



From guest-curated displays to unrealised projects, the V&A announces new details on the David Bowie Centre – opening at V&A East Storehouse on 13 September 2025

FRIDAY 4 JULY 2025

- A **new home for David Bowie's archive** – V&A East Storehouse's David Bowie Centre – gets visitors closer to **Bowie's creative process** and legacy than ever before
- **Nine displays** include **unrealised projects** and **newly uncovered revelations**, plus, visitors can **book one-on-one time with items from the archive**
- Award-winning musician, producer, songwriter and David Bowie collaborator **Nile Rodgers** and Brit Award-winning indie rock band **The Last Dinner Party** guest curate a display
- Access to the David Bowie Centre is **free and ticketed**, with tickets released [here](#) later in the year
- The David Bowie archive was acquired by the V&A through the generosity of the **David Bowie Estate**, the **Blavatnik Family Foundation**, and **Warner Music Group**

Today, the **V&A** announces its **David Bowie Centre**, opening **13 September 2025** at **V&A East Storehouse**, will feature an exclusive guest-curated display by multi award-winning musician, producer, songwriter and David Bowie-collaborator, **Nile Rodgers**, and Brit Award-winning indie rock band, **The Last Dinner Party**. These intimate selections from Bowie's archive offer new perspectives on one of the most iconic creatives of all time and sit alongside a series of other mini curated displays and installations exploring Bowie's creative legacy and lasting influence.

Visitors to the David Bowie Centre, the new free-to-access working store and permanent home for David Bowie's archive, can also book one-on-one time with their own selections from the 90,000+ items in his archive.

The David Bowie archive was acquired by the V&A through the generosity of the **David**



Bowie Estate, the **Blavatnik Family Foundation** and **Warner Music Group**. It joins over 1,000 archives from creative luminaries including **Vivien Leigh**, the **House of Worth**, and **The Glastonbury Festival Archive**.

Nile Rodgers, who produced Bowie's hugely successful single and 1983 album, *Let's Dance*, as well as 1993's *Black Tie White Noise*, has written, produced, and performed on records that have sold more than 750 million albums and 100 million singles worldwide. He has curated items reflecting what he calls his and Bowie's shared 'love of the music that had both made and saved our lives.' His selections include:

- A bespoke Peter Hall suit worn by Bowie during the *Serious Moonlight* tour for the *Let's Dance* album
- Chuck Pulin photographs of Bowie, Rodgers and guitarist Stevie Ray Vaughan recording *Let's Dance* in New York
- Personal correspondence between Bowie and Rodgers about the 1993 *Black Tie White Noise* album
- Peter Gabriel images of the recording sessions with backing vocalists Fonzi Thornton, Tawatha Agee, Curtis King Jr, Denis Collins, Brenda White-King, Maryl Epps, Frank Simms, George Simms, David Spinner, Lamya Al-Mughiery and Connie Petruk recording *Black Tie White Noise*.

Nile Rodgers, said: *"My creative life with David Bowie provided the greatest success of his incredible career, but our friendship was just as rewarding. Our bond was built on a love of the music that had both made and saved our lives."*

The Last Dinner Party is a Brit award-winning band, whose electrifying performance style draws inspiration from their shared love for Bowie. They have selected objects mostly from the 1970s that illustrate how Bowie continues to inspire generations of artists to 'stand up for themselves and their music' and 'steal and reinterpret' to create something unique. Their selection includes:

- Mick Rock photos showing Bowie in intimate recording studio moments
- Bowie's elaborate handwritten lyrics for 'Win' from the 1974 album *Young Americans*
- Writings and set lists for the *Station to Station* tour, aka Isolar - 1976 Tour
- Bowie's Electronic Music Studios (EMS) synthesiser user manual. The 'suitcase synth' was used on the albums *Low*, *Heroes* and *Lodger*, the so-called 'Berlin' trilogy.

WATCH The Last Dinner Party on Bowie's influences and their new discoveries:
<https://youtu.be/5s0Fg3aliOo>

Georgia Davies, Lizzie Mayland, Abigail Morris, Aurora Nishevci and Emily Roberts of The Last Dinner Party, said: *"David Bowie continues to inspire generations of artists like us to stand up for ourselves. Bowie is a constant source of inspiration to us. When we first started developing ideas for TLDP, we took a similar approach to Bowie developing his Station to Station album – we had a notebook and would write words we wanted to associate with the band. It was such a thrill to explore Bowie's archive, and see first-hand the process that went into his world-building and how he created a sense of*



community and belonging for those that felt like outcasts or alienated – something that’s really important to us in our work too.”

