The Foundation has allocated some £19.5 million between 2002-2015 for the improvement of the UK's museums and galleries through this joint programme with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. Recipients have ranged from Porthcurno Telegraph Museum, Cornwall in the South West to Segedunum Roman Fort in the North East. The Whitworth Gallery, Manchester and the ‘Micrarium’ at the Grant Museum of Zoology (housed at UCL) are pictured here.

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Over £44 million has been awarded in the field of health and disability to some 1,300 projects, of which £22 million has been committed in the last decade alone. An award was made to the Variety Club for minibuses for children with disabilities in 1977 (pictured left), while more recent support has included MeCycle: a cycle themed social enterprise café in Ainsdale, Merseyside, providing training and work experience for adults with autism spectrum condition (pictured right). Projects to improve employment prospects for people with disabilities have become an increasing area of interest for the Foundation.

Historic buildings partnerships

The Foundation has committed over £22 million to 1,500 projects for the conservation and interpretation of historic buildings, often through partnerships with such bodies as the Church Buildings Council, English Heritage and the National Trust. St Mary de Havra, New Shoreham, Sussex, and the neoclassical St George’s Hall, Liverpool, both received funding in 2004.

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DCMS/Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund

This programme has attracted interest as a model of private-public philanthropy showing, in the words of DCMS Minister, Ed Vaizey, “that the public sector and a private philanthropic charity can work together to deliver tangible benefits for the public.”

example grants

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