

RENAISSANCE NORTH WEST museums for changing lives



The next
phase of
Renaissance

New learning
initiatives

Curating for
the Future
conference

The next phase of Renaissance



“ We will continue to invest in our regional museums and galleries over the next three years with an inflation-proof settlement. That will mean that funding for Renaissance in the Regions will increase to more than £48.7 million in 2010-11. ”

James Purnell, Secretary of State,
Department for Culture, Media & Sport

The Department of Culture, Media and Sport's financial settlement in the recent Comprehensive Spending Review has been good news for Renaissance in the Regions.

Renaissance made a strong and coherent case for sustained investment, and the Government listened. As we go to press, we do not know the final settlement for the North West for 2008-09, but we do expect that overall we will not face a reduction in resources. We hope to build on this momentum of support in the years to come.

We are now putting together an integrated, one-year Renaissance plan for the North West that will take us up to 31 March 2009. Increasing engagement, developing world-class museums and increasing the sustainability of the sector are the plan's priorities. We are committed to ensuring the greatest impact for this investment in all aspects of what we do. During 2009, the Museums, Libraries & Archives Council will be undertaking a comprehensive review of Renaissance, and this will inform planning for 2009-11.

In the North West, Renaissance remains committed to delivering the Collections for the Future agenda with a range of strategic partners. This means supporting increased access to the region's outstanding collections through improved research, stewardship, understanding and debate.

Virginia Tandy, Director, Manchester City Galleries
(Hub lead)

“ We invest in research and evaluation to inform the development and implementation of the programmes and activities we fund... This provides vital information and evidence of whether our work is good value for money and is helping us meet our strategic aims. ”

Javier Stanzola,
Head of Research and Evidence,
Museums, Libraries & Archives
Council

Research leads the work of Renaissance

Investment in research is critical to the long-term sustainability of Renaissance

The success of the Comprehensive Spending Review was, in part, a result of powerful evidence of the impact that Renaissance has had. For instance research carried out by Renaissance North West and the University of Warwick demonstrated that working with museums can increase literacy attainment in primary schools. And this research is informing the development of education programmes in 2008-09.

The MLA Partnership has developed a national research framework to guide all work in this area. This framework will help inform the development of Renaissance so it can respond effectively to the changing political landscape. MLA North West and the North West Hub are working together to deliver this framework at regional level and to ensure that our research continues to contribute to the national policy development.

Currently we are working with three universities and four research agencies to give us valuable insights into the impact and effectiveness of programmes, including:

- ★ family learning
- ★ museums working with secondary schools
- ★ literacy work with primary schools
- ★ community experience of the culture of museums
- ★ how do children learn in museums?

Nathan Lee, Head of Policy/Deputy Chief Executive,
MLA North West

Myna Trustram, HUB Research Manager,
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New learning initiatives

Extended Schools

According to the Government's vision, all children should have access to extended services in or through their school by 2010

This is a great opportunity for museums and galleries as they provide inspirational, high quality and accessible activities and services for children, young people, families and the wider community.

Museums and galleries are particularly well-placed to contribute to extended services through activities, study support, out of school learning and family learning. For example, the education team at the Harris Museum & Art Gallery has been working with an Extended Schools Development worker and an arts organisation in Preston, to deliver Extended Schools services to Archbishop Temple High School.

Manchester Art Gallery runs an outreach programme where artists work with students in the classroom and at the gallery. Pupils have the opportunity to see the processes of the artist in core school hours and also on an Extended Schools timetable.

The Extended Schools programme offers the following services:

- ★ Primary schools offer high-quality childcare combined with a varied menu of activities such as study support.
- ★ Secondary schools provide access to a varied menu of study support and enrichment activities as well as a safe place to be.

- ★ All schools offer parenting support: information and advice, access to parenting groups and family learning.
- ★ Swift and easy access: schools ensure that children with additional needs are identified early, and well supported through integrated working with other services.
- ★ Schools offer community access to facilities, such as ICT suites, adult learning and sports and arts facilities.

