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THE JOHNSTON COLLECTION GAINS MUSEUM ACCREDITATION

The Johnston Collection has gained Accreditation by the Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria. A professional panel of museum experts has made a final assessment and compiled a positive report on the museum's operations. The Johnston Collection has worked hard to meet set criteria from the *National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries* and joins the 77 Victorian museums, galleries and collecting organisations Accredited in Victoria.

The Johnston Collection was established to share with the public the collection of William Robert Johnston. Johnston was a prominent Melbourne-based antique dealer, real estate investor and collector. His collection of over 1,400 objects of English Georgian and Regency, and Louis XV period furniture, paintings, ceramics and *objet d'art*, is now displayed in a constantly changing domestic setting, in his former residence, *Fairhall*, historic East Melbourne townhouse. The Johnston Collection invites creatives from the broader visual arts and design communities to re-interpret the Collection through a regular program of re-installation and interventions of the permanent collection. The museum also offers special exhibitions, study days, lectures and workshops throughout the year, sharing stories and inspiring communities.

The Accreditation panel were particularly impressed with The Johnston Collection's temporary exhibition and lecture series and its extensive work with community groups.

The panel commended the museum for its pioneering co-curation model and for its friendly and welcoming visitor experience.

To become Accredited museums spend 2-3 years developing procedures and policies, and practice to meet recognised museum standards. Training, advice and other resources are made available to assist museums in meeting these standards.

The Victorian-based Museum Accreditation Program (MAP) is now in its 26th year and is run by Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria, the professional association for the museum and gallery sector. There are currently 77 Accredited cultural organisations and a further 10 working towards this goal.

Amelia Marra, Co-Manager, Museum Accreditation Program, Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria, says, "*We are delighted to recognise the hard work and commitment shown by the team at The Johnston Collection. Caring for our shared heritage is an important task and by becoming accredited The Johnston Collection has proven to be a leading museum in Victoria.*"

A formal presentation of The Johnston Collection's Accreditation certificate, signed by the Hon Martin Foley MP, Minister for Creative Industries, will be made at the 2019 Victorian Museum Awards, to be held on Wednesday 26 June at the National Gallery of Victoria.

Further information:

The Johnston Collection is located in East Melbourne and offers guided tours Monday to Friday, with additional extended hours tours available on the second Saturday and third Thursday of each month. Online tickets and further program information is available via the website.

<https://johnstoncollection.org/>

The Museum Accreditation Program

https://amagavic.org.au/museum_accreditation_program

For all media enquiries please contact:

Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria

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Notes for editors:

Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria was established as the peak body for museums in Victoria in 1994. Our 1,000+ museums include galleries, science centres, Indigenous keeping places, historical societies, historic houses, botanic gardens, zoos, aquaria, cultural centres, and archaeological monuments. Two-thirds of these are volunteer-run. Community museums care for an estimated 8 million objects in Victoria. We support and advocate for the development of quality museums, collections care, knowledge and specialised skills, and support the creative industries with key initiatives including the Museum Accreditation Program and Victorian Collections, the online portal to our State's cultural treasures: <https://amagavic.org.au/> and www.victoriancollections.net.au

For an interactive map of Victoria's Accredited museums:

https://amagavic.org.au/museum_accreditation_program/victorias-accredited-museums

The Museum Accreditation Program is funded by Creative Victoria.

