

## **Armenian Institute secures National Lottery support to explore and share Armenian heritage**

The Armenian Institute has received generous support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for an exciting two and a half year project.

A grant of £233,600, made possible by National Lottery players, will enable the Institute to preserve and explore its archives and to initiate an interactive programme of events and activities to share those stories.

The Institute is eager to begin the project activities, working within 4 general themes:

- Exploring Gender (understanding identities, histories, and heritage)
- Migration, Displacement and Refugees (understanding Armenian and other communities' experiences)
- Neighbours, Historic and Present (examining shared histories, diversity, and interconnections)
- Literary Heritage (exploring and understanding its continuing influence on identity and contemporary life)

Beginning March 1, 2020, “Broadening Access to Armenian Heritage Through Engagement and Resilience” enables a new expanded staff structure and supports a range of activities aimed at expanding participation and audiences. Thanks to National Lottery players, the project includes preservation work on its valuable library and archives as well as new interactive activities designed to attract both Armenian and non-Armenian users and participants. “Culture Hub” will host events including regular “Open Mic” sessions, Diaspora Forum where contemporary issues are discussed, book clubs and podcast-creating workshops. The NLHF grant comes as the Armenian Institute prepares to move from its current home near Kensington High Street to new premises on Saffron Hill, EC1.

A number of Workshops and Masterclasses within these themes will give opportunities to learn how to make “Artists’ Books”, graphic novels, podcasts, and perform storytelling. Young people will be encouraged to learn skills of programme management, fund-raising, researching topics, writing and public speaking. Crucial to the care of our growing library, a Community Archiving Project will begin, run by volunteers trained in new skills to care for and catalogue these important items.

The funding will enable Armenians, who have arrived in the UK in different waves of migration, to create a space where community diversity is explored and celebrated. The Armenian Institute programmes will provide a safe space for understanding difference and learning about shared heritage. This is a step towards community-building but also towards reaching beyond the ethnic community to share ideas with others with whom Armenians share experiences, history and space.



Dr. Becky Jinks, historian and Chair of the Board of Trustees says “We’re delighted to receive this support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. The grant will allow us to grow the Armenian Institute into a vibrant hub of heritage and culture, safeguarding our valuable Library and Archive collections and offering a rich programme of events which we hope will appeal to new audiences as well as old!”

“This generous grant is a real game-changer for us,” comments co-founder and interim Director, Dr. Susan Pattie. “We are truly grateful to the National Lottery players and to [The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#) for this opportunity to grow both internally as an institution and outwards, engaging with new people and communities.”

#### **Notes to editors**

##### **About Armenian Institute**

The Armenian Institute is the primary hub for Armenian heritage and culture in the UK. It aims to bring that heritage to life through innovative workshops, lectures, exhibits and educational resources. Armenian language classes are taught and the Library and Archives are open to researchers, writers and artists seeking information, advice and context for their work. As a diasporan people, the importance of diversity being explored, recognised and appreciated is the basic premise of AI’s far-ranging work.

Website: [armenianinstitute.org.uk](http://armenianinstitute.org.uk)

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

##### **About The National Lottery Heritage Fund**

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we **inspire, lead and resource** the UK’s heritage to create **positive and lasting change** for people and communities, now and in the future. [www.heritagefund.org.uk](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk).

Follow @HeritageFundUK on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund

##### **Further information**

For further information, images and interviews please contact Susan Pattie at Armenian Institute on 020 7938 3336 or [info@armenianinstitute.org.uk](mailto:info@armenianinstitute.org.uk).