

# Set the trend or risk falling behind, say experts

Innovators producing cutting-edge technologies for the museums sector have said that risks must be taken to develop new technologies, with those playing it safe risking getting left behind.

Speaking at the Museums Association's Museum Tech conference in Manchester, UK, a panel of forward-thinking creators spoke about the future of technology in museums and the implications that could have.

George Oates, who invented Flickr Commons and is in the development stage of a new project – Museum in a Box – said that innovation in technology is about having focus and taking a leap of faith to realise your idea.



The future of 3D printing in museums was among the topics discussed

Peter Law, creative producer at Flying Object who developed IK-prize winning installation *Sensorium* at Tate

Britain (see page 15), added that without testing technology in a museum environment, a concept will remain just a concept.

Omad Hiwaizi, president of augmented reality company Blippar said that one thing that could hamper technology within the museum sector is a “culture of cautiousness” within most institutions. Hiwaizi added that innovation involves risk, but it's that risk which keeps them relevant and thriving.

“When something new comes along, large corporations demonstrate why they are where they are,” said Hiwaizi. “The ones that don't do it – Blockbuster and Kodak for example – they disappear. I'm quite interested to see what happens to taxi services next. It's all about innovation.”

More: [http://lei.sr?a=C3G6K\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=C3G6K_A)

## David Bowie exhibition becomes fitting memorial

*David Bowie Is*, the blockbuster exhibition that has travelled the world, has become a remarkable tribute to the life of the beloved musician.

The Bowie retrospective at Groninger Museum in the Netherlands took on a whole new meaning after the unexpected death of the singer in January.

The exhibition has become somewhat of a memorial to the musician, with a condolence book for visitors to sign having recently been added and the museum opening its doors on the day of Bowie's death to grieving fans.

See the exhibition on pages 10 and 11

## Armed man arrested outside Disneyland Paris

A man with two firearms was arrested outside the entrance to a hotel at Disneyland Paris.

When the 28-year-old was arrested on 28 January he gave no resistance when detained, according to police. He was stopped during a security check where two handguns, ammunition and a copy of the Koran were discovered.

France remains in a state of emergency following the deadly attacks in the capital last November. The attractions industry has also been urged to up security at its theme parks, with Disney among those to do so in the wake of recent events in the US and in Paris.

A spokesperson for Disney said no one was injured during the arrest but didn't



Paris is on high-alert after November's attacks

provide any further details. Police say the incident is being treated as a criminal case rather than a terror case. Authorities are still seeking the man's girlfriend.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=C3G6K\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=C3G6K_A)

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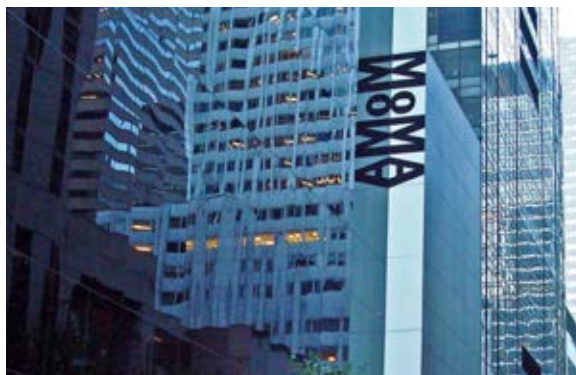
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## New York Museum of Modern Art unveils revised US\$445m expansion plans

New York's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) has unveiled revised US\$445m (€407.3m, £310.6m) plans to redevelop and expand the facility, with plans by Diller Scofidio + Renfro streamlining the museum experience to work better for visitors and curators.

The expansion of facilities, expected to be complete by 2020, will increase gallery space by 30 per cent – an increase of 40,000sq ft (3,716sq m) to 174,000sq ft (16,165sq m).

Following criticism when the plans were unveiled in 2014, grander elements, including a moving floor, retractable glass wall and



Extensive construction work will start in early 2019

new entrance to its sculpture garden have been dropped.

New plans include more varied gallery spaces, a larger and less-congested lobby and a faster coat check-in area. The museum's on-site retail shop will also move

from street level to below ground to make room for the lobby expansion, though a cut-away ceiling will mean the space will still be viewable from the street.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=2s3t9\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=2s3t9_A)

## Travel Channel's Chris Perry to lead WhiteWater's strategic development

WhiteWater West has named waterpark veteran and television host Chris Perry as the company's new executive vice president of strategic partnerships.

