



Supporting Anti-racism

A case study from Lancaster City Museums, Carolyn Dalton, Museum Development Manager

Museum team: 15 Full-time-equivalent staff

Lancaster City Museums comprise the City, Maritime, Cottage and King's Own Royal Regiment Museums. The Maritime Museum, based on St George's Quay, is partly housed in the 1754 Customs House.

Inspired by the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement our anti-racism work has developed around taking those opportunities that have offered themselves, working particularly with Professor Alan Rice and the [Lancaster Black History Group \(LBHG\)](#) to promote understanding of Lancaster's historic trade in enslaved people and goods produced by enslaved people.

We had already programmed in the ['Memorial to Zong'](#) exhibition curated by Alan Rice, who is Director of the University of Central Lancashire's Research Centre on Migration, Diaspora and Exile. The exhibition featured work by Lubaina Himid, the first black woman to win the Turner Prize, and finally opened in May 2021 - the virtual exhibition can be [found here](#).

During the last two years we have also worked with Alan and the LBHG to re-design the [Lancaster Slave Trade, Abolition and Fairtrade Town Trail](#) – twice due to new information!

In our Maritime Lancaster gallery, we have invited views on how we should be presenting Lancaster's slave-trade story and this has led to early connections with a [project and museum in Gambia](#).

In 2020 the team ran and evaluated a social media campaign during Black History Month (BHM) and for BHM 2021 we produced some Teacher's discussion sheets looking at concepts like freedom and propaganda as well as the colonial aspect of museum collections.

Through our work with Lancaster University and LBHG a student intern will be incorporating some of the work of the LBHG's 'Slave Trade Family Trees' research into our galleries as an alternative voice.

My advice is to know broadly what you want to do and to then take the opportunities that present themselves to develop relationships with good partners. Some projects will happen and some won't – just keep going!



Caption: Memorial to Zong exhibition featuring work by Lubaina Himid, curated by Professor Alan Rice of the University of Central Lancashire and Co-Director of the Institute for Black Atlantic Research