

Report by the [REDACTED] UCL Culture

**Summary:** This report updates the Committee on activity within the Engagement team Nov 2019 – Feb 2020

**Action proposed to the Committee:** To note the report

**Author/Proponent:** [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

## **1. Update on Aim 1: Enable UCL to become a global leader in listening to communities and engaging with public groups**

1.1 Work is progressing well on the development of the UCL Public and Community Engagement Strategy 2020-2027 in close collaboration with the members of the CHMC Public Engagement Subcommittee. The [REDACTED] circulated a revised draft strategy to subcommittee members before Christmas alongside specific questions for Faculty consultation and response by end Jan 2020. The subcommittee met on 25 February for a half day workshop to a) review the feedback on the draft strategy b) stop and check that the draft strategy is keeping a pace with societal and sectoral change c) Explore how we can collectively maximise the chances of the strategy driving ongoing change. The workshop was also attended by [REDACTED] (UKRI [REDACTED] [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] NCCPE and [REDACTED], member of the UKRI Public Engagement team.

1.2 UCL Culture's Engagement team has co-commissioned with the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) a piece of research designed to deliver a snapshot of national and international HEI sectoral public engagement practice and strategy. The research is structured around three areas examining how national and international HEIs are:

- developing a strong institutional narrative for public and community engagement?
- embedding and transforming engagement practice
- resourcing engagement activity (both staffing and programme delivery).

The two outputs – a report aimed at senior HEI leaders and a resource pack aimed at public engagement professionals – will be published after Easter.

1.2 Office for Students funding for Student Engagement in Knowledge Exchange:

The Engagement team are Co-Investigators on a £980k research bid led by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in the Institute of Education aims under the Office for Students' Student Engagement in Knowledge Exchange grant. The bid aims to demonstrate and evaluate effective practice in student

engagement in KE activities to assess their economic and social benefits to individual students and to external partners and communities. If successful, the Engagement Team's Evaluation Exchange will form one of four evaluated UCL initiatives (two of which jointly with University of Manchester - UoM) where students participate in KE. The four sub-projects vary in scale and objectives, but in each case will be scaled up to include a larger and more diverse range of students and external partners, and improved through the adoption of new pedagogic approaches. These four sub-projects include:

- **Developing Knowledge Exchange & VSO capacity – The Evaluation Exchange** ( UCL Culture);
- **Developing Community Research Engagement – Community Research Initiative for Students (CRIS)** (Volunteering Unit, UCL Student Union);
- **Developing PhD Student Entrepreneurs** (Entrepreneurship UCL Innovation and Enterprise; led in UoM by [REDACTED], [REDACTED]);
- **Student Engagement in Public Policy** (led by [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], with Public Policy, OVPR, leading in UCL).

## 2. **Update on Aim 2: Champion a culture of public engagement across UCL**

2. 1 Nominations for Provost's Public Engagement Awards Received: This year new Award Categories were introduced that better aligned with the existing UCL Public & Community Engagement and UCL's distinctive take on engagement. This allows the Awards to recognise activities and projects which have a focus on **collaborative** models of engagement, **respond** and involve diverse public groups, particularly those whose voices are heard less often and also have a spirit of **experimentation** from which learning can emerge. We expected around 20-30 nominations due to the change in structure but our expectations were exceeded and we received 40 nominations for 37 different projects.

School where UCL nominee was based	Number of nominations
BEAMS	15
SLMS	12
SLASH	5
IOE	4
Shared	1

Award Category	Number of nominations
Respond	23

Collaboration	14
Experimentation	10

The Awards Panel met and made decision for the three main Award Categories. More details will be provided in the next update. The panel included:

(Chair)	
(East)	

2.2 The UCL Centre for Co-production in Health Research: The Centre is continuing to develop, now in the fourth of five years of Wellcome Trust ISSF3 funding (ending in September 2021). We held a Value Proposition and Business Development workshop in February and are now working on refining the strategy and associated fundraising plan for the Centre. We are actively pursuing a number of external and internal fundraising routes (including a conversation with St John's Ambulance).

2.3 Community Engaged Learning Service (CELS): Using the £8,400 HEIF KEIF funding secured in autumn 2019, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] continues to develop and embed the Community Engaged Learning Service (CELS) across all of UCL. New resources, recognised as sector-leading nationally by the NCCPE, are being developed as a result of creative workshops involving community partners and other professional services across UCL. [REDACTED] is also moving to the next phase for CELS which involves co-creating a curriculum design framework for UCL. The first few stages of this process have taken place, which involved recruiting 11 student ambassadors (including two from the UCL Changemakers programmes who brought their own funding) and nine community partners.

### 3 Update on Aim 3: Enable the UCL community to be effective in public engagement activity

### 3.1 Planning for flagship training happening in next quarter.

Public Engagement Managers (PEMS), [REDACTED], are leading on Train & Engage (T&E) and Public Engagement: Skills & Practice (PE:SP) respectively. These are funded through

Organisational Development (OD) Doctoral Skills Development Programme and the Research Staff Development Programme. Delivery for both these training programmes include professional services from across the University, including members of the RICS team alongside Impact and Public Engagement professionals from faculty level. PE:SP in particular has been developed to be entirely modular so academics can fit their training around their schedules and PE needs, and also blend with the online Public Engagement training that will be soon available on UCL eXtend.

3.2 Faculty Focus: The Faculty Focus continues to develop a strategic approach to conversations, support and advice at a departmental and faculty level across the university. This academic year 79 objectives have been completed across seven faculties. Some outputs from this approach include departmental training in the Mullard Space Science Laboratory, three departmental talks on Engagement, support given on five different PE funding applications and one fellowship application, contributions to UCL-wide Impact guidelines, multiple connections made to the work of the UCL Culture Public Programming team, and numerous sign-ups for additional core training.

