



TOOLS FOR TRANSITION RESEARCH CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

A two-day research conference held in partnership with AHRC, Future Observatory and Cambridge, Cardiff, Dundee, Strathclyde, Queens Belfast and Ulster Universities, to showcase the value of design research in the green transition; plus a last chance to see the *Tools for Transition* display.

This document includes:

- DAY ONE programme running order
- DAY TWO programme running order
- Speaker bios
- A map of the Design Museum



DAY ONE

Guests and speakers should arrive via the security entrance (to the left of the main museum entrance) to sign in and collect a wristband. The museum will be open, so wristbands are necessary to distinguish conference delegates from the public.

Address:

The Design Museum
224-238 Kensington High St
London, W8 6AG

Speakers – please report to a Future Observatory team member at least **30 minutes** before your session.

Programme Schedule:

Bakala Auditorium, Level -1

10.00-10.10: Welcome from Justin McGuirk

10.10-10.55: Introductions from Green Transition Ecosystem Principal Investigators

Speakers:

Jo Patterson, Transforming Homes

Justin Magee, Future Island-Island

Flora Samuel, Public Map

Paul Rodgers, Design HOPES

Chair: Liz Thornhill, Future Observatory

10.55-11.35: Panel 1: Material reuse and waste

A conversation on GTE research and practice-based/place-based efforts to reuse waste and build a circular economy.

Speakers:

Dr Katherine Adams, Technical Director at Alliance of Sustainable Building Products

Jayne Harkness, Sheep Farmer and Ulster Wool Depot

Abigail Heijgelaar, Climate Change and Circular Economy Lead at NHS Scotland

Chair: Zoë Lenkiewicz, Founder of Global Waste Lab

Programme continues on following page...

11:35-11:55: Break (in Huth Gallery, 2nd floor)



11:55-12:35: Panel 2: Co-designing with communities

How can research projects - on a GTE scale - work with and include communities to deliver benefits for all.

Speakers:

Dr Lucy MacFadzean, Research Fellow at University of Exeter

David Quinney-Mee, Community Development Worker with RDCA

Flora Samuel, Principal Investigator of Public Map at University of Cambridge

David Taggart, Head of Climate Change Delivery at NHS Scotland

Chair: Luisa Ulyett, Senior Curator of Public Practice at the Design Museum

12:35-12:45: AHRC keynote from Christopher Smith

12.45-14.00: Lunch

Huth Gallery, 2nd floor

14.00-14.30: Panel 3: Translating Research

Future Observatory Curator, Abbie Adams, chairs a discussion with designers and artists commissioned to translate research for the Tools for Transition display, plus a contribution from V&A Dundee.

Speakers:

Sahra Hersi, Designer and Founder of Sahra Hersi Studio

Marwa El Mubark, Co-founder of Saqqra

Dr Miriam Mallalieu, Curator at V&A Dundee

Chair: Abbie Adams, Curator at Future Observatory

14.30-15.10: Panel 4: Untangling systems

How can researchers work with, and navigate the barriers of, local authorities/policy/governing bodies to make direct, real-world impact?

Speakers:

Jo Patterson, Transforming Homes

Rebecca Clulow, Local Liaison at DAERA

Dr Rachel Gwenllian Hughes, Founder of Dotiau and Policy Lead at Public Map

Wendy Rayner, Head NHS Scotland Circular Economy Programme at the Scottish Government

Chair: Dr Camilla Buchanan, Co-Head at Policy Lab

15.10-15.30: Break (in Huth Gallery, 2nd floor)

Programme continues on following page...

15.30-16.10: Panel 5: New technologies



How can new technologies work in tandem with research (or as outcomes of research) to contribute towards the green transition?

Speakers:

Dr Emmanouil Perisoglou, Chartered Engineer and Senior Lecturer at Cardiff University

Prof Declan Keeney, Co-founder and CEO of Studio Ulster

Prof Scott Orford, Professor in Spatial Analysis and GIS at Cardiff University

Prof. Gregor White, Professor of Applied Creativity and Director of Co-Star, Abertay University

Chair: Linda Rocco, Curator and Tutor at Royal College of Art

16.10-16.30: Keynote / closing remarks



DAY TWO

Guests are asked to arrive via the security entrance (to the left of the main museum entrance) to sign in and collect a wristband.

