

# Smithsonian and British Museum eye Olympicopolis

While the Smithsonian is stalling on plans to move to London's Olympicopolis site, the British Museum is looking at the possibility of a satellite site at the upcoming cultural hub.

For the Washington-based Smithsonian, which has 19 affiliates in the US, uncertainty over costs to open a new 3,750sq m (40,300sq ft) satellite facility within the new cultural quarter on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park has delayed a final decision.

The development – which would focus on America's history and contribution to science – would be the first for Smithsonian outside the US, but the plans are now under



The Smithsonian insists it remains committed to the project

review with a final decision expected before the end of June.

For the British Museum, a satellite facility at Olympicopolis

could also be on the cards, with the institution looking at opening a home to house the collections it currently holds in storage at

Blythe House, which the UK government is planning to sell.

As part of 2015's Autumn Statement, chancellor George Osborne allocated £150m (US\$212m, €188.7m) to enable the three institutions storing collections at Blythe House to build new facilities to house their artefacts. In addition to the British Museum, the Science Museum and V&A Museum have been storing their collections there.

Olympicopolis – a legacy project of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games – is expected to break ground in 2018, with the waterfront scheme opening in 2020/21.  
*More: [http://lei.sr?a=X4r2n\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=X4r2n_A)*

## Legoland Florida to make resort 'autism friendly'

Legoland Florida has teamed up with Autism Speaks to cater the resort to the needs of its autistic visitors.

Ahead of World Autism Day on 2 April, the child-focused attraction announced it would work with the organisation to ensure the park is "autism friendly". Measures taken will include a number of design changes, the creation of quiet areas for children and special training for Legoland staff.

Additionally, staff will get twice-yearly training from Autism Speaks on how to meet the needs of autistic guests.

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=k4j4m\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=k4j4m_A)*

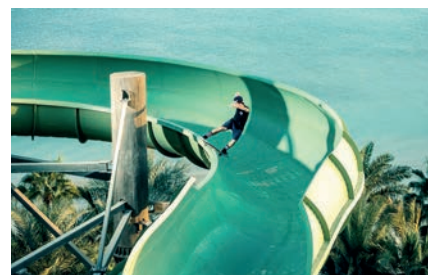
## Red Bull skaters let loose in Dubai waterpark

Dubai's Atlantis, The Palm drained its Aquaventure Waterpark in a marketing stunt that saw three pro skateboarders given an all-access pass as they used the selection of world-class dry slides to turn the waterpark into a skatepark.

Arranged in conjunction with Red Bull UAE, the pro skaters Milton Martinez, Alex Sorgente and Jan Hoffmann spent four days in January exploring the waterpark and what it had to offer.

The video, released 11 April, sees the three skateboarders riding down six storeys and 156m (512ft) of twists and turns, plus a 14m (46m) wall on the temporarily dry Aquaconda slide, drained as part of regular maintenance.

So far, the footage has been seen on Red Bull's YouTube page more than 370,000 times.



Waterslides became half pipes for a period

Atlantis, The Palm's Aquaventure Waterpark is the largest waterpark in the Middle East and Europe and is considered among the best in the world.

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=8s8c6\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=8s8c6_A)*

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## Hackathon utilises new technology for proposed Sydney Zoo development

Sydney's proposed new zoo in Australia will take technology to a whole new level when it opens in late 2017, using a number of new technologies from startups to create a "technologically-enabled experience" for both patrons and residents of the upcoming attraction.

The zoo hosted a "hackathon" on 8 April as part of Western Sydney University's LaunchPad programme, which focused on technology, animal conservation and welfare, and immersive displays.

The event featured a host of university experts and private sector startups, with the crowd-sourced



Drones could be used to deliver food to animals

hackathon aimed at generating a range of new ideas which utilise new technology for an engaging experience.

Experts were on-hand at the event to highlight the characteristics and

habits of each animal and how they would interact with each technology. For visitors, suggestions included augmented reality displays and holograms.

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=x3S9V\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=x3S9V_A)*

## Former Disney Imagineering executive joins Thinkwell Group in senior role

Global experience design and production agency Thinkwell Group have appointed former Walt Disney Imagineering executive Diane Michioka as their new vice president of production.

Michioka has more than two decades of experience working in short and long-term strategic project planning, show producing, and creative team management. She will have a key role in assisting the business development team with client relations and proposal development, as well as guiding, strategising and improving the overall process for Thinkwell's project teams.



