



HANDS ON ISLAMIC ART:

The Barakat Trust has been awarded a grant of £249,600 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund

The grant is to be used for a new public engagement initiative working with Islamic art collections in the UK

The Barakat Trust has received a grant of £249,600 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for an exciting new project: “Hands On Islamic Art”. Made possible thanks to money raised by National Lottery Players, this grant will support initiatives to work with collections of Islamic art and material culture in the UK. It will use these collections to engage with diverse audiences, telling stories about multi-cultural Britain, and enabling the discovery of the cultures and histories of the Islamic world in enjoyable and memorable ways.

Institutions with collections of Islamic art, as well as organisations and community groups can apply for a grant to undertake projects that use such collections to create meaningful dialogue with audiences of different ages and backgrounds. The Barakat Trust, and its partners, the Islamic Art and Material Culture Subject Specialist Network and others, will provide mentorship and support, and will match collections with specialists who can help reveal the stories of forgotten and unknown objects.

The scheme will support three projects per year, for three years (2022-2025). In order to increase the impact of the programme, podcasts, curated Instagram series and webinars will be used to enable the different people involved in the projects to share their stories with people across Britain and the world.

Commenting on the award, Seif El Rashidi, Director of the Barakat Trust said:

“We are thrilled to have received this support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and are keen to work with the grant recipients and community groups to make overlooked collections more relevant today. There are thousands of objects representative of the cultures of the Islamic world to be found in UK museums and stately homes, and not all of these are well understood or fully appreciated. With projects like this one, people can come together to tell stories and discover fascinating snippets of history.”

The Barakat Trust

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Registered in England and Wales Charity No: 1136842



Stuart McLeod, Director England - London & South at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said:

“We are thrilled to support The Barakat Trust with a grant of £249,600 for their new project, “Hands On Islamic Art”. Thanks to National Lottery players, this three-year project will engage with lots of groups to help discover the untold collections of Islamic art across the UK. These undiscovered stories will then be shared digitally to help engage a wider range of people in exciting new ways.”

Notes to editors

About The Barakat Trust

The Barakat Trust was founded as a UK charity in 1987 and operates for educational and heritage purposes focusing on the heritage of the Islamic world. We provide scholarships and grants for study and research projects at the world’s most respected academic and cultural institutions at post-graduate and post-doctoral level. We support conservation and documentation work, travel for research and education, training programmes, including the training of conservation professionals and curators. We fund publications, and the digitisation of significant collections, and support other projects that preserve the heritage of the Islamic world, raise awareness, and engage with diverse audiences.

We work in partnership with a wide range of institutions who share common interests.

Over the past 30 years, we have invested resources in building the skills of heritage professionals and supporting projects in 40 countries. Many of our 750 grantees have long-standing relationships with The Trust, developed over decades.

The Barakat Trust is an international non-political, non-religious, non-sectarian and independent charity based in the United Kingdom.

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we **Inspire, lead** and **resource** the UK’s heritage to create **positive and lasting change** for people and communities, now and in the future.

www.heritagefund.org.uk.

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Since The National Lottery began in 1994, National Lottery players have raised over £43 billion for projects and more than 635,000 grants have been awarded across the UK.

Further information

For further information, images and interviews please contact Seif El Rashidi at The Barakat Trust on selrashidi@barakat.org

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