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MAYFLOWER 400

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Plymouth Museums Galleries Archives
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OUR COMMITMENT TO MAYFLOWER 400

2020 will commemorate the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the *Mayflower* to America in 1620.

The *Mayflower* is a local, national and international story. This one ship connects five nations over 400 years. We all share in a history which challenged traditions, caused conflicts and created communities. It is a story of survival and imagination. In Plymouth it will be told through objects, images and ideas from both sides of the Atlantic.

Our relationship with America has been long and significant. We share a past, present and probably a future. The 400th anniversary of the sailing of the *Mayflower* will enable us to explore a shared story changed and shaped over time, contentious and controversial then as now, but still enduring.

Today more than 30 million people claim a connection to the *Mayflower* and its passengers. Our work at The Box, Plymouth is an ambitious response to the anniversary and the cultural opportunities it offers.

"2020 gives us the opportunity to re-examine our past and to genuinely reflect on the English colonisation of America and its consequences. This is an important story and one we want to tell in as many different ways as we can, and, as well as we possibly can."

Nicola Moyle, Head of Heritage, Art and Film,
Plymouth City Council



Paula Peters (Wampanoag Advisory Committee)
assisting our research at the British Museum.



The Second Peirce Patent, 1621.
Courtesy of Pilgrim Hall Museum,
Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA.

OUR EXHIBITION SPRING 2020-AUTUMN 2021

'Mayflower 400: Legend and Legacy' is a Plymouth show and the national commemorative exhibition. Created in partnership with the Wampanoag Native American Advisory Committee, and with the help of over 100 museums, libraries and archives across the UK, US and The Netherlands, it will present an epic journey of survival and imagination.

Objects, images and ideas will explore early English attempts to colonise America, recognise conflict and coexistence with Native America, address the political and religious context for the sailing of the *Mayflower* in 1620, detail the lives of its passengers, and consider the cultural, demographic and personal legacies of the story.

OUR NATIONAL TOURING EXHIBITION SUMMER-AUTUMN 2020

'Wampum: Stories and Shells from Native America' is a nationally touring exhibition and will be the first commission from Plymouth to acknowledge our cultural connection to the Wampanoag people who met the *Mayflower* and ensured the survival of the new English settlers. It will include:

- the commissioning of a new wampum belt, made exclusively by the Wampanoag people of the Mashpee and Aquinnah nations, to mark the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the *Mayflower*
- a creative process bringing Wampanoag artists to the British Museum to record, interpret and explore one of the world's largest collections of historic wampum belts
- a touring exhibition bringing the old and new together for the first time in venues along the *Mayflower* 400 national trail