Michioka has extensive creative and marketing experience

In her previous job at Walt Disney Imagineering, Michioka held the role of director of Disneyland Design Studio and as manager for Creative Division Planning. In these positions, she was

responsible for managing design and production teams from blue sky development through post-opening, while overseeing schedules, budgets, and staffing.

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=x4n9c\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=x4n9c_A)*



# Antarctica to host floating art Biennale in 2017

An exhibition of contemporary art is being planned for one of the world's most remote locations – Antarctica.

Due to launch 27 March 2017, the Antarctic Biennale will feature around 100 artists and scientists who will travel for 12 days on board the Akademik Ioffe, creating works for temporary installation in different locations around the South Pole.

Sailing from Argentina via the Falkland Islands, the list of artists on the unique expedition will be revealed in full in early 2017. Ukrainian artist Alexander Ponomarev, who also hosted an Antarctic Pavilion at the 15th Venice Biennale of Architecture in 2014, is commissioner of the Biennale.

Every landing on the voyage will be documented in detail with the help of a documentary team. The artists will account for half of those on the expedition, with the rest including organisers, a technical support group, reporters, sponsors and collectors. After the journey, several exhibitions are to be staged in



Ukrainian artist Alexander Ponomarev is leading the Antarctic Expedition

museums around Europe with the works created.

Beyond the inaugural 2017 event, the Antarctic Biennale will set sail once every two years, with the aim to present itself as a floating

laboratory of ideas about humanity. In the year before the Biennale, a number of events are planned in Moscow, New York, Venice, Basel,

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=F7Z9V\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=F7Z9V_A)*

## Banks back Dubai Parks and Resorts' Six Flags bid with AED1bn development loan

Dubai Parks and Resorts (DPR) has secured a AED1bn (US\$272m, €239m, £193m) loan to add a fourth theme park to its portfolio, with the proposed addition flying the Six Flags banner.

The operator, which is launching this first stage of its new multi-billion dollar theme park and resort project later this year, has secured the debt financing to fund part of the proposed Six Flags-branded theme park. The debt portion has been provided by Abu Dhabi commercial Bank, Dubai Islamic Bank and Sharjah Islamic Bank.

DPR will need to raise a total of AED2.67bn (US\$727m, €639m,



The Six Flags development would open during Q4 2019

£515m) to fully finance the development, with the remainder being sought through a proposed rights issue, which will be put to shareholders at a general assembly meeting.

If approved, the Six Flags development would operate under a licensing model with an opening date of Q4 2019. DPR signed a deal with Six Flags for the park in 2014.

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=k3F2z\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=k3F2z_A)*



Tedeschi assumes her position in July

## Tedeschi named director of Harvard's Art Museums

Harvard University has named the Art Institute of Chicago's Martha Tedeschi as new director of its art museums.

Tedeschi will formally assume her new position in July, taking over from Thomas Lentz, who stepped down as director last year following a 12-year tenure.

In addition to running the museum and its staff of 225 people, Tedeschi will also operate 11 curatorial departments, as well as the museum's libraries, archives, conservation science department and its academic programmes.

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=B7E9D\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=B7E9D_A)*

# US\$46m Thai waterpark prepares to make splash

Southeast Asia's largest waterpark is on course for a big future as the US\$46m (€40.8m, £32.4m) Pattaya-based attraction in Thailand prepares to open its doors.

Designed by Hassell Architects with WhiteWater West and Pentair acting as suppliers, the Thailand Board of Investment-approved development offers 21 state-of-the-art waterslides in addition to a raft of features including a dedicated kids zone a double wave pool, lazy river, caves, water features, spa pools and relaxation pools.

Ramayana will be one of Thailand's premier visitor attractions, expecting to draw 1 million visitors in its first year, and 2 million per year by 2020.

"One-quarter of Pattaya's overnight visitors are Thai," said Johannes Pattermann, Ramayana's director of marketing and sales, speaking to *Attractions Management*. "Ramayana is within the two-hour drive limitation that waterparks normally experience so it will be able to attract visitors from the huge Bangkok market."