#### **4 Update on Aim 4: Put UCL at the centre of London conversations, creating London-wide impact and being a good neighbour**

4.1 The Evaluation Team are continuing to solidify their relationship with Camden Council on a number of evaluation activities. In July 2019, Camden held the UK's first Citizens' Assembly on the climate crisis. Over three sessions, Assembly members considered evidence from climate scientists, environmentalists and community energy practitioners, before developing their proposals on how Camden should address the climate crisis. The Assembly proposals will inform a new Climate Action Plan for Camden which will be published in 2020. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] completed as a commission for Camden Council an independent review of the Citizens' Assembly: [UCL Evaluation of Camden Council's Citizens' Assembly on the Climate Crisis](#). [REDACTED] has been asked to sit on the Expert Advisory Board for the forthcoming Integrated Health and Care Citizens' Assembly and is in discussions about the possibility of undertaking another commissioned evaluation.

4.2 **The Community Engagement Seed Fund** launched its second round this year. The fund, piloted last year with academics from the Future Living Institute, has been opened up to welcome applications from any staff and students connected with UCL East. Its purpose is to initiate, develop, or further explore relationships between UCL staff and students and representatives from east London communities. The deadline for applications is Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February, and we expect to fund five projects at up to £4,000. One final project from last year's seed fund cohort has just completed;

the Slade ran a week long taster course in Art & Making in February half term for young people in east London.

4.3 Trellis: Growing Community University Partnerships: **Trellis 2** has launched to great success, 150 artists and almost 50 research staff & students have applied to be part of the project. We have carried out one of three match-making events (which will be complete by the end of March) and partnerships will have until the middle April to apply for small funding (£2,000) to further explore their ideas. One of the **Trellis networking** events (Bartlett Real Estate Institute) has developed the initial relationships established and has gone on to develop an online networking hub for the built environment. The online hub will connect Voluntary Community Sector organisations with academic and professional resources, advice, guidance, pro bono support – centred on improving our built surroundings for social good.

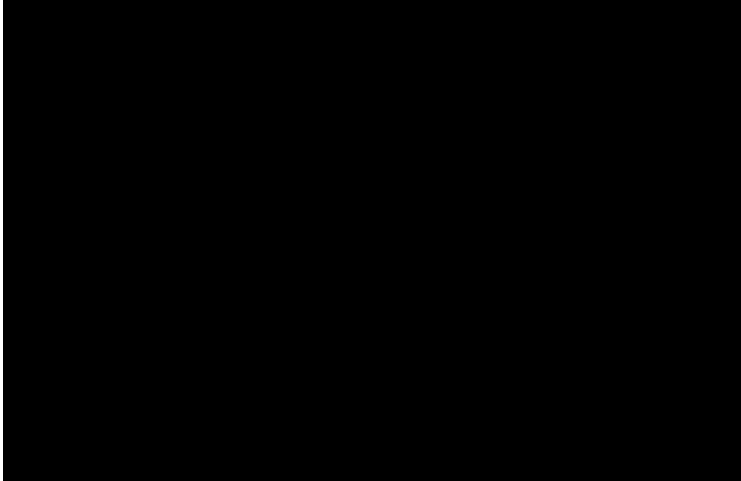
4.4 Other **Trellis networking** events have also led to exciting activity. The Design Computation Lab (Bartlett School of Architecture) are building a temporary community building in April in Hackney Wick with their partners, New City College, Studio Wayne McGregor, Hackney Dudes (a social drop-in for older men) and Hackney Council. This space will further develop the principles explored in the initial network and build closer relationships. Researchers from CASA have been working with Forest Gate Community Arts to embed CASA developed technology in a local oral history map of the area, and have been busy populating the map with stories from local people.

4.5 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

4.6 The **Drawn Together** project, a collaboration between UCL Culture Public Art, the Community Engagement team with [REDACTED] from the Slade, has undertaken two ‘conversations’ between UCL academics and east London communities. The intention is this will be a much larger project, allowing us to capture the research and teaching at UCL and the knowledge and expertise outside of the institution, by capturing conversations that highlight this two way knowledge exchange. These drawings will be turned into metal plate etchings, and [REDACTED] is exploring with [REDACTED] how this may be showcased in the new building

4.7 Schools Engagement Team: Our East Museums & Schools programme has worked with 12 schools and nearly 500 young people in the four Olympic boroughs as part of the third year of our

bio-robotics (see image below), printmaking, and creating aspirations, projects.



4.8 The team continues to work more widely with the East Bank community by presenting at the Creative Schools Symposium for local schools and cultural organisation, and within UCL, by cocreating with UCL's Community Engaged Learning Service a guide for academics who plan to work with schools. The Schools Engagement team is running a weekly art club in our partner primary school, William Tyndale Primary, between January-March and its programme of History outreach teaching with objects in primary schools is ongoing. The team has supported the Petrie entrance redevelopment by collating feedback from teachers and redesigning our Petrie teachers' pack.

Report from t [REDACTED], UCL Culture

**Summary:** This report covers highlights from the Museums and Cultural Programmes team within UCL Culture between November 2019 and February 2020.

**Action proposed to the Committee:** To note the report

**Author/Proponent:** [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

## 1. Directorate update

1.1 The Heads of Collections have been making good progress in recruiting members for the Advisory Committees for each of the collections. The Student Union have also been approached so that there can be undergraduate and postgraduate representatives on these and the CHMC Sub Committees.

1.2 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].