Address:

The Design Museum
224-238 Kensington High St
London, W8 6AG

Please look out for signage directing you to each of the relevant rooms. Our Visitor Experience Assistants (who wear denim aprons) will be very happy to help if you get lost!

Tours of the Tools for Transition and Mineral displays take place **10.15am / 11.15am / 12pm**
Meet at the displays on Level 2.

10.15-11.15: Future Island-Island workshop: The Imaginarium
Design Studio, Level 1

The Imaginarium is a space where young people from remote and coastal regions in Northern Ireland explore the dreams and imaginative visions for their utopian future. In short videos, they describe their ideas and hopes of tackling sustainability challenges such as beach litter, textile waste and isolation in remote areas. The workshop provides the opportunity to watch some of these visions, reflect and discuss these from an audience perspective as a group and respond creatively through rapid pencil dreaming, ending with an exhibition of sketches and ideas.

10.15-11.15: Mapping what matters: Playfully designing a wellbeing economy
Creative Workshop, Level 1

Mapping what matters: Playfully designing a wellbeing economy. Discover Public Map's Well-being of Future Generations-led approach and experiment with different ways of mapping- drawing, layering, connecting and playfully re-framing experiences with Professor Flora Samuel, University of Cambridge and Malcolm Hamilton and Anna Haydock Wilson of Play Disrupt.

11.00-11.30: Salon Talk: Curating Research
Huth Gallery, Level 2
Speaker: Janice Li, Head of Curatorial Programme at Future Observatory

Led by the Future Observatory's Head of Curatorial Programme, this workshop explores the key priorities and creative processes in translating highly specialised academic research into accessible, engaging public exhibitions. Expect



practical curatorial strategies to communicate complex ideas to wider audiences while maximising your project's public reach and REF impact profile.

11.30-12.00: Salon Talk: The future of design research funding

Huth Gallery, Level 2

Speakers:

Tom Stranks, Senior Investment Manager - Design and Architecture at AHRC

Nathan Tuffin, Head of Design, Commercialisation and Innovation at AHRC

Paul McWhirter, Senior Manager – Public Policy at AHRC

Harry Kerr, Head of Design at Innovate UK Business Connect

12.00-13.00: Transforming Homes Co-design methodologies World Café

Design Studio, Level 1

The Transforming Homes Co-design Methodologies World Café will offer the chance to see, use and discuss physical resources that have been used for range of activities to inspire the transformation of homes for future generations.

12.00-13.00: Step into Scotland 2050 Design HOPES Workshop

Creative Workshop, Level 1

Step into Scotland 2050, meet the people who live there, and the climate challenges they face. This workshop will ask the following questions: What are the impacts of known climate risks in Scotland? What services might people need in that future? What does this mean for today? Seb Thorp will facilitate a 1-hour futures thinking workshop inspired by his PhD research into welfare and climate futures in Scotland.

Lunch is catered in the Huth Gallery at **13.00**.

The Huth Gallery is available throughout the morning for use as a breakout and networking space; tea and coffee available for delegates all morning.

The event ends at **14.00**.



SPEAKERS BIOS

In order of appearance



Justin McGuirk is Director of Future Observatory, the national design research programme for the green transition, based at the Design Museum. He is also the former chief curator of the Design Museum. A writer and curator, he has produced numerous high-profile exhibitions and publishing projects. In 2012 he was awarded the Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale of Architecture. He is a regular speaker at universities and conferences around the world, and his writing has appeared in the New Yorker, the Guardian, e-flux and numerous art and design journals. He is the author or editor of several books, including *Radical Cities* (Verso, 2014) and *Ai Weiwei: Making Sense* (2023).



Prof Jo Patterson is Deputy Head of School, Research, Innovation and Enterprise at the Welsh School of Architecture (WSA), Cardiff University. She is Director of the £7.9m Arts and Humanities Research Council funded Green Transitions Ecosystem 'Transforming Housing and Homes for Future Generations' project where multi-disciplines are working together to co-design the transformation of existing homes using bio-based and non-extractive materials reducing energy demand, renewable supply and storage whilst reimaging spaces to provide better housing and homes for future generations. Jo is Director of the Centre for a Low Carbon Built Environment (CLCBE), a Net Zero Ambassador for the GW4 Alliance, Co-chair of the Wales Innovation Network NZ Group and on the Management Board of the CU Net Zero Innovation Institute.