The waterpark is surrounded by a picturesque scene of natural lakes and hills

Ramayana has reserved a third of its land for future expansion. "This will not only allow the growing number of visitors to enjoy the park without waiting times, but also offer the

latest thrills and rides," said Pattermann. The waterpark is confirmed to open at the end of this month, though no date has been confirmed.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=6w4k9\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=6w4k9_A)



The park will be split into three sections

## Work starts on Croatia's first major theme park

Ground has been broken on Croatia's first major theme park development, with the €25m (US\$28.5m, £19.9m) development by Italian amusement design specialists Bausaa hailed as a world-class attraction on par with industry leaders.

Expected to debut the €15m (US\$17m, £12m) first phase of development by 1 May 2017, the 45,654sq m (491,000sq ft) theme park will open with 25 attractions split into three distinct sections with wild west, pirate city and space themes.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=b4R3G\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=b4R3G_A)

## Barack Obama names Washington women's museum national monument

US President Barack Obama has dedicated a new national monument to women's equality with the hope of creating a landmark that will stand for hundreds of years.

Obama said that he hoped the historic Sewall-Belmont House and Museum on Capitol Hill would become "a centrepiece for the struggle for equality". Now known as the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument, the President said he hoped the building could act a symbol for women's rights.

"I want young girls and boys to come here, 10, 20, 100 years from now, to know that women fought for equality, it was not just



Obama hopes the building will be a symbol for women's rights

given to them," he said. "I want them to be astonished that there was ever a time when women earned less than men for doing the same work. I want them to be astonished that there was

ever a time when women were vastly outnumbered in the boardroom or in Congress, that there was ever a time when a woman had never sat in the Oval Office."

More: [http://lei.sr?a=c8R5u\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=c8R5u_A)



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# Stay ahead of game, future-proof science centres

Peter Slavenburg, director of design agency NorthernLight, has suggested several ways to future-proof science centres.

According to Slavenburg – whose firm specialises in science centre design and cultural and digital experience platforms – science centres need to stay ahead of the game, adopting new innovations to stay relevant.

Speaking to *Attractions Management*, Slavenburg laid out several action points to prepare science museums for the future, with the first thing highlighted being the application of technology in an intuitive and elegant way.

“We have moved from a 20th-century world where technology was visible all around us, to a world where technology has become intuitive, omnipresent and invisible,” said Slavenburg. “Technology is advancing, but the presence of technology is diminishing. This is the way science centres should move as well.”

Slavenburg then raised the idea of co-creation and the exchange of ideas, goods and information, highlighting the sharing philosophy being applied through mediums



Slavenburg says as people and technology evolve, science centres need to stay ahead of the game

such as social media, crowd-funding, and second-source interactive content. On the topic of play, Slavenburg added that serious games are an important tool in the 21st

century, with science centres among the first to introduce the concept, which uses gameplay and interaction for education.

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=3D3b3\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=3D3b3_A)*



The palace is undergoing renovation

## Saddam Hussein's former palace to become museum

Iraq is planning to open its first new major museum since its occupation in 2003, with an art institution to open inside the former palace of President Saddam Hussein later this year.

Funded through UK charity Friends of Basra Museum and oil company donations, the former stronghold of Hussein in Basra, used as a mess hall for the British Army following his capture in 2003, will become “the principal museum in southern Iraq and a model for the region”, according to the government.

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=F6S4q\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=F6S4q_A)*

## Wizards World of Harry Potter makes debut at Universal Hollywood

Universal Studios has officially debuted its new Wizards World of Harry Potter attraction, with its Hollywood location the second to come to the US.

Similar to the Wizards World at Universal Orlando, the Universal Hollywood version includes themed stores in Hogsmeade Village, the Three Broomsticks restaurant, Flight of the Hippogriff rollercoaster and the Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey thrill ride, which has new HD 3D effects. Unlike its Orlando counterpart, the California version of the Potter attraction does not include the Dragon Challenge coaster.



The new Wizards World attraction opened to much fanfare

Universal has achieved exceptional theme park attendance and profit growth, driven by the Harry Potter attractions at Universal in Orlando and Japan.

A host of stars attended the opening, with Potter actors Tom Felton, Evanna Lynch, James and Oliver Phelps, and Warwick Davis on-hand for the occasion.