Perry, best known as host of the Travel Channel's Epic Attractions series, has worked in the waterpark sector for a number of years, most recently at Wild Wadi Waterpark. During his 15 years at Wild Wadi, Perry spent eight years as general manager, overseeing the waterpark and aquatic safety for a number of hotels around the world.

Perry started his career in the waterpark sector as a teenager. While at Wild Wadi



Perry is best known as host of *Epic Attractions*

he led his team to several industry awards and oversaw the waterpark becoming ISO and Green Globe certified.

"Chris joins the WhiteWater team to lead our strategic partnerships," said

a WhiteWater statement. "He'll bring his tremendous park operations experience and industry profile to complement our service offering for our customers."

More: [http://lei.sr?a=f9j4Y\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=f9j4Y_A)



# Derren Brown's Ghost Train coming to Thorpe Park

Paul Moreton, global creative director for Merlin Magic Making at Merlin Entertainment has revealed to *AM2* new details about Derren Brown's new ride at Thorpe Park.

Touted as a ghost train reinvented for the 21st Century, the age-restricted Derren Brown's Ghost Train will incorporate grand illusion, live action, next-generation technology, 4D special effects and physical transit to create an experience unlike any other.

"The thing we love about a good ghost train is creating that sense of being scared but laughing at the same time," said Moreton speaking exclusively to *AM2*. We're trying to capture that element and we thought it was about time we took that standard, that Victorian product which has been around 200 years or so, and gave it a 21st century makeover. It's Derren's interpretation of that."

Moreton revealed that virtual reality would be one of the elements used to create the illusions, using an HTC Vive headset within the train. He was keen to stress however that the attraction is not a VR experience, rather



The reimaged ghost train concept rides right out of the mind of illusionist Derren Brown

that VR would be one element of several, with each equally as important as each other.

Once in the ghost train, each rider will have a unique experience, with 12 possible

journeys and two alternate endings dependant on choices made. Brown commented: "This is not an experience for the faint-hearted."

More: [http://lei.sr?a=c7m6S\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=c7m6S_A)

## National Museum of Australia reimagines Kspace with gaming-led experience

The National Museum of Australia in Canberra has relaunched its interactive Kspace exhibit, mixing gaming and augmented reality with a trip through the country's history.

The reimagined exhibition now allows children to create their own robot which takes them back millions of years to the origins of Australia.

The 30-minute experience is divided into three physical spaces. The first space is the design area, where visitors can create a robot and put their own face on it. From there they visit the pod, which takes them at random to one of the eight historical



The AU\$2m redevelopment will last five to seven years

scenes dating back from as far as 110 million years, with a specific mission to complete in each section.

In the final area, visitors can discover more about the scene they just played through.

Following the experience, an augmented reality app can be downloaded, with characters from the game guiding kids to exhibits within the museum's wider collection.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=s9e5u\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=s9e5u_A)



The development has taken a decade

## AED150m Dubai Safari nears final completion

Plans to replace Dubai's outdated zoo – which was first built in 1967 – are nearing completion with Dubai Municipality releasing new footage of the under-development Dubai Safari, set to open later this year.

The 120 hectare (296.5 acre) development in Dubai's Al Warqaa district will be divided into three different sectors – African, Asian and Arabian – and will also include an open safari themed around different world locations with architecture to match.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=V4V9v\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=V4V9v_A)

# Disney robot's propellers turn it into wall-crawler

Disney's research arm has developed a robot capable of transitioning from the ground directly to a vertical wall.

Dubbed VertiGo, the robot was created in collaboration between Disney Research Zurich and Switzerland's ETH Zurich university.

The four-wheel prototype uses two tiltable propellers that provide thrust to move the robot onto the wall and then to keep it there as it manoeuvres around the vertical surface. One set of the robot's wheels are steerable, and each propeller has two degrees of freedom for adjusting the direction of thrust.

The robot offers new capability for moving devices, extending the ability for machines to travel through both urban and indoor environments, something Disney could incorporate into its theme parks as part of immersive technology on rides, or use in its shows to create seemingly impossible effects. Developer Paul Beardsley told *IEEE Spectrum* that while he couldn't discuss why Disney was developing VertiGo, one such use could be "robots with lighting



The robot uses infrared sensors and two propellers to control speed, direction and orientation

effects for entertainment or wall games."