Professor Justin Magee is the Principal Investigator for Future Island-Island. Justin is a distinguished academic at Ulster University and a leading expert in design innovation and knowledge exchange for physical products, digital systems and usability. His applied research across additive manufacture and immersive technologies delivers enhanced user



experiences with Net Zero gains. He leads a multidisciplinary team of experts providing community-engaged approaches to sustainable research and technologies.



Professor Flora Samuel is an Architect, Head of Department and the Professor of Architecture (1970) at Cambridge University. She is the lead PI on Public Map which builds on over a decade of work researching the value of design, social value, inclusive engagement and mapping in the UK and beyond. Her most recent book is *Housing for Hope and Wellbeing* (2023). She led on the setting up of the Cambridge Room a charity, based in Cambridge, that promotes engagement in planning.



Professor Paul Rodgers is Co-Director for Design HOPES (Healthy Organisations in a Place-based Ecosystem, Scotland). Paul is a distinguished academic at the Design, Manufacturing and Engineering Management Department at the University of Strathclyde. With a background in design and innovation, Paul has made significant design-led contributions in health and social care contexts. Paul's work looks to empower students and professionals alike to create more socially and environmentally responsible solutions for a better future.



Liz Thornhill is Head of Research Programme at Future Observatory, the Design Museum's national research programme for the green transition, where she leads the AHRC-funded research portfolio. Previously, she worked across Public Programme and Special Projects at Sir John Soane's Museum, where she launched and managed four iterations of the



Soane Architecture Medal and produced three series of By Design with Will Gompertz and Alice Rawsthorn. She has also curated creative programmes at London Art Fair and New Designers, PEER Gallery and Delfina Foundation. She holds an MA in Curating Contemporary Art from the Royal College of Art, a BA in English Literature from Cambridge University and has lectured and led workshops at Kingston University, Lancaster University and Royal College of Art.

Dr Katherine Adams has over 20 years' experience in sustainability and materials, mostly in the construction sector. She has recently completed a PhD at Loughborough University, looking at how a circular economy can be embedded in the building sector. She is the Technical Director and provides her expertise to the development and implementation of projects, working groups and to members. Recent and current activities with the Alliance of Sustainable Building Products include working on the Plastics in Construction Group, Innovate UK Projects on Steel Reuse (DISRUPT and ARMOUR), the Ecosurety funded ZAP project on plastic packaging waste in construction. She was also joint author on embodied carbon guidance for social housing organisations for Woodknowledge Wales.

Jayne Harkness is a seventh-generation sheep farmer working in partnership with her father near the shores of Lough Neagh in County Antrim, Northern Ireland. Together they care for around 150 sheep, a few beef cattle and some apple orchards on their 50 acres (20 hectares). But their joint obsession is wool, which they believe is the “forgotten fibre.”

Abigail Heijgelaar is Climate Change and Circular Economy Lead at NHS Scotland.



Joë Lenkiewicz is a waste management specialist and Founder of Global Waste Lab, working to improve waste systems in under-resourced contexts. She is the lead author of UNEP's Global Waste Management Outlook 2024 and has worked with governments, UN agencies, NGOs and businesses worldwide. Her work focuses on practical, resilient waste systems, including reuse, recycling, producer responsibility and the transition from open dumping and burning towards services that protect people, resources and the environment.



Dr Lucy MacFadzean is a Research Fellow at the University of Exeter, who's work focuses on understanding residents' lived experiences of home transformation and co-creating liveable, future ready design solutions with communities. She



has previously collaborated with the World Cities Culture Forum, NESTA, and the Office for Civil Society, contributing to community led research and policy development. She is driven by embedding meaningful community participation at the heart of retrofit design and policymaking, and in reframing housing as a cultural asset within this transition.



David Quinney-Mee - Employed as Rathlin Island's community development worker since 2009, David commutes to work by ferry from mainland Ballycastle. Formerly a minister in England, he later worked in El Salvador before moving to Ballycastle in 1999. He worked with the Corrymeela Community, then in community development and the arts with the local Council. Married to Rachel and father of Alice and Lucia, after Lucia's death in 2020, he and his family continue Lucia's organ donation campaign, Live Loudly Donate Proudly.