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=S5F6f\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=S5F6f_A)*



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[museumsandheritage.com/show](http://museumsandheritage.com/show)

26-27 MAY 2016

### **International Conference on Hospitality & Tourism Management 2016**

**Bangkok, Thailand**

ICOHT is one of the most innovative forums to discuss tourism and hospitality-related issues, policies, challengers and future directions. ICOHT 2016 organizes for the consecutive 4th year with the theme of "Tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability; a global solution for a better future for the planet" and co-hosted by Middlesex University Business School, United Kingdom and TIIKM Conferences.  
Tel: +94 113 098 521/2  
[tourismconference.co](http://tourismconference.co)

26-29 MAY 2016

### **2016 Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo**

**Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC, US**

The American Alliance of Museums Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo is the largest gathering of museum professionals in the world. This year's programme is jam-packed with opportunities to hear diverse perspectives on a wide range of topics and to engage in meaningful dialogue with



13-16 JUNE 2016

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27-30 JUNE 2016

### **2016 World Leisure Congress** **Durban, South Africa**

The first World Leisure Congress on the African continent will be hosted by the

Leisure and Recreation Association of South Africa (LARASA). The aim is to explore the main theme "Challenges, Choices and Consequences" by creating a platform for professionals from diverse fields to interact, share and present a context for leisure services and opportunities.  
[larasa.org.za](http://larasa.org.za)

7-11 SEPTEMBER 2016

### **AZA Annual Conference 2016** **San Diego, California, US**

For more than 85 years, the AZA Annual Conference is where business solutions, new trends and science-based know-how converge. The premier event for zoo and aquarium professionals, the conference will be hosted by San Diego Zoo, San Diego Zoo Safari Park, and SeaWorld San Diego, bringing together more than 2,000 leaders in the community, from a wide variety of disciplines for several days of networking events, exploration of new ideas and best practices, and learning about new technology, products, and services.  
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# NOTHING VENTURED NOTHING GAINED

Simworx Ventures is bringing its expertise in cutting-edge media-based attractions to a new audience of museums, heritage sites, zoos and aquariums

**S**imworx, the global dynamic simulation supplier, has launched a new division to take its expertise in cutting-edge media-based attractions beyond the theme park audience and into other sectors.

The division – Simworx Ventures – focuses on working with attractions partners who want to offer world-class 3D/4D theatres and motion simulators to visitors.

Importantly, the arrangement with Simworx Ventures doesn't involve any up-front investment by the operator, as it's based on a revenue-share agreement.

Attractions such as museums, science centres, zoos, aquariums, FECs and heritage sites can use it to boost attendance and create a steady revenue stream.

Simworx Ventures' head of business development, Andy Gray, talks us through the concept and explains how small- to medium-sized attractions can benefit.

## What is Simworx Ventures?

Simworx Ventures is a new division of UK-based Simworx Ltd.

## ANDY GRAY SIMWORX VENTURES

Andy Gray is the business development manager heading up Simworx Ventures. His background includes over 10 years in the museum sector. Gray's knowledge of the operational and commercial running of museums will be invaluable to understanding how to create educational and entertaining visitor experiences and form profitable partnerships.



Simworx Ventures focuses on revenue-share opportunities, offering all types of attractions a diverse range of exciting media-based experiences, including dynamic motion simulation attractions and creative AV solutions, with no up-front payment required by the operator.

Our aim is to create great partnerships. We want to grow our portfolio to become as popular and successful as Simworx.

## What products and services does Simworx Ventures offer?

We offer a genuine turnkey experience. Our range includes our hugely popular 4D Cinemas, Immersive Tunnels, Stargazer Motion Theatres and new 360 Flying Theatres for the entertainment, education and corporate markets. We're also able to create bespoke attractions for clients.

Our capabilities include product development, manufacturing and service support, the supply of a full range of film content, motion programming and the creation of complete themed attractions.

## Does Simworx Ventures offer custom solutions or outright sale?

Bespoke experiences, including film, can be created around customers' venues and 3D systems and 4D effects can be installed to integrate seamlessly with existing venues. Our clients also have access to a vast film library with hugely varied subject content.

As part of the wider Simworx family, we can also offer the outright sale of any of our products to any organisation worldwide.

## Are you currently creating any new and exciting products or technology?

Simworx has invested heavily in new technology recently in these areas: virtual reality, passenger carrying and show action robotics, interactivity, advanced projection mapping, augmented reality and AGV (automated guidance vehicle) dark rides.

## Which attractions have you worked with?

Simworx Ventures' partners include the Science Museum Group (Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester), the RAF Museums in London and Cosford and The Needles on the Isle of Wight.



