

British Museum "What's On" Stelae Design & Access Statement

Use

This proposal is to display eight screens in public areas of the Museum, four in the Montague Place entrance lobby and four opposite the south cloakroom. The screens will display the same information as those in the "What's On" stelae in the Great Court, which will enable visitors to learn more about what is on offer on a daily basis at the British Museum.

The screens will be positioned to provide this information at two key entry points to the museum. Visitors that enter through the Montague Place entrance currently do not reach the information screens in the Great Court before starting to tour the galleries, so the presence of these screens in the North entrance lobby will assist them in planning their visits. Likewise many visitors entering via the main south entrance proceed to the cloakroom before reaching the Great Court, and the proposed screens near the cloakroom will enable them to plan their visits.

Amount

The two stelae proposed for the North Entrance lobby are 2400mm tall, 850mm wide and 210mm deep.

The housings proposed for the south cloakroom are 3750mm wide, 914mm tall, and 370mm deep. These two housings will sit between the pilasters and hence only project 250mm in front of them, level with the existing promotional panels.

Layout

The locations have been selected in order to provide information to visitors at key way finding points, namely the Montague Place entrance and the south cloakroom, near the south entrance of the Museum

Please see the attached drawings for details of the proposed locations.

Scale

As the enclosed drawings show, the proposed stelae in the Montague Place entrance lobby will be positioned on the ends of the pilasters on the East and West sides, with a maximum depth of 200mm. These drawings also show that the screen housing proposed for the south cloakroom will be positioned in place of sections of

existing promotional panels, and as such will not result in any increased use of space from the existing arrangement.

Access

The proposed designs have been reviewed by the Museum's access officer, and follow Museum access policy.

All text will be sans-serif, at a large and legible size, and in contrasting colours to improve visibility to visitors with impaired vision.

None of the screen housings project into walkways so will not provide a trip hazard or impediment to visitors with visual impairments.

Appearance

The screen housings in both locations will have shot-peened stainless steel edges, around a low-reflectance glass face. Vinyl graphics will be applied to the rear face of the glass, with apertures cut out for the screens to show through. The screens will be displayed in portrait orientation.

It is proposed that two stelae are positioned in the Montague Place entrance lobby, housing two screens each. These would be positioned on the ends of the pilasters facing the entrance door on either side of the lobby (please see drawings attached). The two stelae will be fixed to the wall approximately 180mm above the floor level, allowing the existing marble skirting to run through under. The architecture of the skirting and floor remain visible and unaffected. The faces and edges of the stelae will align with existing joints in the stone floor.

It is proposed that the four screens opposite the south cloakroom are housed within a structure positioned at the same level as the existing promotional panels. The high level signage panels are to be removed. All other panels would be reduced in size as part of this project, in order to expose the pilasters along the northern elevation of the gallery, respecting the architecture.

While each of these housings would be fixed to the walls behind, these fixings are into simple flat plastered walls, are reversible and thus will not result in these structures being permanent additions to the fabric of the building.