

LORD LEONARD AND LADY ESTELLE WOLFSON FOUNDATION Access Programme, April 2023–March 2024



Participants at an audio-described introduction to our exhibition *Portraits of Dogs*

We believe that everyone can learn with the Wallace Collection. Our accessible events and resources engage people who need additional support to take part in our public programmes. In 2023–24, thanks to the continued generosity of the Lord Leonard and Lady Estelle Wolfson Foundation, we delivered 14 vibrant, bespoke events for D/deaf, blind and partially sighted, and neurodiverse audiences, reaching 172 participants (for a full listing of events, please see page 5). With the knowledge and experience gained over years of access programme delivery funded by the Foundation, we have also improved the accessibility of our core offerings. More public events are now supported with accessible interpretation. We have ensured many of our headline talks have live captions for people who are D/deaf, and our audio-described events and online content support audiences who are blind or partially-sighted.

The programme's year-on-year 11% participation growth reflects the Learning team's confidence in delivering highly effective sessions and fostering relationships with charity and local partners to reach out to people who need additional support to take part. Despite some staff changes and budget constraints, we successfully maintained our events and workshop schedule and expanded our audience.



A clay sculpture made during the neurodiverse family morning

Portraits of Dogs: From Gainsborough to Hockney, 29 March–15 October 2023, was a highlight of the past year, attracting more than 85,000 visitors and a number of 5-star reviews. To ensure accessibility to a wide public and help people connect with the exhibition, we delivered a series of relaxed openings, which offer specific audiences an opportunity to see the show in a safe, friendly environment tailored to their needs. This year, we organized two relaxed openings for adults who are blind or partially sighted and two for adults who are D/deaf.

We also piloted our first-ever relaxed morning designed for families and children with autism and neurodiverse conditions. This population can be considered 'hard to reach' by the museum sector, and we were proud to have had

the capacity this year to design a programme specifically for them. Families were invited to view the exhibition before general public opening, ensuring they could explore the space at a quiet time. SEND educator and storyteller Luke Crooks offered musical storytelling in the exhibition and sculptor Sarah Tombs facilitated a drop-in dog sculpture workshop in the Learning Studio. Both activities encouraged imagination and creative participation. The Theatre was offered as a calm breakout space. In total, we welcomed six families, an encouraging number for our first offer when benchmarked with peer museums.

Other accessible events this year included a British Sign Language art workshop, in which Deaf artist Rubbena Aurangzeb-Tariq led a session responding to wax miniatures in the Collection, and two artist-led Describe and Draw sessions for blind and partially sighted people that focused on still life and responses using clay.



Participants at a Describe and Draw event focused on still life

I found it therapeutic, but I was still simply a novice! Attending any art workshop at the Wallace Collection is always enjoyable. I hope to attend every session in the near future. – Participant at BSL art workshop for D/deaf people

I enjoyed the tour so much. Thank you for all the planning and being so deaf-aware in regards to the group's needs. Having the gallery to ourselves was just amazing as it gave us time to ask questions and move around without being concerned for other people viewing. – Participants at BSL tour of *Portraits of Dogs*

My daughter really liked the interaction, the sensory room and playing with playdough. All staff were great. – Feedback from a family at the neurodiverse family morning

For D/deaf audiences, we also offered a full-day, Deaf-led screenprinting workshop with Rubbena Aurangzeb-Tariq, during which participants took inspiration from Sèvres porcelain to design and screenprint their own tote bag.



Participants and a printed tote bag at a Deaf-led screenprinting workshop

It is difficult to express sufficiently the incentive, inspiration and good that comes from the workshop/tours you organise for the hearing impaired, who are generally overlooked in the scheme of things. Together with the interpreters, it is a real treat and pleasure to attend, you listen where we cannot. For myself at the age I am, it is a continued surprise what I can achieve under the guidance of the skilled people you engage on our behalf. Erin and Fiona were an absolute delight. – Participant in screenprinting workshop

Our year of events drew to a close with a Describe and Draw session designed for adults who are blind or partially sighted. Audio-describer Karly Allen offered a detailed verbal description of the Wallace Collection's enigmatic portrait of Robert Dudley. This was followed by a creative printmaking workshop in the Learning Studio, inspired by the texture and pattern of Robert Dudley's rich clothing, and time for conversation and discussion over tea and coffee.

Thank You

The Wallace Collection extends its thanks to the Trustees of the Lord Leonard and Lady Estelle Wolfson Foundation for their loyal support of our access programme, which enables us to create innovative, engaging offerings that reach a broad audience. We look forward to reporting on the programme's activities next year, for the final year of the Foundation's pledged support, 2022-25.

Access Events 2023-24

Event Name	Start Date	Event Subtype	Total Attendees	Event Personnel
Describe and Draw	22/4/23 09:30	Event for Blind/Partially-Sighted People	8	Marc Woodhead (Artist) Julie Barlow (Educator)
BSL art workshop	20/5/23 09:30	BSL Event	12	Rubbena Aurangzeb-Tariq (Artist)
<i>Portrait of Dogs</i> relaxed opening	6/6/23 09:00	Event for Blind/Partially-Sighted People	11	Karly Allen (Educator)
<i>Portraits of Dogs</i> relaxed opening	11/7/23 10:00	BSL Event	15	Edward Richards (Educator)
Audio-described summer evening	7/8/23 16:00	Event for Blind/Partially-Sighted People	13	Karly Allen (Artist)
<i>Portraits of Dogs</i> neurodiverse relaxed opening	19/8/23 09:00	Neurodiverse Family Event	18	Sarah Tombs (Artist) Luke Crooks (Educator)
<i>Portraits of Dogs</i> relaxed opening	12/9/23 10:00	Lipspeaking Event	6	Gowri Siva (Guide Lecturer)
<i>Portraits of Dogs</i> relaxed opening	26/9/23 09:30	Event for Blind/Partially-Sighted People	10	Karly Allen (Educator)
BSL art workshop	8/10/2023 10:00	BSL Event	15	Rubbena Aurangzeb-Tariq (Artist)
Audio-described workshop, <i>Turner and Bonington</i>	18/11/2023 09:30	Event for Blind/Partially-Sighted People	15	Karly Allen (Artist)
BSL tour	16/12/2023 10:00	BSL Event	19	Edward Richards (Educator)
Describe and Draw	20/01/2024 10:00	Event for Blind/Partially-Sighted People	12	Marc Woodhead (Artist) Julie Barlow (Educator) Adrian Gillan (Life Model)
Lipspeaking Tour	13/02/2024 11:00	Lipspeaking Event	6	Andrew Shingleton (Guide Lecturer)
Audio-described workshop	22/03/2024 13:30	Event for Blind/Partially-Sighted People	12	Karly Allen (Artist)