## 2. Petrie Collection: [REDACTED]

2.1 **DCMS Wolfson ‘Petrie Gateway’ project:** The work focuses on two key strands:

### 2.1.1 **Improving physical access to the collection which involved:**

- Access audit
- Access training for staff and volunteers
- Improved signage to the museum
- Improved threshold experience from the stairs entrance as well as the accessible entry route
- 3D replica handling objects for visually impaired people and schools
- Planned: braille exhibition text
- Large print exhibition text
- Arabic exhibition text and booklet
- iPads for visitor use to access the AR Smart Lighting app
- New digital touchscreen to provide public access to the catalogue during museum visits

### 2.1.2 **Improving intellectual access to the collection**

- New entrance gallery with displays that focus on key messages: why is this collection here? Who brought it here? What was it brought here for and how do we use it now?
- Stories of key individuals associated with the museum are given prominence. These stories reference more women than men, and include three Egyptians and one Sudanese person.
- Association of Flinders Petrie with eugenics movement has been acknowledged within permanent display text
- New app content

- Updated selection of books for adults and children for public to read within the galleries

## **2.2 Teaching Highlights:**

- 2.2.1 [REDACTED] gave a lecture for IoA postgraduate conservation students on the subject of collections care in practice.
- 2.2.2 Additional sessions for IoA courses were run by [REDACTED], including Collections Curatorship and Museum Archaeology, including ones in OBLL
- 2.2.3 [REDACTED] supports IoA Student projects focusing on object studies
- 2.2.4 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] hosted two large groups of students led by [REDACTED] as part of the new IoE module, 'The Worlds of UCL: Critical histories of education, nation and empire'.

## **2.3 Exhibitions and loans**

- 2.3.1 Two upcoming international loans both due to start in April this year:
  - Marseilles then Lisbon to 2021, 'Pharaoh Superstars'
  - Budapest, Amenhotep II

## **2.4 Collaboration**

- 2.4.1 Hosted a lecture from Basem Gehad, an Egyptian archaeologist based at Cairo University, at the Museum in December 2019. We also hosted the Egypt Exploration Fund book launch for 'Who's Who in Egyptology'.
- 2.4.2 [REDACTED] has contributed to the update of the UK guidance 'Standards in the Care of Archaeological Collections'. She has also participated in a pilot archaeology curatorship mentoring project led by the Society for Museum Archaeology, supporting Windsor Museum.



Petrie Museum entrance gallery before works © Oliver Siddons



Inscriptions aisle decanted before works began © Frances Potts



The entrance gallery before installation ©Frances Potts



### **3. Zoology and Science Collections:**

#### **3.1 Exhibitions**

- Extended *Displays of Power: A Natural History of Empire* exhibition in the Grant Museum to run for a full year to September 2020
- Five tours for museum professionals interested in our decolonizing work
- Curatorial support for development of associated events including *Snakes and Ladders*, a giant immersive game in the Grant Museum exploring privilege

**3.2 Friend's consultation:** [REDACTED] is working with *Impact Fundraising* on the redevelopment of the Grant Museum Friend's Scheme including analysis, benchmarking and consultation, aiming to create an engaged supporter group and sustainable income.

**3.3 Bentham move:** involvement in the Jeremy Bentham move project, included developing interpretation, research to support planning application, consultation with Bentham project, working with Collections Management to complete move and press and marketing support.

#### **3.4 Object based learning lab**

- [REDACTED] worked with the collections management team to move the science collections out of storage and into the OBL, including auditing, documentation and accessioning.
- [REDACTED] curated and wrote interpretation for two displays on the Noel Collection and the Galton Collection

#### **3.5 Collections**

- The physical environment of the Pathology Museum has been a challenge recently. The team have worked with Collections Management to deal with 8 recorded leaks and a major flood.
- [REDACTED] audited over 300 locations in the Pathology Museum, and the Collections Management team updated locations for specimens in store 1.
- [REDACTED] attended HTA conference 2019 and submitted HTA compliance update

#### **3.6 Research and teaching**

- The team answered 147 research enquiries and hosted 79 research visits from Oct to end Jan.
- The collections have been used for 109 teaching sessions involving 2430 students and 1388 objects from Oct to end Jan. Teaching has included a wide range of departments, input into new courses, student research projects and training a new [REDACTED] in zoology teaching
- [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] spoke at Launch of UCL Centre for Integrative Encouraging cross-disciplinary use of the science and zoology collections and connecting with UCL colleagues working on anatomy.

#### **3.7 Student Experience**

- [REDACTED] worked with student from model making degree at Arts University Bournemouth to develop a new donations box at the Grant Museum
- [REDACTED] organised UCL Anatomy Society student 'Anatomy and Art for Lonely Hearts' drawing event
- [REDACTED] was interviewed for UCL Office of the Vice-Provost (Education and Student Affairs) introduction to UCL film for new students

- The team helped to develop and featured in a UCL STS undergraduate film project about the Displays of Power exhibition: <https://youtu.be/As3vGRGkRUI>

### 3.8 Conferences & Networks

- [REDACTED] was a speaker at 'Drawing on Life: Natural History Illustration' Art Science Nature Seminar Series, British Art Network 'Beyond Beauty: The Science Behind Natural History Models'

## 4. UCL Art Collection: [REDACTED]

### 4.1 Access & research highlights:

#### 4.1.1 UCL

- [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

#### 4.1.2 Non UCL

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

### 4.2 Collections:

- Cultural Gift – Addition to the Bindman Collection – a supplement to the 2016 Cultural Gift.. Andrew Edmunds (Andrew Edmunds Gallery), renowned specialist of British visual satire and Hogarth – independent assessment of the gift.
- Approx. 100 prints from the 2016 Cultural Gift accessioned, documented, digitised.