Curated displays

The V&A East curatorial team consulted with 18–25-year-olds from the four Olympic Boroughs of Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest through London Legacy Development Corporation and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park’s Elevate Youth Voice. The resulting displays delve into various elements of Bowie’s archive and creative legacy, encompassing everything from private photographs to handwritten lyrics, self-portraits, his own artist’s palette, sketches, costumes, and designs.

Nine rotating displays reveal aspects of Bowie’s extraordinary creative capacity, including ideas for projects that were never realised. Highlights include an idea to adapt George Orwell’s *1984* and unrealised *Young Americans* and *Diamond Dogs* films.

Other displays explore Bowie’s creation of his iconic personas including Ziggy Stardust and Aladdin Sane and look at his embrace of technology, futurism and science fiction, plus his legendary 1987 *Glass Spider* tour and concert at the Berlin Wall. Others spotlight Bowie’s creative collaborators including Gail Ann Dorsey, and the creation of the 1975 *Young Americans* album, alongside his wide-spread creative influence and legacy.

Madeleine Haddon, Curator, V&A East said: *“Bowie embodied a truly multi-disciplinary practice—musician, actor, writer, performer, and cultural icon—reflecting the way many young creatives today move fluidly across disciplines and reject singular definitions of identity or artistry. His fearless engagement with self-expression and performance has defined contemporary culture and resonates strongly with the values of authenticity, experimentation and freedom that we celebrate across the collections at V&A East Storehouse. Made possible through the generosity of the David Bowie Estate, the Blavatnik Family Foundation and Warner Music Group, this archive offers an extraordinary lens through which to examine broader questions of creativity, cultural change, and the social and historical moments during which Bowie lived and worked. In the Centre, we want you to get closer to Bowie, and his creative process than ever before. For Bowie fans and those coming to him for the first time, we hope the Centre can inspire the next generation of creatives.”*

For more information on the David Bowie Centre and to sign-up for updates, please visit: vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/david-bowie-centre.

-ENDS-

For further PRESS information about V&A East Storehouse and the David Bowie Centre, please contact Laura Mitchell, l.mitchell@vam.ac.uk / 020 7942 2502 and Julian Stockton, julian@jmspr.co.uk, and Chris Goodman, chris@outsideorganisation.com, at Outside (not for publication).

A selection of press images is available to download free of charge from



pressimages.vam.ac.uk.

What to expect in the David Bowie Centre

As well as a new visitor experience, first and foremost, the David Bowie Centre is a working archive and store for Bowie's paper-based archive with reading and study rooms. The Centre is brought to life with a series of small, curated areas including a new film showcasing a selection of performances from across Bowie's career, and an interactive installation tracing the wide-spread impact of Bowie on popular culture from the sit-com *Friends* to Issey Miyake fashion and musicians from Lady Gaga, Charli XCX, Janelle Monae, and Kendrick Lamar. A series of rotating mini displays exploring different themes and elements of the archive shows approximately 200 items at one time. A central space for facilitated object handling and exploring facsimile topic boxes also includes overhead rails of hanging Tyvek bags storing some of Bowie's most iconic fashion and costume. These range from Freddie Burretti's Ziggy Stardust looks to Agnès B's *Heathen* ensembles, and Bowie's 1992 Thierry Mugler wedding suit. These costumes can be ordered for closer looking as part of one-on-one appointments using the V&A's Order an Object service.

The David Bowie Centre is part of V&A East Storehouse at East Bank in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Access to the David Bowie Centre is free and ticketed, with tickets released closer to opening.

About the David Bowie archive

The David Bowie archive encompasses 90,000+ items tracing Bowie's creative processes as an innovator, cultural icon, and advocate for self-expression and reinvention. Items range from 414 costumes and accessories to a series of set models, nearly 150 musical instruments, amps, and other sound equipment, 187 awards, as well as life masks, framed art, merchandise including tour t-shirts, posters, Bowie's own desk, props and scenery for concerts, film and theatre. Paper-based material includes notebooks, diaries, lyrics, scripts, correspondence, project files, writings, unrealised projects, cover artwork, designs, concept drawings, fan mail and art. Most of the paper-based material is made up of photographic prints, negatives and transparencies, numbering over 70,000 items.

Highlights include stage costumes such as Bowie's Ziggy Stardust and Aladdin Sane ensembles designed by Freddie Burretti and Kansai Yamamoto (1970s), lyrics for songs including *Fame* (1975), *Heroes* (1977) and *Ashes to Ashes* (1980), as well as examples of the 'cut up' method of writing introduced to Bowie by the writer William Burroughs.

Cataloguing the David Bowie archive is ongoing and one of the largest V&A cataloguing projects to-date. The V&A aims to complete the cataloguing process by the end of 2026.