Weight on the VertiGo has been minimised by using a central carbon-fibre baseplate. In addition, 3D-printed

parts have been used and carbon-rods are used for more complex structures, such as the wheels and wheel suspension.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=V6R9s\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=V6R9s_A)



Peake is working on-board the ISS

## Astronaut Tim Peake to call museum from space

British astronaut Tim Peake is set to hold a live Q&A session with schoolchildren in Liverpool's World Museum while on board the International Space Station.

More than 300 schoolchildren from across the UK will be in attendance at the museum, while more than 10,000 school teachers worldwide have signed up to a live broadcast, which will go out to primary schools as part of the 'Blast Off' event organised by teaching network TES, the UK Space Agency and the ESA.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=M7h2G\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=M7h2G_A)

## Clearwater Aquarium granted CDR approval for US\$50m expansion plan

US\$50m (€46.2m, £34.8m) plans to develop Clearwater Marine Aquarium's facilities have started to make waves after the operator secured necessary approval from the city's Community Development Review (CDR) board for expansion.

The Florida-based aquarium suffered a blow in May last year, when officials backed out of a US\$68m (€60.5m, £44.8m) downtown move due to timeframe concerns.

The new plan presented to the board calls for the attraction to more than double in size from 60,000sq ft (5,500sq m) to 130,000sq ft (12,000sq m).



Amputee Winter is Clearwater Aquarium's star attraction

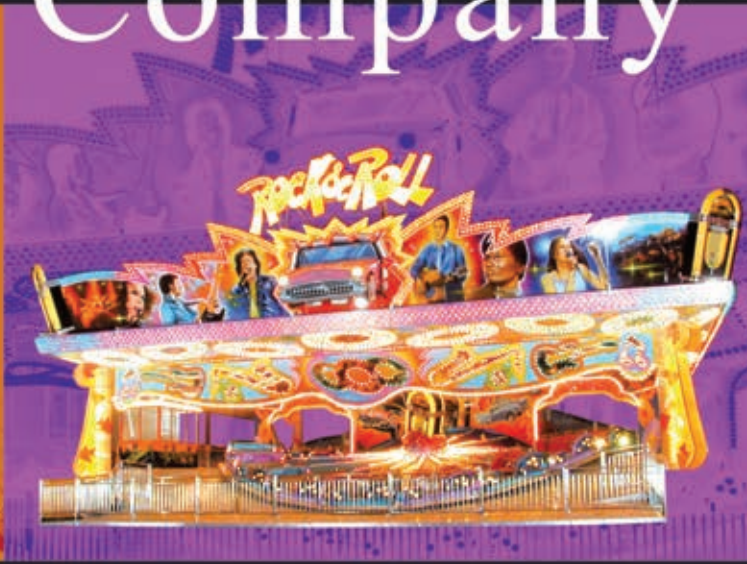
One of the main developments will be an expansion of the aquarium's famous dolphin tank, which will increase from 500,000 gallons in size to 1.4 million gallons. A new food court,

coral reef exhibit, lab rooms, a theatre, facilities for animal life support systems and a new parking garage with space for 440 vehicles are also included.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=J6n4N\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=J6n4N_A)



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# Space Center Houston launches shuttle exhibit

Space Center Houston has launched its latest attraction, a new US\$12m (€11m, £8.4m,) exhibit where guests can explore the first shuttle carrier aircraft and a replica shuttle.

Opened on 23 January, guests will be able to explore the inside of a NASA 905 aircraft, which is an extensively remodelled Boeing 747 airliner used to transport space shuttles on its back between launch sites, and a replica of the Independence shuttle.

The eight-storey Independence Plaza is the space centre's largest project to date since its launch in 1992. The complex itself was designed by PGAL, with Jacobs Engineering Group on project consultation.

When Independence Plaza opens, guests will be able to explore the inside of the massive aircraft, which has been repurposed as an interactive exhibition on the Space Shuttle Programme and the aircraft's history.

The exhibition – planned, designed and project managed by Jack Rouse Associates (JRA) – honours those who founded the US space shuttle programme, recounting stories



Independence Plaza is the space centre's largest project since its launch in 1992

from astronauts, engineers and pilots. It also focuses on problem-solving concepts and possible career paths in STEM. The attraction also highlights the role the Johnson Space

Center played in the shuttle's development and the research currently being performed by NASA for future space exploration.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=k6g5y\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=k6g5y_A)



DMG Live is developing the attraction

## Transformers experience coming to China in 2017

Hasbro and DMG have reached an agreement to bring a live-action Transformers experience to China.

