology of 'cross-laminated timber'. The wooden structure has been assembled from pieces of wood joined by wooden pegs, not glue, and the wood is from a sustainable and coppiced forest. (Key fact: The wood has replaced the timber used for this project in less than 4 hours!) Its engineering technology has also enabled its construction without foundations, this avoiding disturbing the archaeology of a church founded in 1054.

The extension has been built for education, and our cafe. It is built of CLT, clad in bronze, and was one of the first buildings to meet Lambeth Council's ambitious target for a 40% reduction in carbon emissions. Solar panels on the roof of The Clore Space supply a surplus energy to the grid. It is also an admired fusion of architecture and planting, within a site designated by Lambeth Council as of special biodiversity value owing to the richness of vegetation we have planted in what was once a derelict graveyard.

Key fact: Lambeth Palace has more beehives (18) than any garden in London. But the bees need more flowers which we're happy to provide.

Garden Museum
5 Lambeth Palace Road
London SE1 7LB
020 7401 8865
gardenmuseum.org.uk

The Garden Museum is a
Registered Charity No. 1088221
and a Company Limited by
Guarantee No. 1413661
Registered in England and Wales
VAT No. 778479161

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Programming

The Museum is a national collection and archive but also has a programme of schools and community learning. Our Head of Learning encourages students to compost whilst they attend workshops at the museum. Within a radius of 2.5 miles are over 150 schools, and in 2019 our Learning Team of three will welcome over 5,000 people. We've just been given a special award for our work with older people suffering from dementia and run regular workshops on Clay for Dementia.

We are the first Museum to have a programme dedicated to food, and in the two years since we have opened Ceri Jones has hosted over 150 events in our kitchen. Partnerships range from a training entre for the blind, to collaboration with our local GP on tasty but nutritious cooking for people diagnosed with Type II Diabetes.

During our redevelopments, we invested in building a Learning Classroom that has solar panels on the roof in an attempt to renew energy.

We do not have an onsite car park as we sit in the centre of London with numerous options for public transportation and have also built a cycle park at the museum encouraging staff to cycle to work if they can.

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Key fact: In 2007 we had one school visit. In the first half of 2019 we had 52.

New Initiatives

The Museum has always been innovative; after all, we're the first Garden Museum in the world. We set up the first Traineeship for Sustainability in Museums in 2010, and won a national trainee award; we're currently hosting a programme for florists wishing to stop using plastic foam in displays and aim to be the first major London venue to be 'foam free' by May 2020. We host British Flowers Week, celebrating flowers grown on British farms and not air-freighted ('grown, not flown'), opened by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall in 2018.

Our next capital project is put together seven sites adjacent to the Museum into a new park called 'Lambeth Green' which will include a cutting garden for florists and a medicinal garden made with local families. We are also participating in Mayor Sadiq's 'Healthy Streets' campaign in the re-design of the traffic roundabout at Lambeth Bridge to be the city's first 'green junction' with grass and shrubs in place of paving stones.

The Garden Museum exists on its site because it was here that John Tradescant, Britain's first great gardener, happened to be buried in 1638. We are proud to be a green oasis in the centre of a vibrant modern city.

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