

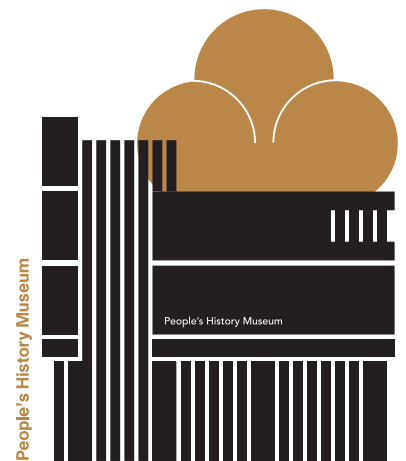
IDEAS ARE WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

This spring, after a £12.5m redevelopment, the construction of a new wing and the overhaul of the Grade II listed Pump House, the People's History Museum re-opens for business. 'This is a museum that matters to everyone,' says Deputy Director Andy Pearce. 'It tells the story of the march towards British democracy – it's the only place in the UK that does that.' The building itself is a showstopper. Made of Corten steel, its striking rusty façade provides a contrast to its glass-and-steel and Portland stone neighbours. And form follows function: the museum's largely windowless upper floors are wrapped in steel to provide the climate-controlled home for its collection. The ground floor is, however, glass-fronted, enticing passers-by inside and providing the building's hub (this is where you'll find the riverfront café, which is, according to Pearce, the sunniest bar in Manchester – a claim that pretty much guarantees it'll be standing room only from the off). 'The change from the ground floor, which is light and airy, to the darker museum area, is deliberate. It creates the sense of an Aladdin's cave,' says Pearce. The Museum itself has doubled in size, allowing more of its collection to be on display, while the galleries trace a path through 200 years of political campaigning. And the Museum opens with *Carried Away*, a photographic exhibition that takes a sideways look at protest over

the past 100 years: in it, it displays images of protestors such as the Suffragettes, many of whom were forcibly removed (or carried away) by the authorities they challenged. Manchester is rightly excited about the re-opening of the Museum – this is a city that has had more than its fair share of political reform, and the story of national political change is often a Mancunian one, too. But the importance of the place goes way beyond local pride. 'One of our trustees was the late Jacky Jones, a man who fought in the Spanish Civil War and was a trade union leader,' says Pearce. 'He used to remind people that "votes didn't fall off the Christmas tree". The right to vote had to be fought for, it had to be won – and we tell that story.' In a year that will see a general election, and all its associated debate and politicking, the People's History Museum has never felt so relevant. We'll see you at the bar.

The People's History Museum
Left Bank, Spinningfields M3 3ER
Telephone 0161 838 9190
www.phm.org.uk

Re-opens 13 February.
Open: 10am-5pm daily
Free



CLOSE BY.

Spinningfields, a new area of the city rising by the banks of the River Irwell. Check out its eateries: Giraffe, Carluccio's, Gourmet Burger Kitchen, Wagamama (reliably good grub). Pop into the **John Rylands Library** (Deansgate), a fabulous neo-Gothic remnant of Manchester's grand industrial past, **House of Fraser** (oldest department store in Manchester, an Art Deco gem known locally as Kendal's, also Deansgate) or the **Barton Arcade** (St. Ann's Square), home to independent retailers **Ran** (rare sportswear) and **Seen** (top specs., posh sunglasses). The locals eat and drink in **Mr. Thomas' Chophouse** (St. Ann's Square/Cross Street).