

❖ NATALIE HEIDARIPOUR

The Herbert Museum and Art Gallery, Coventry

“THE HERBERT”

The Herbert Museum and Art Gallery in Coventry is currently being redeveloped to create a major cultural centre which encompasses:

- Discover Gallery for children and families
- History Galleries
- History Centre for the City Archives
- Visual Arts & Sculpture Gallery
- Natural History Gallery
- Peace and Reconciliation Gallery

“PEACE AND RECONCILIATION GALLERY”

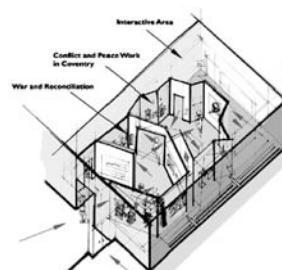
The Peace and Reconciliation Gallery will explore a unique part of Coventry's heritage.

Coventry's role as City of Peace and Reconciliation stems from the City's wartime experiences and continues today in an active way, involving the lives and history of many of the City's communities.

Aims of Peace and Reconciliation Gallery

- Combat Prejudice
- Increase awareness
- Encourage debate and participation
- Challenge Preconceptions
- Explore global themes through individual perspective

“GALLERY THEMES”



War and forgiveness

Experiences of the Second World War – Calls for Forgiveness

International Friendships

Friendships built through conflict – Reconciliation and Peace

Conflict and Peace Work

Peace Work – Local to Global



Interactive

Innovative interactive encouraging visitors to engage with and respond to the issues raised.

Peace Trail

Follow the story of peace and reconciliation within Coventry

“WAR AND FORGIVENESS”

Wartime experiences of the City provide an entry to the gallery and the starting point for Coventry's link to peace and reconciliation.

Provost Howard's initial call for forgiveness following the bombing introduces debate around forgiveness and revenge.

This will be developed further through individual experiences of war, exploring varied views of peace and reconciliation.

Images, objects, interviews and artwork from the museum's collections will form the basis of this section.



“INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP”

Coventry's international friendships were built on shared experiences of war and developed through a wish for reconciliation and peace.

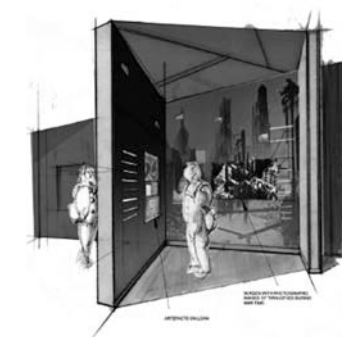
This will be used as an entry point to experiences of conflict and reconciliation from around the world both historically and up to the present day.

Section will include

- Images, interviews, artwork and objects from international partners
- Virtual Peace Archive
- Online Forum for Debate - an active link between communities around the world.
- Messages of Peace from around the world
- Real and virtual links to international partners
- Focus on international peace museums

“CONFLICT AND PEACE WORK”

This section focuses on the Peace Network in Coventry, exploring global themes through personal stories and experiences.



This will range from projects tackling community conflict to international reconciliation.

Interaction on a personal level allows visitors to access and respond to global themes, encouraging understanding, awareness and stimulating debate.

Audio and video interviews, objects, live links to projects and updated databases will be used alongside relevant artworks.

This section will be updated as projects change and different situations develop both locally and internationally.

Capacity for temporary exhibitions will allow an exploration of topical themes, the first of which will focus on art and peace.

“MEDIA LINK”

The gallery will include a “live” link to media coverage from around the world.

This will focus on current areas of conflict and the progress of peace initiatives on an international and local level.

Visitors are encouraged to explore the ways the media influences the decisions we make and the action we take.

“INTERACTIVE”

Research is underway to develop an innovative interactive based on remote drama techniques.

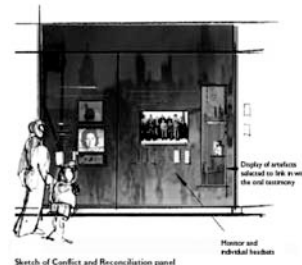
This allows the visitor to walk in someone else’s shoes, explore the choice they must make and face the consequence of their decisions.

The aim of this interactive is to challenge preconceptions, encourage empathy and stimulate debate around the themes of the gallery.

“THE PEACE TRAIL”

Visitors are encouraged to walk Coventry’s peace trail and explore the landmarks, artworks and gardens in close proximity:

- Cathedral ruins with the charred cross and reconciliation sculpture by Josefina de Vasconcellos
- Centre for Study of Forgiveness and Reconciliation at the University



- Peace Garden which will be landscaped in the new scheme
- The International Centre for Reconciliation and the Community of the Cross of Nails.

Links will also be made to the local organisations shown in the gallery.

Visitors will be encouraged to make the connection with those who are involved in peace work and explore how they can become involved.

“INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS”

The Herbert would like to work with international partners on the Peace and Reconciliation Gallery in a variety of ways;

Gallery Content

Display photographs, film, audio / video interviews, documents and objects around the following themes:

Conflict – Experiences of conflict with a focus on the affect this has on the community involved.

Reconciliation – Examples of the different ways in which reconciliation has been attempted and achieved.

Peace – Expressions of peace in many forms shown through experiences, stories, photographs or artwork.

Virtual Links to partner organisations

Links to the websites of international partners and relevant projects.

On-Line Forum for Debate

Peace Archive

Database of relevant images, films and artworks which can not be displayed in the gallery.

Messages of Peace from around the world

Images taken from Concept Design Document produced by Event Communications Ltd.