OUR NATIONAL DANCE PARTNERSHIP 2019-2020

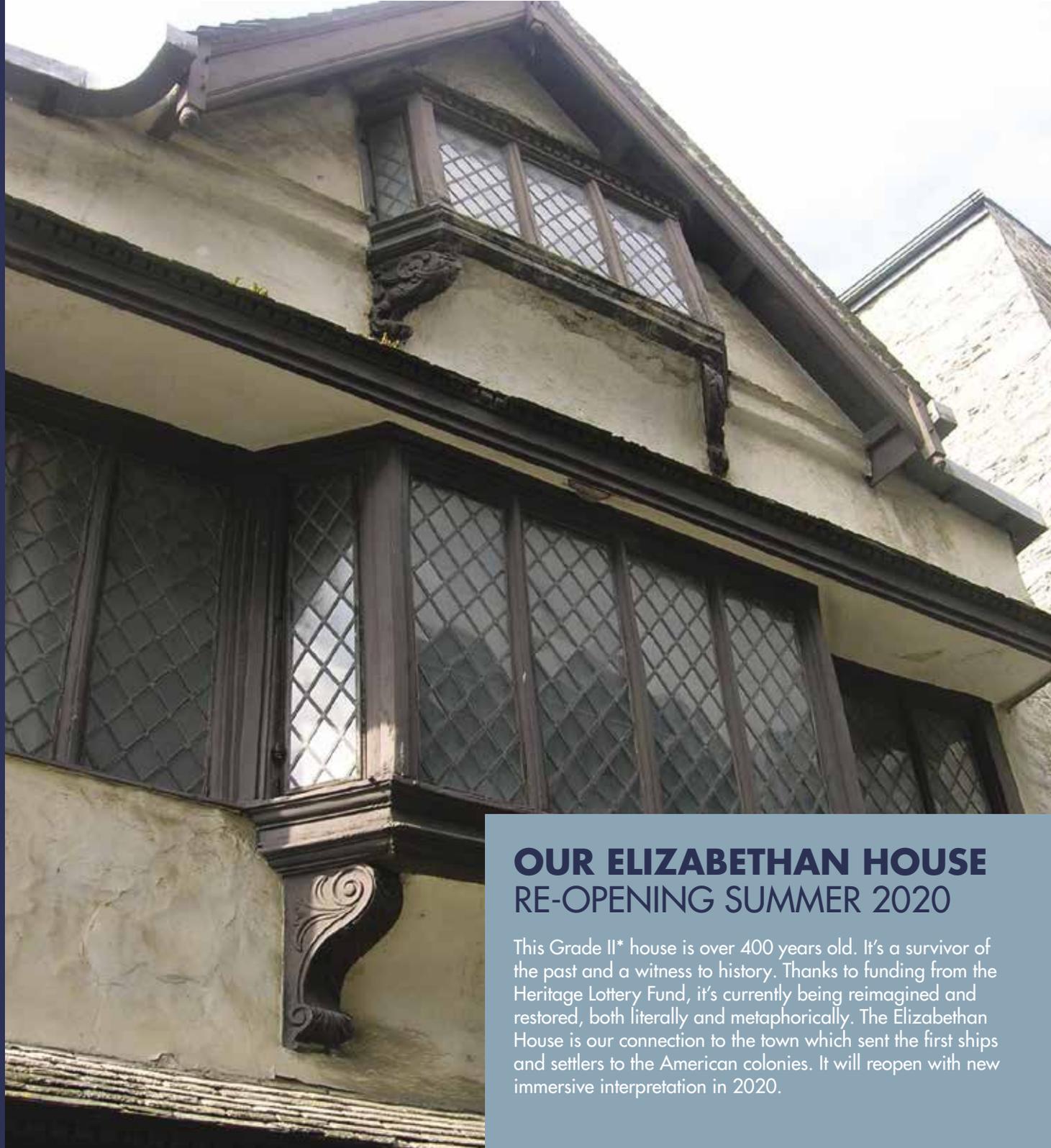
'The Imagination Museum: Mayflower 400' dance project is led by multi award-winning choreographer Katie Green. It reflects the passengers' journeys from England to America, beginning in Nottinghamshire before travelling to Lincolnshire and Hampshire and culminating in Plymouth.

Here, the project will be led by The Box and supported by Plymouth Dance and Plymouth Culture. A producer, dance practitioners and community ambassadors will be recruited from the local dance/heritage sector. Funding secured from Arts Council England will enable the project to run a programme of free community events including performances from 2019-2020 as well as a series of taster sessions and workshops for local schools and community groups. The project will culminate with a weekend of performances at The Box in October 2020.

OUR CONTEMPORARY ART SPRING 2020-SPRING 2021

It's our ambition is to establish Plymouth as a leading centre of excellence for the visual arts – a place that consistently produces and exhibits work of the highest quality, and which builds international partnerships and projects.

Over 12 months, a programme of four temporary exhibitions will run alongside 'Mayflower 400: Legend and Legacy'. The programme will explore historical and contemporary perspectives on the legacies of *Mayflower* and include commissions by contemporary artists. Themes will include migration, identity, commemoration, ethnography, colonialism and its impact. Current collaborators include the Fuller Craft Museum, Massachusetts with Glenn Adamson.



OUR ELIZABETHAN HOUSE RE-OPENING SUMMER 2020

This Grade II* house is over 400 years old. It's a survivor of the past and a witness to history. Thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, it's currently being reimaged and restored, both literally and metaphorically. The Elizabethan House is our connection to the town which sent the first ships and settlers to the American colonies. It will reopen with new immersive interpretation in 2020.

OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

ONGOING

The Learning team places enjoyment, inspiration and creativity at the centre of engagement with history, science and the arts. New programmes of *Mayflower* masterclasses, sessions and talks are being developed for audiences of all ages and abilities. They will challenge perceptions, recognise diversity and demographics, and address the legacies of the journey 400 years on.

OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ONGOING

In association with *Mayflower 400* (the partnership connecting 11 towns and cities), a Community Sparks Fund enables communities across the city to imagine and develop projects marking the commemoration. The funding supports arts and cultural activities through a series of bursaries of up to £3,000. The Fund welcomes applications from communities across the city and is managed by The Box, Plymouth.



The Imagination Museum: *Mayflower 400*, Made By Katie Green; Photography Owen Benson Visuals; Performers Sarah Blanc, Megan Griffiths, Lucy Starkey



Stay up to date with our Mayflower 400 progress at
www.theboxplymouth.com/mayflower400

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