The multi-million dollar attraction will comprise a custom-built 4,500-seat theatre hosting a live show starring the shape-shifting robots, stunts and special effects.

DMG's new live entertainment arm, DMG Live, is developing the show, with the semi-permanent venue to be located in or near Beijing. An opening date has been set for 2017.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=W4x4Z\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=W4x4Z_A)

## UK heritage projects share £14m in latest round of Heritage Lottery funding

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has granted £14m (US\$20m, €18.3m) in its latest funding round, with millions of pounds being split between a number of heritage projects across the UK.

One of the most significant investments goes to Portsmouth's D-Day Museum, which will close for around a year starting October 2016, while new displays and galleries are installed, with a £4m (US\$5.7m, €5.25m) investment from the HLF.

In Lincolnshire, the HLF has awarded £3m (US\$4.3m, €3.9m) for an exhibition, community engagement and



Three coastal towns including St Austell have gained funding

education programme for the International Bomber Command Centre (IBCC).

In Northern Ireland £1.98m (US\$2.8m, €2.6m) will go towards the regeneration of the historic

city of Armagh. Finally, three Victorian towns on the British coast will share £4.7m (US\$6.7m, €6.2m) to secure their long-term futures as tourist destinations.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=v5x6B\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=v5x6B_A)

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PHOTO: MUSEUMNEXT

Marian Goodell, CEO of Burning Man Projects, will speak at the event

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MuseumNext is a major conference on the future of museums. Since 2009, it has acted as a platform for showcasing

best practice today to shine a light on the museum of tomorrow. MuseumNext Dublin will be the eighth European conference and will feature a day of activity highlighting Dublin followed by two days of curated conference sessions.

for global and local stakeholders in the amusement and entertainment industries that are looking for a strong entry into these markets. The show in 2015 ushered in more than 300 firms from across 33 countries and attracted 7189 quality trade visitors and 64 new exhibitors. On its 22nd edition, DEAL 2016 expects to witness an even larger gathering of key players and visitors in the amusement industry from Middle East, African, Mediterranean, and Asian countries. With last year's show breaking the record of the number of new and old exhibitors and visitors since the show's inception in 1995, DEAL has developed into an unrivalled platform that gathers exhibitors, buyers, and professionals from the international amusement and entertainment industry. Email: [some@iecdubai.com](mailto:some@iecdubai.com) Tel: +971 4 3435777 [www.dealmiddleeastshow.com](http://www.dealmiddleeastshow.com)

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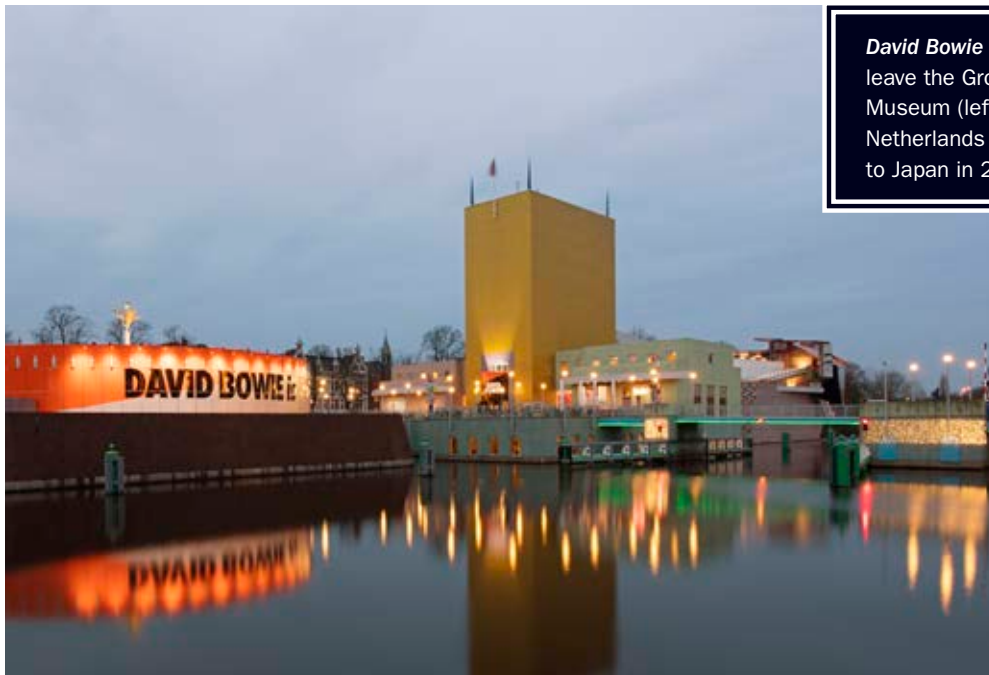