### 4.3 Student experience:

- Time, Media, Revolution: Art and Politics in France, 1789-1871, History of Art, HART0156 students create pop-up displays during visiting hours with presentations.
- Student led research projects tied to module in Cultural and Historical Geography.

### 4.4 Teaching:

- Time, Media, Revolution: Art and Politics in France, 1789-1871, History of Art, HART0156
- Science, Art and Philosophy, Science & Technology Studies HPSC0111 & HSPC0059,
- Histories and Cultures of the Nordic Region, Scandinavian Studies, SCAN0011/SCAN0012

### 4.5 Exhibitions & Loans:

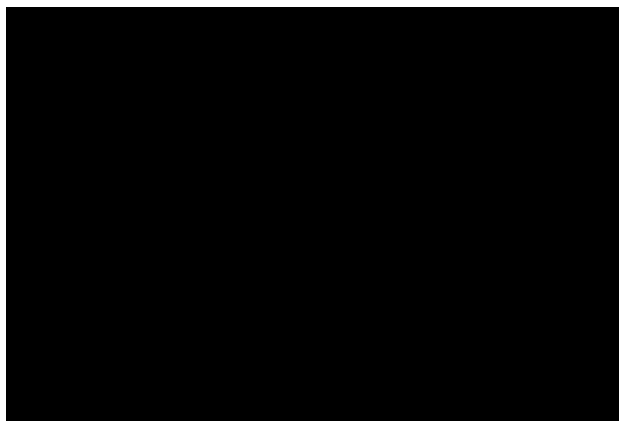
- **Witnessing Terror: French Revolutionary Prints, 1792-94** opened. 84 guests at the PV. Collaboration with the research continues – in the form of events. See images.

### 4.6 Conferences/Networks:

- Nina Pearlman, *Curating Equality: Strategies for disrupting collections' narratives*, British Art Network, *Research and the Museum Ecosystem*, National Museum Wales on 19 March 2020.

#### **4.7 Awards:**

- UCL Art Museum has been nominated for the [UMAC Award](#) for [Curating Equality](#). Nomination noted 'collaborative leadership', 'vision', 'production of new knowledge', 'interdisciplinary approach', 'timeliness and relevance' and 'transferability'.



Time, Media, Revolution: Art and Politics in France, 1789-1871, History of Art, HART0156 students pop-up displays during visiting hours. Photo: [REDACTED]



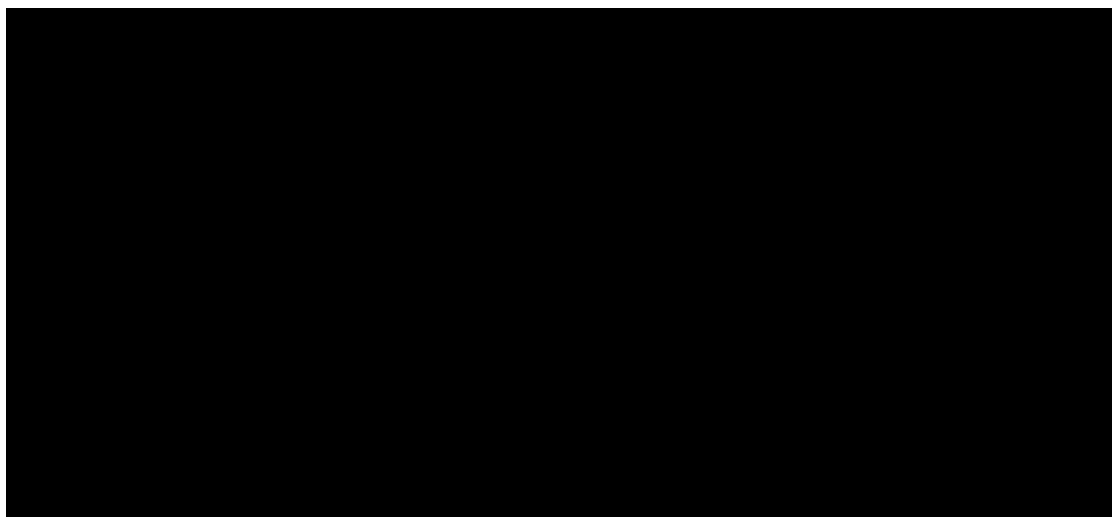
*translation of a line from Chenier: a pale thin red line* (1989) Ian Hamilton Finlay. Loan from Victoria Miro Gallery London. Photo: Mary Hinkley

#### **5. UCL Culture Public Programming:** [REDACTED]

**5.1 Amplifying our Exhibitions, Museums and Collections:** *Public-facing responses to the exhibition **Displays of Power: A Natural History of Empire** in the Grant Museum of Zoology which highlights the collection's role in the story of the British Empire.*

#### **5.2 UCL Culture Lates: Snakes & Ladders** A sold out event.

- 5.2.1 The Grant Museum was transformed into a human-scale fantasy adventure game – by Sacha Coward, escape room designer and queer folklorist – with instructions and cryptic clues related to colonialism, imperial power, collecting and racial prejudice.
- 5.2.2 Award-winning poet Yomi Sode performed a new commission inspired by the *Displays of Power* exhibition.



### 5.3 It's all the Raj, Innit?

- A line-up of comedians and expert researchers addressing biases, social stereotypes and history of scientific racism synonymous with museum collecting and Empire.
- This sold out event was supported by the Being Human Festival

### 5.4 Museum Takeover

- Participants from the culturally diverse Camden-based Helen Bamber Foundation and artists Ali Eisa and Alejandra Carles-Tolra developed their response to the exhibition for a takeover day targeting families.
- Takeover day involved 238 people participated, most, newcomers to the Museum.