Simworx manufactures all of its accredited products at a high-tech facility in the UK





New division, Simworx Ventures, can install 3D/4D theatres and media-based experiences with no up-front cost to the client

## “WE’RE LOOKING FOR REVENUE-SHARE PARTNERS THAT WANT TO STIMULATE, AMAZE AND EDUCATE VISITORS. WE WANT TO CREATE WORLD-CLASS EXPERIENCES THAT BECOMES A ‘MUST DO’ FOR VISITORS”

### What do you look for in a partner attraction?

We’re looking for predominantly UK-based revenue-share partners that want to do something exciting that stimulates, amazes and educates visitors. We want to work

together to create world-class experiences that becomes a ‘must do’ for visitors.

Of course, we must firstly ensure we can generate enough revenue to make a profit for both parties

**Simworx is investing heavily in new technology**

and to recoup our investment. To do this, we look at visitor numbers, the venues’ commitment to technological and innovative experiences and how we can tailor our product to fit.

### What are the benefits for partners?

Simworx Ventures invests in the creation and installation of a ready-to-go visitor experience, allowing the venue to then operate the paid-for experience. The two parties then split the revenue.

Museum and attractions’ funding is decreasing all over the UK and venues are looking for new and innovative ways to create revenue. Not all attractions have the capital to invest in new visitor experiences, but they still want to offer something current and tech-based for all the family. Simworx Ventures allows them to do that, while generating incremental revenue and pushing up visitor numbers at the same time. Our model helps attractions and venues to increase their income at low risk and with low or no investment.

In addition to these benefits, we offer partners after-sales support through our team of dedicated service engineers, who provide worldwide support 365 days a year.

### How are you developing the new business?

The key to developing a business that relies on technology is to always stay ahead of the game, using innovative solutions to develop new, exciting experiences.

We’re talking to a number of UK museums and carrying out market research to identify potential partners across the UK.

We also intend to build our brand and raise the profile of Simworx Ventures by exhibiting at trade shows, including the Museum Association’s annual conference, Museum Next, the Museums & Heritage Show and the Association of Independent Museums (AIM) conference. ●

**For more information please contact Andy Gray, [andygray@simworx.co.uk](mailto:andygray@simworx.co.uk) [www.simworx.co.uk](http://www.simworx.co.uk)**





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# IDEATTACK®







The technology was used for World Heritage Day this month

### Samsung Gear to bring Scottish history to life

The National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh participated in World Heritage Day on 18 April with a free-to-attend virtual reality event.

VR is a fitting technology for the heritage sector, enabling visitors to get a taste for what life was like in the past in a truly immersive way. For example, visitors to the one-off event can travel back 1,800 years to see

the Romans build Scotland's Antonine Wall with the aid of the Samsung Gear VR headset.

The event was organised by Historic Environment Scotland (HES), the newly formed public body responsible for protecting the nation's heritage. The VR element is the work of Scotland's Centre for Digital Documentation and Visualisation (CDDV).



Cash transactions have fallen dramatically in recent times

### Gateway launches contactless donations system

Gateway Ticketing Systems UK is launching a contactless card payment system that will help arts and heritage attractions boost their donation capabilities.

The cash-free donation technology means the visitor can give money simply by passing their bank card over the payment point. Gateway can customise the donation sites to suit the attraction and,

for example, can install the technology at the information desk or embedded in the existing cash donation box.

"With contactless payments becoming more common across all sectors, we feel the time is right to tap into this new technology for the arts and heritage market," said Andy Povey, business development director at Gateway.



The fountains at Sant Adrià include 80 interactive jets

### Fluidra to offer ornamental water fountains

Sustainable water use expert Fluidra has acquired water fountain developer Somhidros to strengthen its position in the commercial pool sector.

With both firms based in Barcelona, Fluidra now intends to spread its commercial reach with Somhidros' stock, machinery and knowledge.

Somhidros has nearly 20 years experience in the

design, technological development and installation of ornamental fountains, water features and artificial lakes.

Designed to deliver on low power consumption, as well as recycle water, recent Somhidros creations include the fountains at The City Hall Square, Sant Adrià - a daytime fun and interactive space and a nighttime spectacle of 80 interactive jets.



Nussli has constructed a modular theatre for Bern Old Town

### Nussli constructs its modular theatre cube

Nussli has given theatre-goers in Switzerland a special architectural experience with its bespoke performance cube.

