

**Event:** *Meet the Funder* with Peter Bennett

**When:** 04 June 2026

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**Where:** SMG Intranet; Chloe Abley to publish on our behalf

### **Reflecting on our *Meet the Funder* session with Peter Bennett**

Thank you to everyone who joined our latest *Meet the Funder* session. It was a fascinating conversation between Peter Bennett, Founding Benefactor of The Peter Bennett Foundation and Title Funder of the *Tomorrow: The Bennett Gallery*, and Deborah Myers, Director of Fundraising and Partnerships at SMG, exploring the role of science, philanthropy and innovation in shaping the future.

The discussion centred on the power of science to inspire, engage and equip future generations, with Peter sharing his enthusiasm for the museum's upcoming *Tomorrow: The Bennett Gallery*. He described the Science Museum as 'a fantastic place' where there is truly 'something for everybody' - from young children taking their first steps into discovery, to adults exploring the latest developments in research and technology. For Peter, *Tomorrow* represents an exciting opportunity to build on that legacy, helping our visitors explore 'where we are going in the future, the challenges and the opportunities ahead'.

A recurring theme was the importance of making science interactive and familiar in everyday life. As Peter noted, 'science isn't a boring subject just at school – it is everywhere we go', and highlighted the success of *Wonderlab* as a powerful example of making science 'approachable and something you can put your hands on', encouraging visitors to feel more confident to navigate challenges ahead.

The conversation also explored how society can respond to rapid technological change, including the rise of AI. Peter spoke passionately about the role the Science Museum can play in helping people embrace new developments, rather than fear them. With an evolving *Futures Zone* showcasing the latest cutting-edge research and innovations, the gallery aims to engage visitors with the ideas shaping tomorrow and inspire the scientists, innovators and problem-solvers of the future.

The conversation concluded with reflections on philanthropy and the importance of supporting bold, ambitious ideas. Speaking about his Foundation's approach, Peter explained that they are motivated by backing 'big things that might change the world' and encouraged others to engage with causes that genuinely inspire them.



### **Session snapshot**

More than 100 colleagues from across SMG tuned in to the session. We were delighted to receive such positive feedback afterwards, including: "*Fantastic Meet the Funder! It was amazing to hear about Peter's motivation for supporting us and his love for Wonderlab*",

*"That was such a fun Meet the Funder", and "It was a really interesting and enjoyable session!"*

#### **Upcoming *Meet the Funder* sessions**

There will be another *Meet the Funder* session taking place this autumn. Details and speaker profiles will follow in due course.

If you had any further questions you would like to pose to Peter, or if you'd like to learn more about the impact of our supporter partnerships, please get in touch with the Supporter Engagement team by emailing Simran at [simran.dhokia@sciencemuseum.ac.uk](mailto:simran.dhokia@sciencemuseum.ac.uk) or Frances at [frances.still@sciencemuseum.ac.uk](mailto:frances.still@sciencemuseum.ac.uk).

#### **Images**