**5.5 Performance Lab and other Commissions in development:** *Our experimental strand animating research through performance. Bloomsbury Theatre becomes a creative laboratory bringing artists and academics together to explore the mutual benefit of collaboration.*

#### 5.5.1 Performing Place

Facilitating EPSRC researchers, performing artists and Camden communities for in-depth collaboration - balancing aesthetic, academic and community participant success.

#### 5.5.2 Camden People's Theatre Take-Over

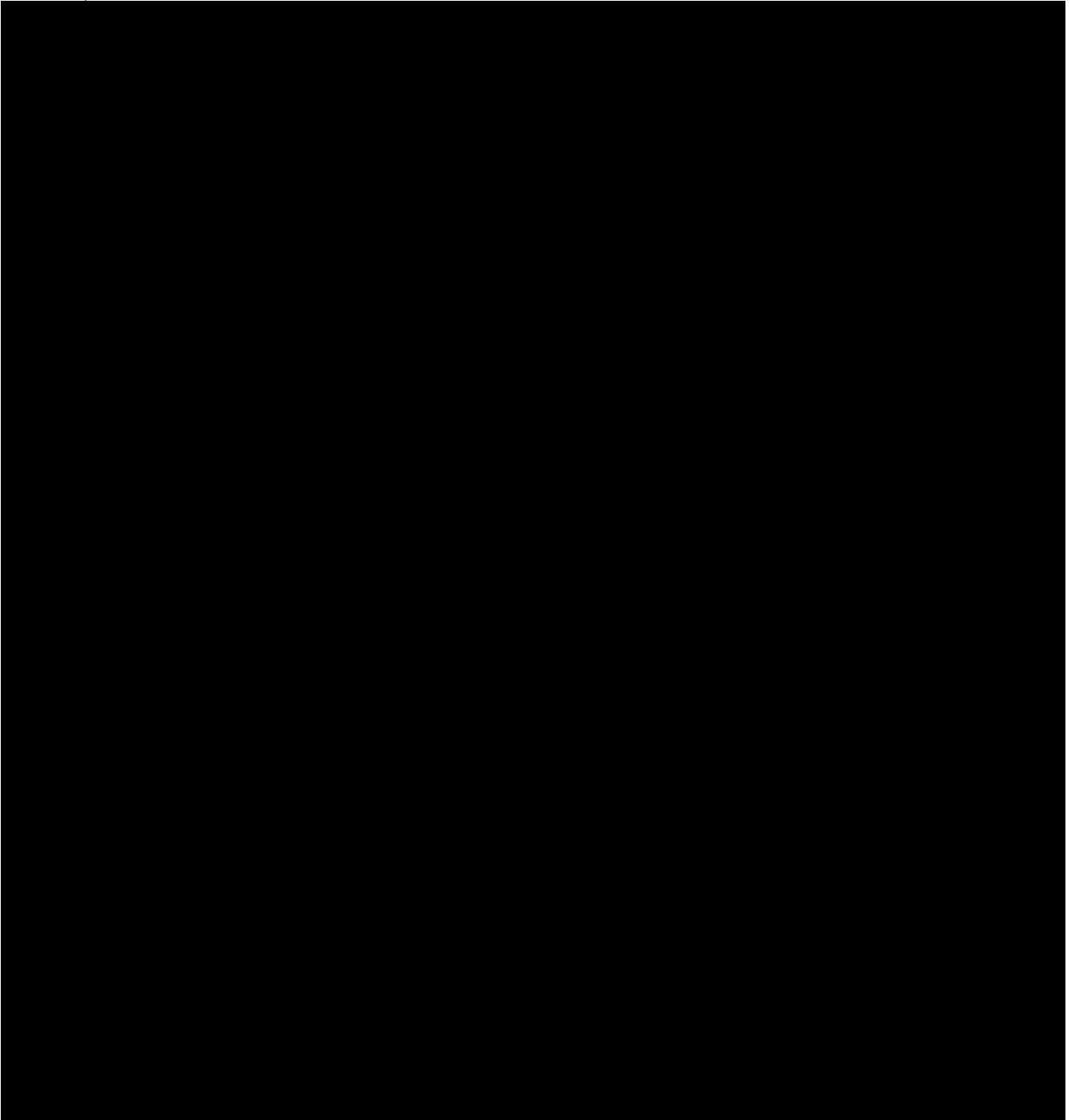
Four performances tackling different feminist perspectives co-commissioned by CPT and UCL Culture.

#### 5.5.3 2020 Performance Lab Seed fund offering Bloomsbury Theatre Studio Support:

**Monolith** - Workshops with visually impaired participants and a sound artist led by Institute for Environmental Design and Engineering, exploring ways to maximize the pleasantness of our auditory experiences. **Jazz Still Growing** - A collaboration with jazz, spoken word and Shout at Cancer helping people rebuild their lives after laryngectomy.

**5.9 R&D support for Creative Fellows: Munich Oswald** led by [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] and an [REDACTED], with students exploring how to turn a Medieval German text into an accessible piece for young people. **New Old English** is a series of workshops for students and staff led by English Department Creative Fellows [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], exploring Old English female texts through contemporary poetry, ritual movement and experimental translation.

- 5.10 BASC:** Working closely with academic leads to develop 2 new modules **Researching Performance & Performing Research** bringing in a range of exciting artists to collaborate with speakers from across the faculties, linked to the Museums.



