

V&A Americas Foundation





V&A South Kensington, Cromwell Road entrance
© Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Director's Foreword

Welcome to the V&A, a museum founded in 1852 with a vision to inspire and educate designers and creators of the future. Today, we are continuing to expand beyond the original site, and are a family of museums with creativity at the core.

Our sites comprise V&A South Kensington, Young V&A in Bethnal Green, V&A Dundee, V&A Wedgwood Collection in Stoke-on-Trent, and two new sites in Stratford, east London: V&A East Storehouse and V&A East Museum (opening spring 2026). As a family of museums, we share a 5,000-year-old-story of creativity through unmissable exhibitions, events, educational programs, digital experiences, conservation, research, and an ever-evolving national collection of over 2.8 million objects spanning every creative discipline.

The V&A Americas Foundation (V&AAF) was set up in 1984 to strengthen the relationship between the V&A and its American visitors and aims to support the Museum in its efforts to make creativity accessible to all. Since its inception the V&AAF has made a tremendous impact and continues to do so. Discover how you can get involved.

Dr. Tristram Hunt
Director of the V&A

From the Chair of V&AAF

As the Chair of the V&A Americas Foundation (V&AAF), I am committed to supporting the work of the Victoria and Albert Museum and building awareness of its unique collections and programming in the US.

The V&AAF provides a unique way for those based in the US to engage with the V&A and I truly hope you will join me by becoming a member. Please read on and speak with our Executive Director, Andrea Yglesias, for further information about the different subscription options.

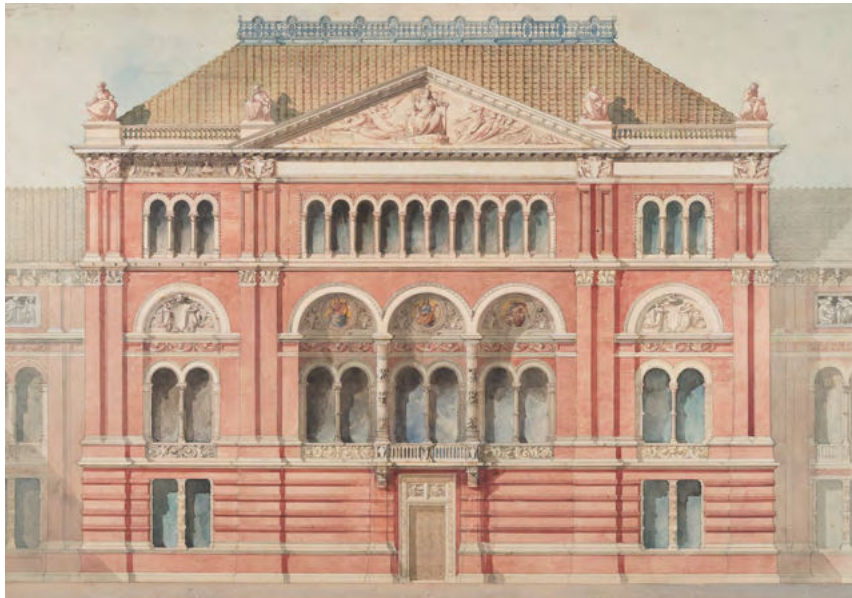
Monica Mandelli
Chair, V&AAF Board of Trustees

History of the V&A

The Victoria and Albert Museum was founded in 1852 following The Great Exhibition. Originally known as the Museum of Manufacturers, it moved to its present site in South Kensington in 1857 and gained its famous name in 1899 when Queen Victoria renamed the building in honor of her husband Prince Albert. It was Prince Albert's vision to create a museum to inspire and educate the designers and makers of the future. For over 160 years the V&A and its collections have continued to grow and evolve into one of the world's greatest resources of art, design and performance, transforming our understanding and enjoyment of the visual world.

Sir Henry Cole, the V&A's first Director, declared that the Museum should be a "schoolroom for everyone". Its mission was to improve the standards of British industry by educating designers, manufacturers and consumers in art and science. Acquiring and displaying the best examples of art and design contributed to this mission, in a building that itself was also intended to demonstrate exemplary design and decoration and now exemplifies the best of both Victorian and contemporary architecture.

Today, the V&A remains true to its historic origins, using its unique collection to champion creativity in all its forms, bringing the past to life and inspiring the makers of the future.



Drawing of the frontage of the lecture theatre at the V&A by Godfrey Sykes and Francis Fowke, watercolour, paper, about 1865 © Victoria and Albert Museum, London



The V&A: an international destination

The V&A is an international destination, with global impact, collections, audiences, exhibitions and relationships. Since its inception, the V&A has collected outstanding examples of human ingenuity in art, design and performance from around the world. The Museum's purpose is to make its world-class collection available to all, to champion the creative industry, spark the imagination and inspire the next generation of artists and designers. In addition to operating globally through research, loans, strategic partnerships and professional training, the V&A has one of the largest touring programs in the world having reached venues in over 40 countries. Since 1987, the V&A's blockbuster shows have traveled around the globe from America to Australia, enabling a global audience to access the collections. Recent V&A exhibitions that have traveled the US include:

Africa Fashion

Brooklyn Museum, New York & Portland Art Museum, Portland (OR), 2023.

Beatrix Potter: Drawn to Nature

Morgan Library and Museum, New York, 2024.