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*David Bowie is* will leave the Groninger Museum (left) in the Netherlands and head to Japan in 2017

PHOTO © MARTEN DE LEEUW

# DAVID BOWIE *is*

A blockbuster exhibition that travelled the world has become a record of the life of a cultural icon

The Groninger Museum in the Netherlands – which is currently hosting the *David Bowie is* touring exhibition – has sold more than 30,000 tickets in weeks following the musician's death as fans flock to pay tribute to the much loved music icon.

*David Bowie is* was curated by and debuted at London's Victoria and Albert Museum in March 2013. Since its debut, 1.3 million people worldwide have visited the exhibition, which by popular demand now adds a new date in Japan.

Groningen was supposed to be the final stop for the Bowie exhibition, which also went on temporary display in countries including Canada, Brazil, the US and France.



PHOTO © MARTEN DE LEEUW



Museum hours have been extended on weekends

PHOTO © FRANK W OCKENFELS





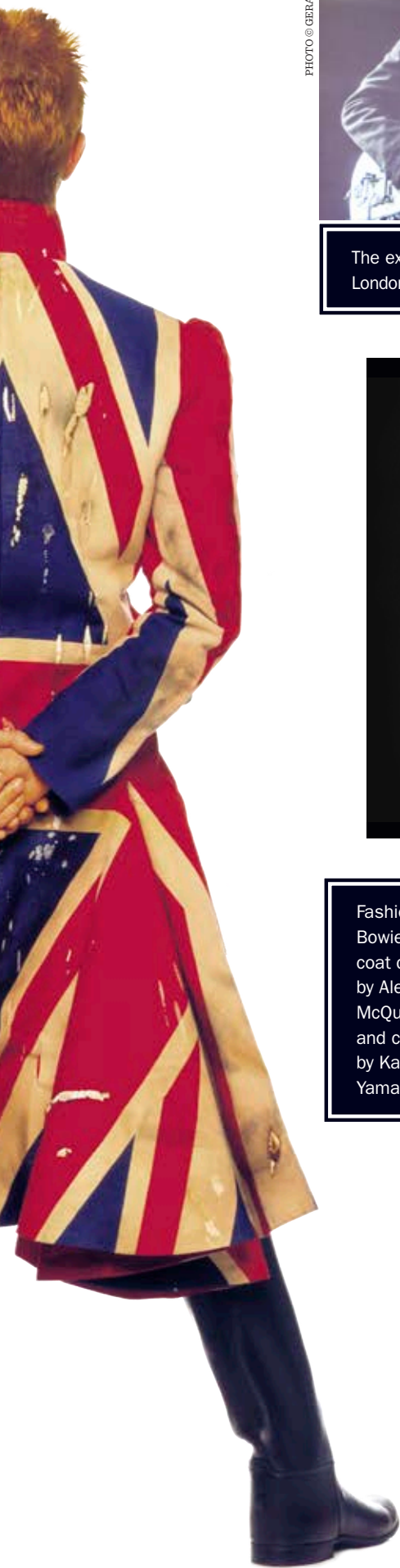


PHOTO © GERARD TAATGEN



The exhibition debuted at London's V&A in March 2013



PHOTO © JOHN ROBERT ROWLANDS

Fashion icon Bowie wears a coat designed by Alexander McQueen (left) and clothes by Kansai Yamamoto

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DAVID BOWIE, 1995



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The animated 3D puppet at Spongebob Subpants Adventure

### Geppetto technology to revolutionise digital puppetry

Live shows featuring state-of-the-art digital puppetry could become more prevalent, thanks to a revolutionary live animation control system from creative production firm Super 78.

The company has won this year's industry-leading Thea award for its Geppetto Animation Control System (ACS) technology, which is used in the Spongebob Subpants

Adventure at Moody Gardens in Galveston, Texas, and is set to bring modern-day puppetry to life at more parks.

