

Temporary and Touring Exhibitions Practice – Economic Production and Partnership Models A report commissioned by the Exhibitions Group, supported by Arts Council England, delivered by Cultural Associates Oxford, and published in March 2026.

Forward

The Exhibitions Group exists to connect and empower those working in the field of exhibitions to create work that is relevant, sustainable, diverse and accessible. In recent years, the way exhibitions are developed, experienced and shared has undergone significant change and to better understand this evolving landscape, we have commissioned this report which provides valuable insights into current practice and emerging trends, offering a clear evidence base to support future decision-making across the sector. While exhibitions remain fundamental to our sector, the research highlights a gap in fully realising their strategic potential. It underscores the need to embed programming strategy at the heart of organisational planning and to better articulate and measure the wider social and economic impact of exhibitions. The findings from this report will inform all areas of the exhibition group's work, strengthening our ability to support organisations as they adapt and develop their exhibitions practice. They also reinforce the central role exhibitions play within cultural institutions, driving visibility, audiences and income, and delivering significant public benefit. The exhibitions group has an important leadership role to play in championing the shift, and we look forward to working collaboratively with partners and support organisations to achieve it. Our thanks to the team at Cultural Associates Oxford for all their knowledge and support in conducting this important research and creating this compelling report, including Maurice Davies, Miki Lenton, Rachel Mapplebeck, Lucy Shaw, Paul Smith, Kathleen Soriano and Tamsin Stewart. Finally, our deep gratitude for the continued support of Arts Council England and our members without whom this work would simply not be possible. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to this research through interviews, roundtables, and surveys. Their generosity has ensured the report is both robust and insightful. We hope it proves valuable to all those working in exhibitions and encourage it to be shared widely across organisations and the wider sector.