The News release is about Oxford University museums winning the Collections Trust Award 2019 for a project working with forced migrants. The project, known as Multaka-Oxford, was recognized for its work on creating volunteering opportunities for forced migrants in the UK. The project, which uses the collections of the History of Science Museum and Pitt Rivers Museum as a meeting point, has recruited over 50 volunteers and has welcomed over 1,200 hours of their time. The University has secured funding for a further year to continue the project. The award was presented by Amisha Karia, Collections Trust board member and Head of Collection, Loans and Programming for Paintings in Hospitals, who commented on the success of the project and its impact on the community.
Further information

Susannah Wintersgill, Head of Communications & Marketing, Oxford University Gardens, Libraries & Museums

susannah.wintersgill@glam.ox.ac.uk / 01865 613786

Notes to editors

• Multaka-Oxford is a project at the History of Science Museum and the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, which runs until September 2020.

• The initial two-year project was funded by a grant from the Esmée Fairbairn Collections fund. The project will now continue for a further year thanks to the generous support of individual donors and The Barakat Trust.

• Multaka-Oxford won Volunteer Team of the Year at the Museums + Heritage Awards in May 2019 and received Highly Commended in the Partnership of the Year category.

• The History of Science Museum contains one of the most important collection of European medieval and early modern scientific instruments, and the finest collection of astronomical instruments from the Islamic world.

• The Pitt Rivers Museum holds one of the world’s finest collections of anthropology and archaeology. Its 600,000 objects, photographs and manuscripts, which are from every continent, celebrate human creativity and cultural diversity.

• Collections Trust is a sector support organisation, funded by Arts Council England, which helps museums capture and share the information that gives their objects meaning. Its standards and advice are used around the world to make museum collections accessible.

• Multaka-Oxford was inspired by ‘Multaka: Museum as Meeting Point’, a project launched in December 2015 by Berlin State Museums and the Deutsches Historisches Museum to train Syrian and Iraqi migrants to lead tours in Arabic (https://multaka.de/en/startsiten).

A range of high-resolution images can be downloaded here.