The submarine-based immersive experience is hosted by Patrick Star, a 3D digital puppet controlled in real time by a show operator. Patrick is able to interact with the audience and respond to the environment, so no adventure is ever the same.



Theatre De Lawei is the cultural centre for performing arts

### Theatre De Lawei chooses software solution by Syx

With its varied cultural offer, theatre De Lawei is the beating heart and cultural meeting place of Drachten in the Netherlands. It is an open house for performing arts, where creators and enthusiasts can meet in the best possible circumstances.

De Lawei started implementing ReCreateX as a ticketing solution in 2010, after which they decided to gradually replace all software

for cash register sales, bookings and arrangements by the RCX modules in question.

In 2016, ReCreateX is being used for ticket sales, catering sales, bookings and files.

The strength of RCX for the theatre is that it can rely on one single integrated software solution for all its commercial, planning and administrative activities, which saves time.



A Huss Condor 2GH combines different ride styles

### Tivoli Gardens' new Huss hybrid is a first-ever ride combo

A Huss Condor has been installed at Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen, marking a "world first" combination from the German ride maker.

Set to debut with the 2016 season in April, the 45m-tall Condor 2GH, which has been named Fatamorgana by the park, is unique in that it combines two types of passenger gondola.

The four-armed Condor, one of Huss's most popular

rides, offers two different types of experience, in either an oriental-themed flying animal gondola or a more typical outward facing single-seat gyro frame.

There are six oriental two-seater carriages on two of the arms, themed like flying lions and oryx, and two rotating arms each with 14 single seats, offering the more thrilling ride.



The 70m-tall Giant Wheel made by Mondial World of Rides

### Mondial supplies Giant Wheel for Paris tourist hotspot

Industry ride suppliers Leisure Labs has announced its latest project, the world's largest transportable giant wheel, in Place de la Concorde in Paris.

The big wheel – la grande roue – was the star of the Champs-Élysées Christmas market, attracting around 300,000 passengers. The festive market and big wheel are owned and operated by

France's so-called "king of funfair," Marcel Campion.

The attraction is an upgrade from the previous wheel, a 50m-tall (164ft) ride that has been popular with tourists in the busy public square since 2000. The new installation, which offers panoramic views featuring some of the city's most famous landmarks, is a 48-pod, 70m-tall (230ft) wheel made by Mondial.

# Koch resigns from AMNH board amid oil pressure

Oil billionaire David Koch has resigned from the board of the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) amid pressures from environmental advocates, who have urged the museum to cut ties with fossil fuel companies.

Koch, who is thought to be worth around US\$43bn (€39.7bn, £30bn), has donated more than US\$20m (€18.5m, £14m) to the museum during his 23-year tenure as a board member.

A spokesperson for the museum confirmed to *AM2* that Koch's position as a board member ended on 9 December, the date of the trustees' annual meeting.

*The Guardian* is reporting that Koch's resignation was not motivated by calls for his resignation from anti-oil protests, but a collective of activists and scientists – which gained national attention in 2015 with an open letter signed by dozens of prominent scientists calling for Koch's resignation.

In addition to the letter, backed by several Nobel laureates, a petition calling for Koch's resignation garnered



Koch remains a part of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History advisory board

more than 230,000 signatures, adding to pressure against the multi-billionaire.

Despite his resignation from the AMNH, Koch remains a part of the Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History advisory board and is also a major funder of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=k9d5m\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=k9d5m_A)



The zoo is in need of modernisation

## Pakistan to modernise facilities at Lahore Zoo

The Pakistani government has approved plans to redevelop and modernise facilities and operations at Lahore Zoo, which will include redevelopment of facilities, foreign training of keepers and the introduction of new animals to the visitor attraction.

The redevelopment plans – finalised by the Punjab chief minister Shehbaz Sharif – include a new amusement park, modernised walkways, new enclosures, staff facilities and new tourist facilities.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=v5m8e\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=v5m8e_A)

# New details revealed for Ferrari Land theme park and 112mph vertical coaster

Ferrari Land, the highly anticipated branded zone set to open at PortAventura in 2017, will boast a twin drop tower ride and a Formula 1 race course attraction, as well as its record-breaking race car-themed vertical accelerator.

The vertical accelerator rollercoaster is set to be the star attraction at the new park in Spain, launching riders to speeds of 180kmph (112mph) in just five seconds. At a height of 112m (367ft) it will become both the fastest and highest coaster in Europe – taking the latter record from PortAventura's very own Shambhala (76m, 249ft).



