

MUSEUM OF CLASSICAL ARCHAEOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Museum of
Classical
Archaeology

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ACCESS POLICY STATEMENT

2016

CREATION DATE	April 2016
CREATED BY	Dr. Susanne Turner (Curator)

APPROVED BY THE MUSEUM COMMITTEE	
DATE	17 th May 2016

DATE FOR REVIEW	May 2021
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1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Museum of Classical Archaeology is part of the University of Cambridge. The purpose of the Museum is to promote Classical Archaeology by:

- maintaining, conserving, enhancing, displaying and documenting its collections of antiquities and of casts and replicas of antiquities for the benefit of students, researchers, and the general public;
- supporting research of all kinds in Classical Archaeology with grants and other resources;
- enabling the dissemination of research in Classical Archaeology at every level;
- demonstrating to the widest possible audience the continuing importance and relevance of Classical Archaeology to the contemporary world.

2. INTRODUCTION

This policy guides the Museum of Classical Archaeology's approach to providing access to its collections and associated information. MOCA recognises that different users have different needs and is committed to offering an inclusive service. We define access as something that is enabled when physical, sensory, intellectual, cultural, emotional and financial barriers are removed, reduced, or overcome.

The Museum of Classical Archaeology is part of the Faculty of Classics within the University of Cambridge. MOCA implements the University's Equal Opportunities Policy and seeks guidance from its Equality and Diversity Department and other resources as appropriate. As a member of the University of Cambridge Museums (UCM) consortium, MOCA also implements the additional commitments of the UCM Environmental Policy.

This Policy Statement should be read alongside the Forward Plan and its associated Action Plan.

3. THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The UCM's pro-active approach to Equality and Diversity is underpinned by the University of Cambridge's commitment to Equality and Diversity:

The University of Cambridge is committed in its pursuit of academic excellence to equality of opportunity and to a proactive and inclusive approach to equality, which supports and encourages all under-represented groups, promotes an inclusive culture, and values diversity. The commitment applies to all protected groups and is underpinned by the University's Equal Opportunities Policy and Combined Equality Scheme (CES). In line with requirements under the Equality Act 2010, the University has published the Draft Equality & Diversity Information Report 2013/14. This incorporates data on staff and student matters at the University of Cambridge.

The University has also approved Equality Objectives (revised February 2013) in response to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. A comprehensive range of networks and activities pro-actively promote this agenda.

3. LEGISLATION AND ETHICAL STANDARDS

This policy is compliant with the Equality Act 2010. MOCA will comply with legislation relating to access, diversity and equality, including the acts specified here:

<http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/policy/equal.html>

<http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/equality/cambridge/scheme/>

This policy will also be guided by the Museums Association Code of Ethics for Museums, 2008, in particular 'Encourage people to explore collections for inspiration, learning and enjoyment' and 'Consult and involve communities, users and supporters'.

3. COMMITMENT TO ACCESSIBILITY

3.1 MOCA is committed to providing access for education, research and enjoyment to the widest possible audiences, within constraints necessarily imposed by available resources, as well as considerations for the conservation and security of the collection.

3.2 Through a process of regular audit and review and working with the Faculty of Classics and the University of Cambridge, MOCA will assess, identify and address existing access issues, as resources permit. We also aim to build accessibility into all areas of our work. This commitment extends to our workforce as well as visitors. We are committed to ongoing training in access issues for staff and volunteers.

3.3 In order to eliminate barriers to access we will consider the following forms of accessibility:

Physical: to enable people with physical disabilities to reach and appreciate every part of the museum. This includes the needs of the elderly and of people caring for young children. Where physical access poses severe problems, alternative arrangements will be made to provide some experience of that part of the collection or service for visitors.

Sensory: to enable those with impaired vision or hearing to enjoy and appreciate the museum's building, exhibitions and collections.

Intellectual: to enable people with learning disabilities to engage with and enjoy the museum and its collections. We also recognise that people have different preferred modes of learning and will provide interpretation to suit a range of learning styles.

Cultural: to enable those for whom English is not a first language, or whose knowledge of English history and culture may be limited.

Emotional and attitudinal: to ensure that the museum environment and workforce are welcoming to all types of visitors.

Financial: admission to MAA is free.

3.4 Access will be balanced with the need to care for the collections and by the current state of collections information. MOCA's policies in these areas are set out in the Collections Care and Conservation Policy, and the Documentation Policy.

3.5 MOCA's website is fully accessible to disabled people including those who may be using it with the help of special equipment.

3.6 MOCA is open to the public five days per week throughout the year and on Saturdays during University Cambridge term-time.

4. CONSULTATION AND REVIEW

MOCA is committed to an ongoing process of consultation and evaluation in relation to the updating or introduction of facilities and services. This Access Policy Statement is available to all on the Museum of Classical Archaeology's website and will be reviewed every five years by the Museum Committee.