David Taggart is Head of Climate Change Delivery for NHS Scotland's Green Healthcare Scotland programme. He leads national initiatives to embed sustainability into healthcare, working with clinicians, patients, researchers and communities to reduce environmental impact while improving care. His work focuses on translating evidence into practical change across health systems, including programmes in green theatres, renal services and endoscopy, helping to connect local innovation with national transformation.



Luisa Ulyett (she/her) is a curator and programmer, specialising in arts education and public engagement. She is currently Senior Curator of Public Practice at the Design Museum in London, UK, and serves as Chair of Creative Network Southwark. Previously she worked at The Photographers' Gallery, Tate, Frieze and the Vancouver Art Gallery. She also



produces new commissions and special projects with artists working in live and performance. Originally from Canada, she has an MA in Cultural Policy from Goldsmiths College and studied Art History and English Literature at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada. Past projects include *Queer Care and Interdependence* with Raisa Kabir and Raju Rage (2020, The Photographers' Gallery), *Liliane Lijn's Power Game* (2022, The Photographers' Gallery), and *Zinzi Minott's BLOODSOUND* (2022, Transmission Gallery) and *Black on Black* (2022, BALTIC and Brent Biennial). Research interests include critical pedagogy, audience development, race and social justice.



Christopher Smith is the Executive Chair of the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the UKRI International Champion, and the UKRI IS-8 Responsible Owner for the Creative Industries. Christopher has been involved across his career in culture, heritage and the arts in England, Scotland, Italy and globally. He has been Professor of Ancient History at the University of St Andrews since 2002, and was also Vice-Principal (2007 to 2009), before being seconded as Director of the British School at Rome, the UK's leading humanities and creative arts research institute overseas, from 2009 to 2017. In 2025 he was appointed as the Chair of the Board of the National Library of Scotland. He is the author or editor of over 20 books and in 2017 was awarded the prestigious Premio 'Cultori di Roma'. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries Scotland, the Royal Historical Society, the Society of Antiquaries of London, the Royal Society of Arts and a Member of the Academia Europaea.



Sahra Hersi is an artist and spatial designer. She describes her work as "caring about people, places, art & architecture, in that order". Her work is public and ranges in scales from zines, workshops, public realm interventions and buildings. She seeks to establish a working philosophy that is driven by the desire to reinterpret architectural methodology and artistic narrative as common ground. Her practice explores shared spaces, the public realm, collaboration and community engagement. Her work is often born out of engaging with local communities and the places they occupy. Sahra works with local authority clients, cultural institutions and third sector organisations across the UK and beyond.

Marwa El Mubark is an Architect and educator. She is interested in raising the cultural visibility and influence of design criticism by exploring underrepresented narratives in research, writing and built work. With Nile Bridgeman, she co-founded Saqqara, an architecture and research studio based between London and Cardiff.



Dr Miriam Mallalieu is an artist-curator based in Dundee. Her current research interests include collections care and organisation, particularly relating these to interpretation, knowledge, and structures of power. Miriam was awarded the Queen's College Scholarship and recently completed a practice-based PhD at the University of Dundee titled, 'What does a museum think it is? Research and practice at the intersection of organisation, interpretation and knowledge'.



Abbie Adams is a curator and designer working at the intersection of research, ecology, and culture. She is currently Future Observatory curator at the Design Museum, where she curates exhibitions, residencies, and commissions research that explores sustainable futures through design practice.

Rebecca Clulow is a Deputy Principal within the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Climate Change, Science and Innovation Group in Northern Ireland where she supports the development of evidence-informed climate policy and collaborative approaches to climate action with local government and educational outreach with schools and community groups. She has experience across both local and central government and works to strengthen relationships between policymakers, researchers, practitioners, local government and communities. Rebecca is currently involved with local government on a number of strategic climate policy areas which seeks to build upon collaboration, knowledge and information exchange.