One-to-one bookings

Bookings to see 3D items from the David Bowie archive, including costumes, musical instruments, models, props and scenery, can be made through the V&A's new seven-



day-a-week Order an Object service. Visitors can book up to five items per visit at a time that suits them. Bookings require at least two weeks' notice and Bowie items will begin to go live for advance booking from September.

Once the Centre opens, paper-based items including sketches, designs, writings, lyrics, press cuttings, and photographic prints, negatives and transparencies can be consulted through scheduling advance appointments with the Archives team.

Design approach

The David Bowie Centre is designed by London and Paris-based design company, IDK, and celebrates the unique environment of V&A East Storehouse and the extraordinary character of David Bowie himself. Balancing storage with stagecraft, the Centre is a dynamic space to explore Bowie's life, work and legacy offering a deeply personal insight into Bowie's world.

Built using V&A East Storehouse's existing utilitarian 'kit of parts' system, the Centre features a mix of permanent and rotating displays, a dedicated study room, and an object handling space. Open and inclusive, IDK's design approach is inspired by Bowie's own creative method of cutting up and rearranging ideas – bringing together different elements to form something new, surprising, and alive.

Supporters

V&A East Storehouse opened on 31 May 2025. It is supported by Garfield Weston Foundation, The Foyle Foundation, Frédéric Jousset, David and Molly Lowell Borthwick, the Wolfson Foundation, The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, Clore Duffield Foundation and many other generous supporters.

Opening on 13 September 2025, V&A East Storehouse's free to access David Bowie Centre will be the new home of David Bowie's Archive, made possible thanks to the David Bowie Estate and a generous donation from the Blavatnik Family Foundation and Warner Music Group.

About V&A East Storehouse

- V&A East Storehouse immerses visitors in over half a million works spanning every creative discipline from fashion to theatre, streetwear to sculpture, design icons to pop pioneers. A busy and dynamic working museum store with an extensive self-guided experience, visitors can now go behind the scenes and get up-close to their national collections on a scale and in ways not possible before.
- Diller Scofidio + Renfro are lead architects for V&A East Storehouse, with support from local architects, Austin-Smith:Lord. IDK are the designers of The David Bowie Centre. Fieldwork Facility are the wayfinding and interpretation designers. We Not I are the external signage designers.
- V&A East Storehouse is open 10:00-18:00, seven-days-a-week, with late night openings every Thursday and Saturday to 22:00. Late nights include access to the V&A's revolutionary new Order an Object service, curated self-guided experience and displays, special events, and café, e5 Storehouse.
- Visitors can order objects stored at V&A East Storehouse at a time that suits



them via the V&A's Order an Object page.

- V&A East Storehouse is the first of V&A East's two new cultural destinations to open in east London. The second, V&A East Museum, is scheduled to open in spring 2026, and celebrates making and creativity's power to bring change.

About East Bank

- East Bank is the UK's newest cultural quarter at the heart of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The place where everything happens – entertainment, inspiration and discovery – and open to everyone who visits, lives and works in East London.
- East Bank represents the biggest ever cultural investment by the Mayor of London, with support from HM Government and the four Olympic boroughs.
- East Bank is made up of BBC Music Studios; London College of Fashion, UAL; Sadler's Wells East; UCL (University College London); V&A East Museum & Storehouse.
- London College of Fashion, UAL, and UCL East (University College London) opened the doors of their new campuses in Autumn 2023 and Sadler's Wells East opened in February 2025. V&A East Storehouse opened on 31 May 2025, V&A East Museum is scheduled to open in spring 2026, and BBC Music Studios in late 2026/early 2027.
- A powerhouse for innovation, creativity and learning in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, East Bank is rooted in the diverse communities of East London and is a reflection of the creative spirit and the legacy of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

About the Blavatnik Family Foundation

Led by Sir Leonard Blavatnik, founder of Access Industries, the Blavatnik Family Foundation promotes innovation, discovery, and creativity to benefit the whole of society. Through the Foundation, the Blavatnik family has contributed over \$1.3 billion globally to advance science, education, arts and culture, and social justice.

www.blavatnikfoundation.org

About Warner Music Group

Warner Music Group (WMG) brings together artists, songwriters, entrepreneurs, and technology that are moving entertainment culture across the globe. Operating in more than 70 countries through a network of affiliates and licensees, WMG's Recorded Music division includes renowned labels such as Atlantic, Elektra, Nonesuch, Parlophone, Reprise, Rhino, Sire, Warner Records, Warner Classics. WMG's music publishing arm, Warner Chappell Music, has a catalog of over one million copyrights spanning every musical genre, from the standards of the Great American Songbook to the biggest hits of the 21st century. Warner Music Group is also home to ADA, which supports the independent community, as well as artist services division WMX. Follow WMG on [Instagram](#), [X](#), [TikTok](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Facebook](#).

