**Position statement on sector funding:**

* Museums contribute exceptional and potentially irreplaceable public value to communities throughout the UK.
* Public funding is vital to sustaining this value.
* The contribution that museums make to society is under threat because of reductions in public funding.
* Museums are being proactive in exploring diverse sources of funding.

 **Background:**

The MA’s Museums Change Lives campaign champions the positive role that museums play in society. Museums can boost people’s quality of life and improve mental and physical health. They can also help define a place and make it worth investing and living in and visiting. Museums are places of stimulating ideas, where learning is active. Often, activity in museums helps save public funding in other areas including health and education.

Local authority, trusts and national museums have been hit hard by public sector cuts and further reductions in funding are anticipated. Some museums face cuts of 25% or more on top of previous reductions in funding and possible closure and sale of collections as a result. Other museums are not facing the same level of cuts, but the overall picture is one where museum provision as we have come to know it is under threat.

**The MA’s response:**

* The MA will advocate the value of museums to society to government and funders in all four nations;
* The MA will help museums to develop their own advocacy at a local level;
* The MA will support museums through events and content to develop sustainable approaches towards funding;
* There is an urgent need for a funding strategy for the sector and a meeting of sector bodies and other organisations will be convened to discuss this.