Hallyu! The Korean Wave

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 2024.

Japan: Myths to Manga

Frist Art Museum, Nashville, 2024-5.

Julia Margaret Cameron

MOPA, San Diego, 2023

Tim Walker: Wonderful Things

The Getty, Los Angeles, 2023



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Beatrix Potter: Drawn to Nature, Morgan Library and Museum, New York, 2024.



Africa Fashion, Brooklyn Museum, New York & Portland Art Museum, 2023.



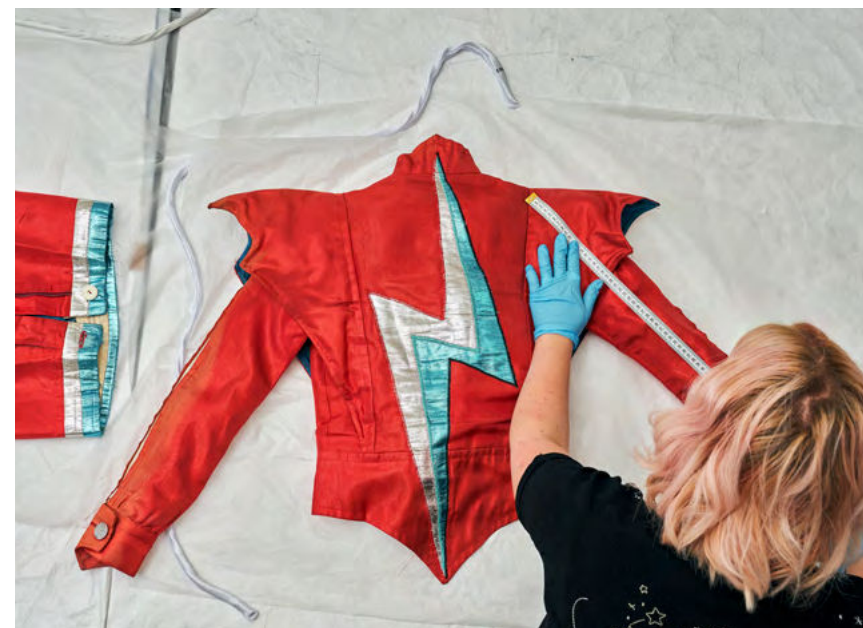
Young V&A, Adventure Display, Imagine Gallery © David Parry

V&A Americas Foundation

Founded in 1984, the V&AAF is an independent US public charity based in New York which aims to build awareness and visibility of the V&A and its collections in the US.

By joining the V&AAF, you will be championing the arts and holding a vital role as patron of a world-renowned museum. Our members enjoy complimentary access to the V&A's headline exhibitions and are invited to V&A events in the UK as well as *Travel with the V&A*. Furthermore, our members enjoy a special program of events in the US organized by the V&AAF.

Over the last 40 years, the V&AAF has donated over \$40 million to the V&A and has given objects worth a further \$30 million to the Museum's collections. The V&AAF is also crucial in our championing of vital capital works including the newly opened Photography Centre and Young V&A, which has since won the prestigious accolade of Art Fund Museum of the Year 2024, as well as the V&A's two sites in V&A East to be opened in 2025 and 2026. Without the V&AAF, the V&A's ambitious realization of The David Bowie Centre, to be opened at V&A East Storehouse, would also not have been possible.



Items from the David Bowie Archive are prepared ahead of the David Bowie Centre opening at V&A East Storehouse © Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Membership Benefits

Join as a member of the V&A Americas Foundation and enjoy a closer relationship with the V&A. Be part of a network of international supporters and advocates whose donations underpin the vital work of the Museum, and enjoy a bespoke program of curator-led events, and touring exhibition openings in the US.

Membership Benefits	Gold Member \$5,000	Silver Member \$1,000
Unlimited free entry to the V&A's family of museums* with a guest	•	•
Entry to the V&A Members' Room in South Kensington	•	•
10% discount in the V&A Shop & Café	•	•
Subscription to the V&A Magazine	•	•
Subscription to the bi-annual V&AAF newsletter	•	•
Access to digital resources	•	•
Free family access for up to four children (under 18)	•	•
Invitations to private views, tours and lectures in the US	•	Select Invitations
Invitations to private views and special events across the V&A's family of sites*	•	Up to 2 per year
Invitations to <i>Travel with the V&A</i>	•	
Invitations to the V&A's Summer Party	•	
Access to the V&A's Collections and Experts	•	
Annual V&A exhibition catalog	•	

*V&A South Kensington, Young V&A, V&A Wedgwood Collection, V&A Dundee, and the soon-to-open V&A East Storehouse and V&A East Museum.

Giving to the V&A Americas Foundation

American taxpayers who donate to the V&A Americas Foundation (V&AAF) may be eligible for tax relief. The V&AAF is an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organisation which supports the works of the V&A. Any gift (cash or object) to the V&AAF is treated as a gift to a US recognised tax-exempt organisation, and, subject to individual circumstances, a donor may be able to claim a deduction for part or the full value of the gift.

For more information or questions on how you can join, please contact:

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Gabrielle Chanel. Fashion Manifesto, Opening Private View, V&A South Kensington © Victoria and Albert Museum, London



Cheese Mold Standard, Ed Ruscha, screenprint, 1969
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