The 1000sq m (10,700sq ft) temporary cube, constructed in Bern Old Town square, has been clad to create a 'sense of the historic' while the theatre undergoes restoration.

The new Nussli modular hall system has 480 seats, catering,

backstage and technical areas as well as a cloakroom.

The system can be built within a short time, even in unusual locations, in any size.

The pop-up took a month to complete and can be adapted if needs be. Nussli is now planning a double-decker bridge for the IndyCar race in Boston in September. It will cross over the racetrack to the waterfront.

# “A glimpse of what the future holds for theme parks the world over”

**Derren Brown, illusionist and TV personality**

**T**he excitement is palpable as the public awaits a revolutionary new “ghost train attraction” opening at Thorpe Park near London this spring. The man behind the concept is TV illusionist and mentalist Derren Brown, famed for his ability to control the behaviour of others.

“With the creative and operational teams at Thorpe Park and Merlin Magic Making [MMM], we’re completely reinventing the concept of a ghost train for the 21st century,” says Brown. “The experience will rewrite the rules of what a theme park attraction can deliver.”

The 13-minute multi-sensory experience promises to combine VR technology (using HTC Vive headsets), grand illusion and live action with a 4D dark ride, central to which

Derren Brown is famous for influencing decision-making and using mind control techniques to influence behaviour. He’s been working with Merlin for three years



is a 20-metre (66-foot) Victorian train carriage – seemingly suspended in mid-air. The themeing is modelled on a real Victorian train depot near Willesden Junction, with every architectural detail recreated by the MMM team.

“We’re using everything from Victorian techniques – Pepper’s Ghost, for example – to the latest technology,” says Paul Moreton, MMM global creative director.

“It’s the mix of different elements that create the experience. We’ll be specifically using virtual reality, but this isn’t a VR ghost train. VR will enhance the experience rather than be the experience,” Moreton says.

It’s understood that there are 12 possible journeys, and two different outcomes.

Brown’s carefully crafted hidden-camera TV shows feature psychological control

and hypnotism. He’s persuaded strangers to commit robbery, land a plane or believe they’re the last person on the planet.

Most details of Derren Brown’s Ghost Train are being kept under wraps, but the ride is meant to leave guests questioning where perception ends and reality begins.

“I firmly believe that this kind of multi-sensory, mind-blowing attraction represents a glimpse of what the future holds for theme parks the world over,” says Brown.

Brown has been working on the project in secret with Merlin for the past three years. It’s involved the work of more than 1,000 specialists and represents Thorpe Park’s biggest investment to date.

“This is not an experience for the faint-hearted,” Brown says, adding that no further details will be revealed.







# Revival plan for abandoned New Orleans theme park

A former Six Flags theme park abandoned in 2005 after severe flooding stemming from Hurricane Katrina could be given a new lease on life after two groups of developers laid out proposals to revive the now ghostly theme park.

A multi-billion dollar proposal by entrepreneur Frank Scurlock would include an amusement park and new resort hotel with a beach swimming pool.

Dubbed "Festival Park, Spirit of Louisiana", Scurlock's plan includes a US\$120m (€106m, £84m) first phase to restore the park with 30 different rides themed by Louisiana festivals, offering a year-round version of the state's big events.

Beyond restoration of the park, the 200-plus acre plot of land would be part of a multi-billion dollar plan, which includes an international shopping centre, while a hotel with a beach-style swimming pool would give visitors a resort destination.

The second group, headed by Tonya Pope of the Paidia Company offered to buy the lot for a fee of US\$2.5m (€2.2m, £1.75m). Pope told the



The abandoned site, nowadays frequented by vandals and trespassers, could get be revived

New Orleans Industrial Development Board that the company has partnered with retail developer Kimble Development, which owns 16 retail centres in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Also proposing a theme park dubbed "Jazzland" the attraction would be a US\$50m (€44.2m, £35m) project designed to showcase Louisiana.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=F7e3Y\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=F7e3Y_A)



Turkey has 101,000 heritage sites

## Turkey calls on museums to help maintain heritage

Turkey's general director of Cultural Heritage and Museums has called the country a "superpower in terms of cultural heritage", and is seeking to better protect and maintain its vast number of sites with the help of museums.

"We have lots of work to do, but we are hopeful, said Abdullah Kocapinar speaking at the 25th Museum Rescue Excavations Symposium. "We love our duty, and I believe we can do better things by using our opportunities and rare resources."