**6. Public Art:** [REDACTED]

- 6.1 Bloomsbury: Bouke De Vries** - highly respected ceramic artist and conservator
- Technical Development is on-going with fabricator Factum Arte in Madrid. Will be fabricated in bronze with a white pagination and kintsugi to emphasis the Japanese tectonic fault line. The base will function as a seat.
  - Project Group has met with Bouke and [REDACTED] and agreed to progress the artwork.

- [REDACTED] met with [REDACTED] to establish a programme of engagement with the Japanese Ambassador to the UK and the project outline will be shared with him on 30 March at his official visit to the Japanese Garden.
- A wider public programme with the Japanese Student Societies and others will be developed in line with the opening of the artwork.



## **6.2 Conference: Repurposing the Campus**

- A one day conference run by UCL Culture Public Art in partnership with Warwick University was held 11 January, with attendance of 30 representatives from HEI across the UK, including Belfast, Trinity Dublin, St Andrews, Loughborough, Edinburgh Dundee and Leicester and more.
- 3 guest speakers presentations from Professor Michael Shattuck Centre for Global Higher Education (CGHE), Charlotte Day Director, Monash University Museum of Art Australia and Deborah Smith Independent curator. The afternoon session explored the challenges of Governance, Audiences and commissioning mythologies around Public Art in HEI.
- A network will be established for ongoing knowledge exchange will be established during 2020.

## **6.3 UCL East**

- Artists for Pool Street fully briefed and expressions of interest to be submitted by March 2020.
- City Mill Skate, Research project - cultural engagement through skateboarding – launch event 25 March.
- Drawn together pilot research project with [REDACTED] to be launched on 19 March.

## **6.4 Trellis 2: *knowledge exchange between researchers and artists, to create opportunities for collaboration between artists, researchers and communities***


- The second year of Trellis has been launched. Artists were invited to express interest with and open call for artists based in, or who have had a longer term relationship with east London. 159 artists' applications received and 44 applications to participate have been received from UCL Academics.
- Matchmaking workshops will run until Mid-March.
- The funding for the second year is EPSRC (30%) and Public Art UCL East which allows us to invite academics from all faculties to apply not just those with EPSRC funding.

## **7 Marketing & PR**

### **7.1**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. Activity in the reporting period included:

- Overseeing the communications around Jeremy Bentham's move to the Student Centre, working with teams across UCL on articles, digital content and time-lapse films.
- Marketing campaigns for *Displays of Power*, *Witnessing Terror* and *FLOP: 13 Stories of Failure*.
- Appointing a Freelance PR to oversee press campaigns for major exhibitions and events.
- Press highlights included multiple features in Time Out for our events, a Jeremy Bentham exclusive in the Telegraph and a *Displays of Power* feature on London Live.
- Ensuring UCL Culture events are sold out, including UCL Culture Late Snakes & Ladders.
- Developing the quarterly printed what's on.
- Managing relationships and promoting UCL Culture through Museum Mile London and the Knowledge Quarter.
- E-mail campaigns to support our Museums, Bloomsbury Theatre and Public Engagement.
- Continuing work with the Audience Agency to better understand our museum visitors.
- Planning for the May seasons of events for Performance Lab.







**UCL**



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Jeremy Bentham has a new home! The philosopher and UCL's spiritual founder can now be found in the Student Centre. His new museum-grade case will provide his auto-icon with enhanced preservation conditions, better visitor access at ...see more






521 • 18 Comments

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20,892	521	5.42%	18
Impressions	Reactions	Click-through rate	Comments
14	1,132	8.07%	
Shares	Clicks	Engagement rate	

**Report from the [REDACTED], UCL Culture**

**Summary:** This report updates the committee on the work of the Operations directorate within UCL Culture.

**Action proposed to the Committee:** To note the report

**Author/Proponent:** [REDACTED], [REDACTED], UCL Culture

## **1 Directorate update**

- 1.1 The Operations Directorate have had a productive period since my last update. They have been supporting teaching in our museums and the new OBL space, managing our collections, looking after our customers in the theatre and museums, providing technical support to UCL students, staff and external users of the theatre spaces, generating income with our spaces and ensuring that the whole department is appropriately administered.
- 1.2 The Theatre Sub-Committee is being developed, very few nominees were received, so we are talking to various academic colleagues who already use the theatre to draw together an initial membership.

