

Data Note

Subject Museums and public galleries
Project London's Cultural Spaces: 2018-2022
Date 20.12.2023

Museums and public galleries

Definition: Buildings used for museum collections. This includes art museums, history and other specialised museums. This excludes open-air museums, activities of commercial art galleries, restoration of works of art and museum collection objects, activities of libraries and archives. Art museums differ from commercial art galleries in that they usually have permanent collections or endowments and do not try to sell the artworks on a regular basis.

Overview

253 museums and public galleries were recorded in 2022, compared to 250 in 2019. Since then, 10 spaces closed while 13 new spaces opened. This translates into a 1% growth in the museums and public galleries category which contrasts with commercial galleries where more spaces closed than opened. Museums and galleries, especially the largest ones, are found mostly in central London and along the Thames. Several new museums have a focus on marginalised communities such as the People's Museum Somers Town (dedicated to local working-class history), the Migration Museum, and Queer Britain.