Dr Rachel Gwenllian Hughes is the founder of Dotiau and has over 25 years of experience working as a social researcher in Wales in both academia and the public sector, twenty of these in a leadership role. She is expert in undertaking and applying research and insight to a public policy environment. Rachel uses her critical analysis capabilities and leadership to support people and organisations to bring about positive change. Rachel was seconded for 18 months to the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales to lead on policy, insight and health for the Commissioner's flagship programme, Art of the Possible. Here, she co-created, with a wide range of practitioners, academics, policy officials, and the general public, 'Journeys to a Healthier Wales'. This has people and places at its heart. It helps to shift the narrative



about what health means, and describes, illustrates and outlines the enablers and practical steps we all need to take to achieve a healthier Wales. Rachel is a Visiting Professor at Wrexham University, is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and RSA, and has a PhD from Bristol University.

Wendy Rayner is Head of the NHS Scotland Circular Economy Programme at the Scottish Government and is also Scottish Chair for the Chartered Institute of Waste Management in Scotland. She has worked internationally in Europe, Australia, Asia and the USA and has experience in consultancy, private sector and the public sector. In her field she is considered one of Scotland's leads for the circular economy and focuses on societal, environmental and economic benefits to Scotland. She is longstanding member of the Institute of Directors (IoD) and sits on the IoD Scottish Advisory Forum. She understands the role of the Trustee and after previously serving as a Trustee for a youth focused charity for a number of years she was keen to get involved and support Project Change.



Dr Camilla Buchanan is a senior civil servant and co-Head of the UK government's Policy Lab, established in 2014 to bring participatory and innovative approaches to policymaking. The Lab is internationally recognised and has involved thousands of people directly in policy, working in every government department on priorities including Windrush, land-use change and national security. Camilla has led public-sector transformation in the UK and internationally - at the Cabinet Office, DCMS, Design Council and European Commission amongst other organisations. She has a PhD in design, has been a Visiting Scholar at Parsons School of Design, and is on the Future Observatory Advisory Board.



Dr Emmanouil (Manos) Perisoglou is a Chartered Engineer and Senior Lecturer in Architectural Science at Cardiff University. His research focuses on low-carbon housing, building performance evaluation, renewable energy integration, and resident-centred pathways to net zero. He has led and contributed to major UK research projects examining the real-world performance of homes and neighbourhoods, working closely with industry, local authorities, and communities to support the transition to a more sustainable built environment.

Prof Declan Keeney, PhD, MA, BMus(Hons), LTCL, PgCHET, PgDIP, SFHEA, FRSA is Co-Founder & CEO of Studio Ulster Ltd, a £72m (\$91m) 75000ft² commercial Virtual Production studio complex and creative tech company working at every



level of the film and screen industries. The facilities incorporate a dedicated UKRI-AHRC funded creative technologies research lab and are located at Belfast Harbour Studios in NI.



Scott Orford is a Professor in GeoSpatial Analysis in the School of Social and Spatial Sciences, Cardiff University. He is an expert in cartographic mapping, visualisation, and spatial analysis using geospatial and digital methods and technologies. In the Public Map project, he is investigating ways in which qualitative, textual and multi-media data about lived experiences can be embedded into digital maps and turned into compelling narratives about places which can help influence decision makers and effect change.



Professor Gregor White - Currently Co-Investigator on the DesignHOPES GTE Hub, Professor White leads the design and development of FLOW, an applied video game aimed at informing patient decisions when accessing primary care in partnership with NHS Tayside. The game uses patient flow data to drive a playable simulation of unscheduled care services to drive an interactive decision-making game. Professor White is also Principal investigator and Director of CoSTAR Realtime Lab and the TayCreate Local Innovation Partnership.



Dr Linda Rocco is a London-based curator, writer, and researcher. She is Tutor (Research) at the Royal College of Art and Curator (Arts & Technology) at Somerset House Studios, where she leads n-Space, an experimental research programme



on advanced technologies and cross-sector collaboration. Her research examines how technologies including AI, quantum computing, and decentralised systems are reconfiguring social, economic, and cultural infrastructures, extending curatorial practice into policy and public interest contexts.



Janice Li is a London-based curator and lecturer, currently Head of Curatorial Programme of Future Observatory, the Design Museum's national research programme for the green transition. Her curatorial practice spans art, design, science and historical collections. Informed by material culture, ecology, and intersectionality, she connects complex research with public discourse to centre marginalised narratives. Her recent major exhibitions include *Thirst: In Search of Freshwater* (2025 - 2026) and *The Cult of Beauty* (2023 - 2024) at Wellcome Collection.