Construction is expected to complete later this year

The Ferrari-themed park, which is costing €100m (£76m, US\$109m), is being built around high-tech adrenaline-focused attractions. In addition, the development will include restaurants, retail

areas and a five-star premium hotel with 250 bedrooms.

Ferrari Land is being built on a 6-hectare (15-acre) site beside PortAventura's existing parks in Salou.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=4j4A6\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=4j4A6_A)



# How personal experiences are changing the game

Peter Law, creative producer at Flying Object and creator of Tate Britain's IK Prize-winning *Sensorium*, has outlined how multi-sensory spaces can create unique personal experiences.

*Sensorium* – which utilised experts in sound, taste, scent and touch, combined with lighting and theatre elements – ran until September 2015 as a multi-sensory experience centred around four famous artworks.

The intimate experience, which allowed four people to enter at a time, stimulated the noses, hands and tongue, using edible chocolate, perfumed scents, haptic ultra-sound touch and 3D soundscapes to create something unlike anything seen, heard or even tasted before, immersing visitors in those works and creating an added layer of depth.

Paired with the new multi-sensory experience, as people entered the 10sq m (107sq ft) gallery inside the Tate they were provided with wristbands to record electrodermal activity.

"We wanted to give people another way to look back on their experience," said Law. "Wristbands we gave visitors measured their



Peter Law (centre) created *Sensorium* with partners Tom Pursey (right) and Tim Partridge (left)

reactions essentially the same way it would with a lie detector – it's a reliable measure of what's going on inside. This was the thing people used as a tool to talk about the experi-

ence and to compare and contrast with their friends. They walked out quite thrilled with their graph, their data, their little story."

More: [http://lei.sr?a=u4E6U\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=u4E6U_A)

## UK government announces £30m youth fund for nation's science centres

The UK's minister for Universities and Science, Jo Johnson, has announced a new partnership with the Wellcome Trust to deliver £30m (US\$43m, €39.5m) of grants for science centres and attractions across Britain aiming to inspire young people in STEM careers.

Made up of £20m (US\$28.6m, €26.3m) in government funding and a further £10m (US\$14.3m, €13.2m) from the Wellcome Trust, the Inspiring Science Capital Fund (ISCF) will be used to revamp exhibitions and infrastructure, with the UK's scientific institutions able to bid for specific funding.



The fund will be given to underrepresented audiences

According to Johnson, applicants will need to be able to demonstrate how the funding would help them to engage both underserved and underrepresented audiences.

Johnson also announced new funding for the wider sector, with the UK striving to stand at the forefront of international research and STEM-based learning.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=E6t7q\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=E6t7q_A)



The development opens in late 2017

## Sony FEC and waterpark planned for Minnesota

Developer iP2 Entertainment is planning to open an indoor Sony family entertainment centre (FEC) in Minnesota to complement an adjacent waterpark and hotel as part of a US\$115m (€105m, £80.8m) mega leisure development.

Known as the Mall of Entertainment, the Albertville-based destination will cover 430,000sq ft (40,000sq m) and will include the Sony Entertainment Center as well as a 275-bedroom Marriott Hotel and a 50,000sq ft (4,645sq m) waterpark.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=C2e7W\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=C2e7W_A)

# Universal Orlando launches Business Learning Series

Universal Orlando has launched a new youth training scheme designed to teach students the basics of business through experiences learned at its theme park and resort.

As part of the scheme, Universal has partnered with CNBC show *The Profit*, which follows serial entrepreneur and investor Marcus Lemonis who invests his own money to help save and grow struggling businesses.

The Business Learning Series combines Lemonis' business lessons, the day-to-day operations and innovations at the theme park, and educational knowledge from Columbia College to offer students a real-world perspective to succeed in business.

Part one of the training scheme, titled Career Selection and Preparation, focuses on career readiness and self-assessments to uncover natural strengths and corresponding career paths. The second training session focuses on leadership skills and personal development, with students studying workplace integrity



Students will identify real-life examples of business principles at Universal's parks

and practice communication tactics to positively influence their career path. The final session – Business Development: People, Process, Product – focuses

on Lemonis' "three Ps", exploring the importance of a quality product, dedicated people and an efficient process.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=R5n9C\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=R5n9C_A)



A class of 10 has been chosen for 2016

## Future leaders chosen for AZA training scheme

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) is undertaking its third Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP), a scheme helping to identify and train the next generation of leaders.

