

Beckford's Tower and Museum

is at risk

**Bath Preservation Trust is
seeking support to conserve the
building, transform the museum
and open up the landscape**



**BECKFORD'S
TOWER AND
MUSEUM**

We want to undertake this important and exciting project so that we can reopen the new museum in January 2024, however we need help to realise it.

The project will cost £3.4m and with support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF)

we still have to raise £400,000.

We cannot guarantee help from NLHF unless we can demonstrate we have secured funding support for this remaining amount before May 2022.

Here are some of the projects that this funding will help us achieve



A NEW MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

The Tower houses the only museum in the world dedicated to William Beckford. This project will enable us to create a new museum experience that will reveal more about Beckford's life including the wealth he gained from the Transatlantic Slave Trade, his sexuality and isolation, as well as his creative life as a writer, composer and collector. The museum will be upgraded to enable the display of internationally significant items from his collection as part of a new loans programme in partnership with collectors and national institutions. We will create new digital resources exploring the source of Beckford's wealth, his collection and writing. Important conservation work will make the museum archive and library publicly accessible for the first time.

Total cost: £722,220



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This project will provide an opportunity to connect local schools, residents and community groups with the Tower, its stories and its landscape. We will develop new learning workshops, and work in partnership with community groups and organisations. We are committed to developing volunteer roles to help welcome visitors and maintain the landscape. The project will provide training for interns and apprentices in conservation, museum practice and other skills.

Total cost £237,081



A LANDSCAPE LANDMARK LIT UP

We would like local residents to connect with the Tower and their experience of it in the landscape. People with views of the Tower who feel that it is part of their City, their home. People who walk in the landscape both near the Tower and across the valley. The Tower was not intended to be seen or experienced in isolation and through illuminating the Tower at dusk, we will re-connect the building to its surroundings for those in the City looking at the Tower and those looking from the Tower, across the City.

Total cost £284,145

NEW EXPERIENCES IN THE LANDSCAPE

Beckford's Grotto Tunnel has been inaccessible for decades. This project will see it restored and opened to the public for the first time. The basement vault of the Tower will become a free to access interpretation space telling the story of the Tower and its landscape. Many people enjoying walking in the cemetery today are not able to discover this story and opening up these spaces will enable everyone to discover more about Beckford, what he created in Bath and how it was paid for in new ways.

Total costs £334,506



OPENING UP NEW PARTS OF THE BUILDING

The building is in a declining condition due to insufficient funds to meet significant conservation costs. This project will also ensure the repair of the building, providing solutions that will secure its future for the long term, in both sensitive and sustainable ways. The conservation work will enable new opportunities for visitor access to parts of the building that have never been accessible before. A new walkway on the flat roof and full access to the very top of the Tower in the Lantern level will offer visitors new views across the City. We will also provide walking maps, footpath access and landscape conservation.

Total cost £480,267



REPAIRING THE TOWER AND LANTERN

The first phase of repairs 20 years ago prevented the Tower from falling down and we are now focussed on preventing rainfall from entering the building. The impact of a changing climate has led to higher concentrations of rainfall and we need to conserve the vulnerable timber Lantern at the top of the Tower. This also requires new and ongoing maintenance to ensure its long-term conservation in light of this changing environmental issue.

Total cost £449,257



RESTORING THE TOWER TO ITS ORIGINAL DESIGN

Over time, changes have been made to the Tower that mean parts of the building no longer reflect the original design. This project will remove modern windows inserted in the 1970s and restore the windows to their original appearance. Only two of Beckford's original window grilles survive, and this project will use them to commission new ironwork, to reinstate all the grilles and restore the Tower to its original appearance in the landscape. Visitors will once again be able to appreciate the building according to the original design created by Beckford and his architect H. E. Goodridge.

Total Cost £232,214

ACCESSIBILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL WORK

The project will improve access to the Tower and demonstrate our commitment to environmentally friendly solutions. New digital walking maps will connect the Tower to the City and encourage visitors to explore local footpaths and routes, and use the Park & Ride as an alternative to coming by car. New solar panels will be installed on the flat roof to ensure a sustainable way of running the Tower that does not impact visually on views of the building. We will also provide online access to museum content and virtual tours, so those who cannot physically visit the museum can explore the museum and landscape, and learn about Beckford and his life.

Total cost £58,785



Help us to protect and conserve this highly significant British building.

If you would like to find out more about this project, visit the Tower and Landscape and meet with our team to find out more about our work, please get in touch.

We seek to raise £400,000 before May 2022.

If you can help, we would really like to hear from you.



BATH
PRESERVATION
TRUST



BECKFORD'S
TOWER AND
MUSEUM



HERITAGE
FUND

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