## **2 Object Based Learning space**

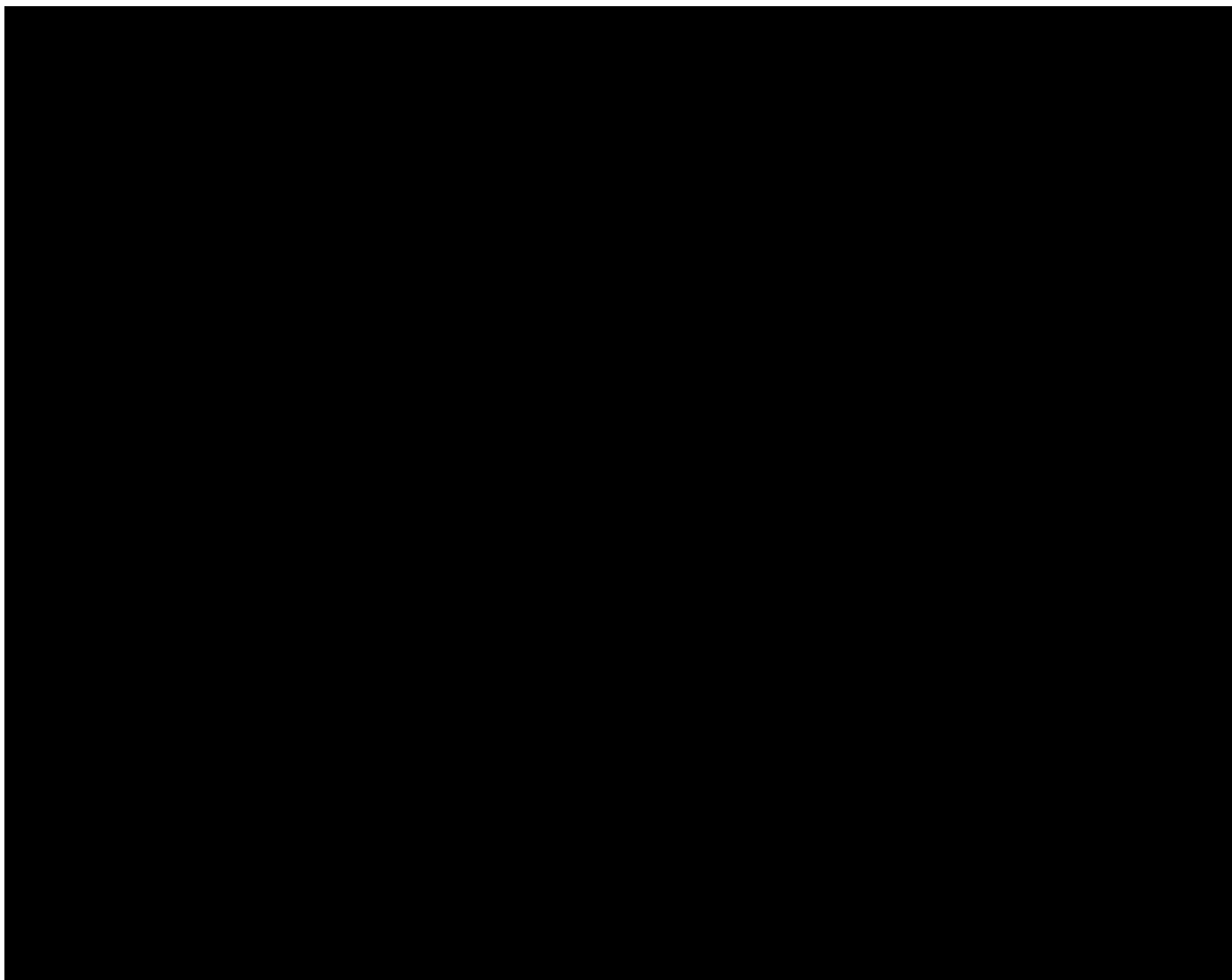
- 2.1 The key development in the period since the last report has been the use of this new facility (located in the heart of the Wilkins Building) for teaching.
- 2.2 At the last meeting it was still unclear when we may gain full access into the space to begin an object install and prepare for teaching. Possession was finally obtained a week before the Christmas break.
- 2.3 UCL Culture staff had planned a 9-10 week installation period. However, as hosting the pilot teaching sessions was absolutely vital in order to ensure the future operation of the space was correct the installation was significantly downsized. In the end, the installation was carried out over a week.
- 2.4 Although not what had been planned, the space looks good and has been able to host teaching.
- 2.5 There is a small display of objects from the Galton collection, which is particularly relevant given the current eugenics enquiry. In addition, objects from the Petrie Collection, Grant Collection, UCL Art Collection and Pathology collection are on display. As this is a teaching space, the objects are displayed without interpretation.



- 2.6 During term 2 we have hosted the teaching of three sessions a week (from BASC and IOE). Data and feedback is being collected from the academics, support staff and students involved so that after term ends recommendations for how the space is operated can be developed.
- 2.7 In January, [REDACTED] and I hosted a session in the space for the academics who were involved in making the project happen. On the back of this session, we are hoping that the new CHMC sub Committee on OBL will meet during March or April. The key outputs needed from this group are around how modules will be prioritised to use the space. Current experience indicates that there will be significantly more demand for sessions to use the space than can be accommodated. [REDACTED] has agreed to chair this sub-committee.
- 2.8 There are some ongoing issues around the specification of the visible storage in the space that we are working with UCL Estates to resolve.
- 2.9 Below are some photographs from the space.



*1 The OBL space*



*2 The OBL space during a teaching session*

### **3 Visitor Services**

- 3.1 The visitor Services area have continued to provide excellent customer service to our public customers across our spaces and via the ticketing service.
- 3.2 The museums area have worked hard to flex around a closure at the Petrie Museum (to facilitate the DCMS/Wolfson funded project and the Eastman Dental Institute project in the Rockefeller Building (Grant Museum)).
- 3.3 In the theatre, the team worked to support the Christmas show both. Almost £15k of ice cream was sold to customers during this period!
- 3.4 The ticketing area worked hard with the producer of the Christmas show utilising new mechanisms of ticket purchase that allow sales from hotel concierge desks (etc.)
- 3.5 Disability access training has been undertaken by staff in this area, to complement the recent customer service training.