The training initiative, which in 2016 is made up of a class of 10 people, is designed to teach executive leadership behaviour, executive focus and executive oversight for zoo or aquarium operations.

The AZA programme is an ongoing initiative, with 2017's class to be selected in Q3 of 2016.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=Q9Y8G\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=Q9Y8G_A)

## TEA's SATE Academy Days return with events in Tilburg and Las Vegas

The Themed Entertainment Association (TEA) has held its first SATE (Storytelling, Architecture, Technology, Experience) Academy Days of the year, travelling to Tilburg, Netherlands and then to Las Vegas's MGM Grand.

Starting in Tilburg's Fontys Academy, TEA's Europe and Middle East division held a full day of conferencing on 28 January, challenging students and delegates to explore ideas for a new theme park land.

Moving onto Las Vegas, the SATE academy day included a backstage tour of the MGM Grand's *KÁ* by Cirque du Soleil, as well as a tour and



The Las Vegas event included a tour of the High Roller

ride of the Arup-designed High Roller – the 550ft-tall (167.7m) attraction on the Vegas Strip, currently the world's tallest Ferris wheel.

The event will return at the end of February

when delegates travel to Rovaniemi, Finland, between the 24th and 26th for three days of events themed around "Designing for Extremes".

More: [http://lei.sr?a=z2S5t\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=z2S5t_A)



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Dianne Eade, Newquay Zoo  
Head of Finance, Human Resources and Administration



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Merlin Entertainments Group Ltd

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Legoland

Salary: Competitive

Job location: Florida, USA

■ **Aquarist sea Life Jesolo**

Gardaland Resort

Salary: Competitive

Job location: Verona, Italy

■ **Senior Marketing Executive**

Shrek's Adventure

Salary: Competitive

Job location: London, UK

■ **Deputy Manager**

Namco UK

Salary: Circa £23k

Job location: Romford, UK

■ **Duty Manager**

Namco UK

Salary: £17,500

Job location: Tamworth, UK

■ **Public Relations Manager**

Legoland

Salary: Competitive

Job location: Johor, Malaysia

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Legoland

Salary: Competitive

Job location: Johor, Malaysia

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Sea Life

Salary: Competitive

Job location: Orlando, USA

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Salary: Competitive

Job location: New York, NY, USA

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Legoland

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Job location: California, USA

■ **Youth and Education Sales Representative**

Legoland

Salary: Competitive

Job location: Florida, USA

## Six Flags breaks ground on first Asian venture in US\$4.6bn China development

Chinese real estate development firm Riverside Investment Group (RIG) has broken ground a US\$4.6bn (€4.2bn, £3.2bn) development, which will include Asia's first Six Flags-branded theme park.

RIG – which currently has more than US\$3.5bn (€3.2bn, £2.5bn) in assets under management – is partnering with Six Flags on the mixed-use development in Haiyan, south of Shanghai, which is expected to create more than 100,000 jobs. Once complete, Six Flags will act as the centrepiece of the resort, which as a whole will attract more than 12 million visitors annually.



Six Flags and Riverside have partnered on the development

Specific attractions for the park have not yet been announced, but it has been confirmed a number of record-breaking coasters will be included, along with thrill experiences, live shows and more.

The first piece of the development is a US\$36m (€33m, £25.4m) exhibition centre, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year. The theme park will open in 2019.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=9N2J9\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=9N2J9_A)

## Answers in Genesis wins court battle over Noah's Ark US\$18m tax incentives

The religious group building a controversial US\$120m (€110m, £84m) Old Testament theme park in Kentucky, US, has won a legal battle over the state's decision to withdraw US\$18m (€16.6m, £12.5m) worth of tourism tax credits because of its discriminatory hiring procedure.

The Noah's Ark-inspired theme park, set to open in Kentucky in July, has come under fire several times since the project's inception, mainly after the park's parent company, Answers in Genesis (AiG) refused to hire anyone who doesn't believe in the biblical flood.



The Noah's Ark-inspired theme park is set to open in July

A federal judge ruled on 25 January, that state officials violated the ark builders' First Amendment rights. The judge said that the state could not exclude the attraction based on its "religious

purpose and message," despite its hiring process.

AiG is now eligible for the tax incentive – a 25 per cent rebate which will be split over the next decade.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=R7d5Q\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=R7d5Q_A)

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