Tom Stranks works at AHRC as a Senior Investment Manager within the Design Commercialisation and Innovation team. He oversees the various AHRC design funding opportunities, including the Green Transition Ecosystem awards, as well as working closely with Future Observatory colleagues. Before moving over to work with the design portfolio, he spent several years within International Development research, supporting large projects under the Global Challenge Research Fund.



Nathan Tuffin is the new Head of Design, Commercialisation and Innovation at AHRC, providing maternity cover for Katherine Mansfield. Over the past decade, he has supported the development and delivery of major UKRI investments,



most recently helping establish the £100m UKRI Research Programme on Gambling Harms. He has also worked extensively across international development research through the Global Challenges Research Fund and on UKRI's Building a Secure and Resilient World strategic theme.



Paul McWhirter is Senior Manager for Public Policy at AHRC with over 19 years of experience supporting major AHRC/UKRI community research and innovation investments and policy engaged research programmes such as Connected Communities, the Global Challenges Research Fund, and the Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre. Paul leads the development of the AHRC Public Policy Strategy and champions the role of AHRC staff as knowledge mobilisers within the wider research-policy ecosystem.

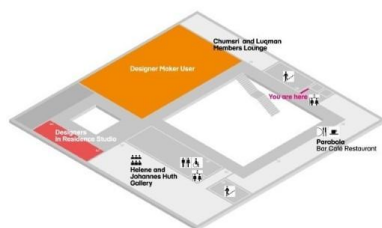


Harry Kerr joined UKRI nearly ten years ago, first working with AHRC and now leading Innovate UK Business Connect's Design and Innovation Effectiveness Team. He has been involved in a number of design research and innovation interventions, including the early stages of Future Observatory's development, Design Foundations, Design to Deliver and Ignite Labs. His current work focuses particularly on the role of design in de-risking public investment in R&I. He lives in Gloucester.

Seb Thorp is a Service Designer and Design Researcher with a decade of experience in healthcare in public and private sector. His background is in psychology (behavioural science), global health and design.



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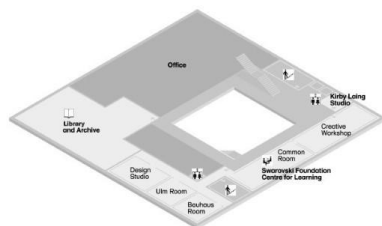
Designer Maker User
Admission free

Residency Studio
Admission free

Helene and Johannes Huth Gallery

Sachs Family Park Room

Chumsri and Luqman Lounge



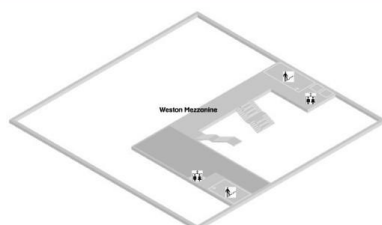
The Library

- Dessau Room

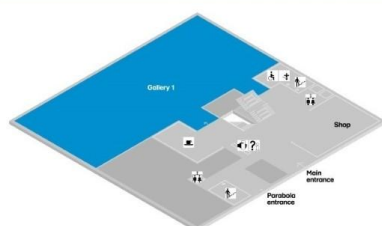
**Swarovski Foundation Centre for Learning
Office**

- Ulm and Bauhaus Room

- Design Studio



Weston Mezzanine



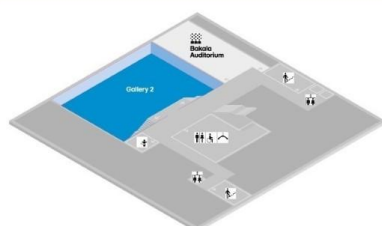
Gallery 1

Café

Shop

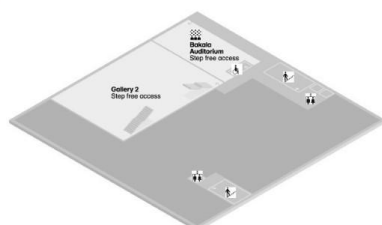
Tickets and Information

Exit



Gallery 2

Bakala Auditorium



**Step free access to Bakala Auditorium
and Gallery 2**