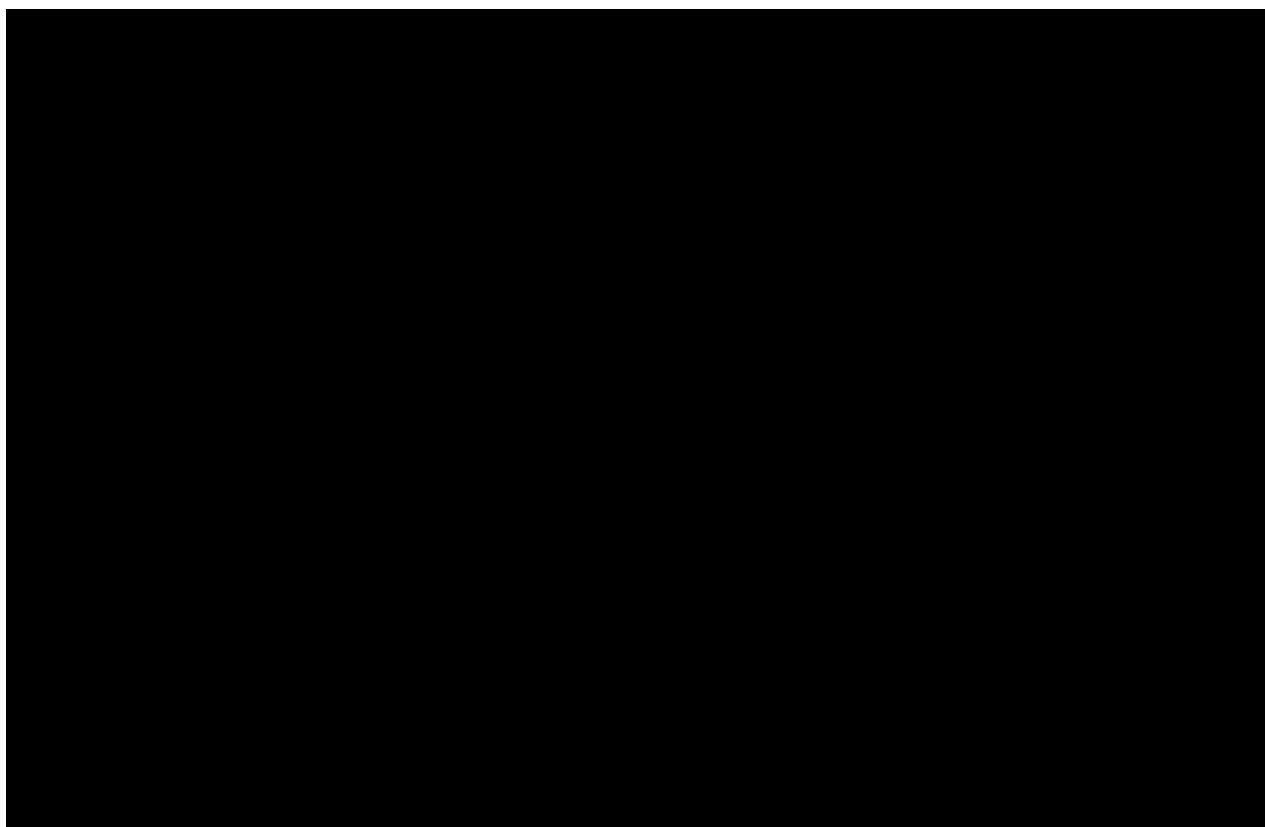
#### **4 Collections Management**

4.1 The Collections management Team spend much of term 1 and 2 supporting teaching in our museums spaces and the OBL.

4.2 Current progress on the OBL operation is detailed above.

4.3 [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) has been selected as one of two people who will attend a joint ICOM/UNESCO workshop on illicit trade in museum objects representing ICOM UK.

4.4 In addition to this activity, the team coordinated and carried out the move of Jeremy Bentham's auto-icon. This is a huge logistical operation, taking pains to safeguard the auto-icon at every stage. The move went without incident



*3 Preparing to remove the auto-icon's wax head prior to moving*



*4 The Auto-icon in its final position*

- 4.5 The collections management team have also delivered a significant movement of objects in the Petrie Museum to facilitate the DCMS/Wolfson funded project in the Entrance gallery. Well over 100 objects needed to be moved (many twice).
- 4.6 The Collections Management Advisory Group is being developed alongside the collections-based advisory groups.

## **5 Venue Hire and Bookings**

- 5.1 The period since the last meeting has been particularly busy in this area with both students productions in the theatres and the Christmas show.
- 5.1.1 The huge talent of our student population has been on display in term 1 and term 2 with productions by a number of societies. The Welsh Society visit the theatre in February for their first event in the venue.
- 5.1.2 Around 17,000 people attended the Christmas show (David Walliams' Billionaire Boy). This ran right through the Christmas break. The show operated at 94% occupancy – this is a stunning success.
- 5.1.3 In addition to being very popular, we negotiated with the producer to ensure that accessible performances were included – both an Audio-described performance (for the blind/partially sighted) and a relaxed performance (for autistic children).

- 5.1.4 The team here also demonstrated the opportunity of diversifying our income by transferring a successful hire in the studio into the Grant Museum for a subsequent event – this was featured in Time Out and subsequently sold out.

## **6 Administration and Finance**

- 6.1.1 Our Administration and Finance team are busy preparing the submission for our 2020-21 budget. Finance Division requirements in this area have become significantly more detailed in recent years with us needing to provide monthly cost-profiles by expenditure code within each project code. This has been made more challenging with a change to the annual schedule of requirements leaving us with a reduced period to generate this information.
- 6.1.2 The team are also continuing to work on delivering a culture of self-service around many administrative tasks within the department.
- 6.1.3 MyHR was delivered in February and required significant internal support to managers and teams.

## **7 Technical Theatre**

- 7.1 Given the volume of events in the theatre spaces it is not surprising to hear that this team have been incredibly busy since the last report,
- 7.2 In terms of event delivery, the Christmas show (Billionaire Boy) was a highlight - this was a large touring show that was fitted into the Bloomsbury expertly by the team.
- 7.3 The Classics Play was another highlight – unlike other UCL productions, Theatre staff effectively produce this event including dealing with set and lighting.
- 7.4 In February the team also worked on a week of performance art from the Slade. This a great collaboration with Slade staff and students with learning by all around new ways to use theatre spaces!

 **February 2020**