**Building a sustainable future for Platt Hall - Working Principles**

Platt Hall is an 18th century house in Platt Fields Park, on the borders of Rusholme, Moss Side and Fallowfield. It has been part of Manchester Art Gallery since 1926 and is still maintained by Manchester City Council. Previously known as the Gallery of Costume, Platt Hall closed to the public in 2017 for essential building and conservation work in preparation for its longer term redevelopment. This work is still ongoing.

Over the next year, to June 2021, the Esmee Fairbairn Collections Fund and Paul Hamlyn Foundation are supporting the re-imagining of what Platt Hall will be in the future. This is a journey towards a new kind of museum, one that recognises and is rooted in its past history, but is shaped by and serves its present-day local communities. A space that brings people and collections together and encourages creativity and curiosity in everyday life.

This developmental phase of work will build the case for further funding to secure the Hall’s longer term future. All activities and initiatives need to support the development of a sustainable long term identity and purpose for the Hall and its collections that reflects and serves the broader interests of the diverse communities on its doorstep.

Taking the lead from initial public discussions, our long term aim for the Hall is to:

* Develop a welcoming, inclusive, and free shared space, where many things can happen.
* Draw on Manchester Art Gallery’s wider collections as an inspirational source of creativity and curiosity.
* Offer creative activities and skill sharing opportunities that draw on local knowledge.
* Encourage and facilitate debate that engages with and responds to issues of local relevance.
* Celebrate local history, local artists and local culture, and instil pride in the local area.

To achieve this, we seek to

1. Work in partnership to identify and develop mutual goals for the common good rather than individual interest or gain.
2. Work transparently, openly and with integrity, and be accountable for decisions made. When possible, decisions will be made collaboratively.  Platt Hall staff will listen and be guided by the needs and voices of the local community.
3. Conduct ourselves with mutual respect, recognising that agreement is not always possible, nor can every priority be met.
4. Explore new systems of governance and decision making that can function within the parameters of Platt Hall as a council owned property.
5. Trial new and dynamic uses of the collections, exploring their potential for promoting conversation, inspiration, understanding and well being together.
6. Work within the limits of a unique and historic building with historic and vulnerable collections.

Limitations
Due to the conservation of historic collections ongoing at Platt Hall currently, access and facilities are limited during this period. There is no space available for private meetings or events that are unconnected to the development of the Hall, and exhibition and studio space is not available.