More: [http://lei.sr?a=t8r9c\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=t8r9c_A)

## Smithsonian teams with India's Central Zoo Authority for training scheme

The Smithsonian and India's Central Zoo Authority have signed an agreement to launch a training programme to develop conservation strategies for endangered species in zoos in India.

Dennis Kelly, director of the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with D N Singh, member secretary of the Central Zoo Authority, at the National Zoo in the US last month.

The training programme will host sessions led by scientists, vets and other animal care professionals working at the National Zoo and the Conservation Biology Institute.



The programme gives Indian keepers international training

Training courses are designed for professionals working in India, with a wide range of topics as varied as preventative medicine to animal nutrition. Scientists will also collaborate on

wildlife health and disease surveillance, which will range from administering anesthesia, to containing and preventing contagious diseases in wild animals.

More: [http://lei.sr?a=m7p4e\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=m7p4e_A)



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



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## BRITISH AIRWAYS i360

**British Airways i360** in Brighton is the world's tallest moving observation tower conceived and designed by Marks Barfield Architects, creators of the London Eye. The British Airways i360 will include a fine dining Brasserie for up to 400 guests, Tea Rooms, Beach Café and private dining facilities as well as "The Pod".

The futuristic pod will slowly glide to 450 feet and offer breath taking 360 degree views and be the home of the Sky Bar. Additionally there will be unique beach-side event space for up to 1,000 for weddings, conferences, receptions and dinners and the pod can be hired exclusively for events.

We are Heritage Portfolio, a UK catering partner working for discerning clients in venues of distinction with the aim of helping our clients to create an experience beyond food. We have a number of exciting roles available for our prestigious contract due to open this summer on the Brighton Sea Front.

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You'll have a strong hospitality track record with experience of working in 5 star establishments with local knowledge and experience of working in the Brighton and Hove area. A passion for food, beverage and exceptional service is essential as you must have an understanding of multi-faceted service styles, trends and be able to bring new innovation in terms of food & beverage.

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Salary: £30,000 pa

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Salary: The hourly rate is £8.62

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■ **Director of Arts and Leisure**  
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Salary: £47,000

Job location: Milton Keynes, United Kingdom

■ **General Manager - Restaurants**

British Airways i360

Salary: £35,000 + Bonus and Benefits

Job location: Brighton, United Kingdom

■ **Visitor Centre Officer - Maternity Cover**

World Horse Welfare

Salary: Competitive

Job location: Snetterton, Norfolk, United Kingdom

## Catherine Powell takes Euro Disney hotseat as Tom Wolber heads to US

Disney's managing director for Australia and New Zealand is making a return to Europe to run Euro Disney.

Catherine Powell, who previously held roles as Disney Media Distribution's senior vice president for sales and as executive director of sales for the UK and Ireland, Nordics, Benelux region and Israel, will lead Euro Disney as its new president.

Powell replaces the outgoing Tom Wolber, who is returning to the US to take on operational responsibilities for Disney Cruise Line.

Prior to joining Disney, Powell spent seven years



Powell replaces Tom Wolber as Euro Disney's new president

working for BBC Worldwide, holding senior TV sales roles across multiple territories globally. She will start her new position in July, working alongside Wolber through a transition period.

Euro Disney has struggled in recent years, with a "continued economic softness, notably in France" blamed by Powell's predecessor.

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=x7v6q\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=x7v6q_A)*

## Airbnb offers glass room submerged in shark-filled French aquarium

Airbnb and French design agency Ubi Bene have created a special underwater bedroom in the shark tank at Paris Aquarium.

For three nights in April, the winners of a one-off competition were given the chance to experience life surrounded by 35 live sharks.

Described as a "a peaceful enclosure with a large cylindrical bed and breathtaking, immersive views," the room is the creation of Ubi Bene and a team accustomed to designing submarines.

The only thing separating guests with their neighbours was a 350-degree clear wall.

The competition is intended to provide a



The one-off experience happened at the Paris Aquarium

"glimpse into the world of sharks: how they live, why they're so misunderstood, and their importance to the ocean's ecosystem."

Following the Airbnb sleepover, the room will be

used as an observation area for biologists and scientists.

The structure is designed not to emit bubbles, allowing the sharks to be observed behaving naturally.

*More: [http://lei.sr?a=S9S9z\\_A](http://lei.sr?a=S9S9z_A)*

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