For more information about how museums and galleries can work with Extended Schools visit:

www.tda.gov.uk/remodelling/extendedschools/introduction.aspx

www.continyou.org.uk

www.mlanorthwest.org.uk/ourwork/childrenandyoungpeoplepelist/

Bolton Museum & Art Gallery



Clarrie Wood

Working to Improve Literacy

Museums and galleries are tailoring programmes that improve children's literacy

Since 2005, museums and galleries in Manchester have been working with Children's Services and schools in the city on an initiative called 'MAGPIE'. Recent research demonstrated that the programme achieved on average an increase in pupil attainment in writing that was 35% greater than national expectations for progress. This research has been published in a report by the University of Warwick and is available on the website:

www.mlanorthwest.org.uk/museumslibrariesarchives/museums/renaissancenw/partnershippublications/ This autumn, Tullie House organised a child-friendly, hands-on exhibition called Once Upon a Time, that explored the magical stories of Cumbria through storytelling.



Manchester Art Gallery

Alan seabright

Personalised Learning

'Personalised learning' is a partnership between museum staff, teachers and young people

It encourages an individual response to the student's learning in the museum and enables all pupils to progress and achieve their potential.

The learning team at Manchester Museum is developing 'personalised learning' throughout their primary programme by varying the way children interact with the objects and spaces in the museum. Methods include using movement to explore rocks, developing language through imaginative exploration of Egyptian gods and encouraging the free choice of objects for research work. The aim is to build long term partnerships with schools, by developing this new

learning relationship with pupils and their teachers.

At Manchester Museum the education programmes are:

- ★ personalised, enabling learners to make sense of the collections in the context of their own lives
- ★ involve philosophy and imagination
- ★ provide the freedom to explore and make choices.

Museums have a unique and valuable role to play in this type of learning as they have access to wonderful artefacts and specimens that excite children and encourage individual exploration and discovery. Museum educators are moving away from didactic 'teaching' and becoming learning facilitators, allowing each child to respond to and interact with the collections in their own unique way.



Using the museum's collections to inspire creativity, the exhibition encouraged interaction between children and adults, and unlocked children's imaginations in an environment that was educational and exciting.

The gallery was transformed into a mini woodland with a stone circle, a house, a wolf, Vikings, fairies and witches. Visitors learned how people make sense of the world around them by inventing and embellishing facts, telling tales and starting myths, some of which remain with us today.

The exhibition was the stimulus for a varied events programme that included storytelling workshops, a theatre production for Reception and Year 1, schools outreach sessions, family learning events, the Big Draw, video conferencing, a website, Cumbrian Museums projects and attracted almost 15,000 visitors.

“ *The 'Once Upon a Time' exhibition was a wonderfully put together stimulus for our mixed age class. The range of experiences were well designed and ensured all learners were engaged. We spent an hour and a half there and still had to peel the children off the activities at the end.*

Teacher

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PROFILE: KAYE TETLOW

Collections Liaison Officer based at Lancashire Conservation Studios in Preston



My role as Collections Liaison Officer is to provide support and advice on collections care to museums in the North West. I trained in conservation and previously worked as a curator at Buxton Museum and Art Gallery, where I delivered an outreach programme of small touring exhibitions around Derbyshire. This background gives me a balanced view of the priorities and core functions of museums, and also gives me an understanding of some issues that constrain small museums. I hope to raise regional standards of care by boosting staff confidence and skills. To do this I will:

- ★ provide greater access to information and expert knowledge in and around the region
- ★ carry out site visits to give practical advice and assess specific and regional needs
- ★ give support through the Collections Management and Emergency Planning section of the Museum Accreditation standard.
- ★ develop a series of practical workshops and supply museums with collections care kits.

I grew up in the North West and was inspired by museums at an early age. I love the fact that I am now in a position to use my knowledge and skills to help raise standards for collections held in museums throughout the region.

Curating for the Future conference

In September more than 100 delegates from museums and galleries across the region gathered for the first Curating for the Future conference

Delivered by Renaissance North West, in partnership with the North West Federation of Museums & Galleries and the University of Manchester, the conference offered delegates the opportunity to hear inspirational talks by leaders in the sector and participate in workshops tackling thorny issues around disposals, collecting, documentation, workforce development, curatorial expertise and access.

In response to feedback from delegates, the Collections for the Future Steering Group has set actions that will be delivered over the next 18 months.

Bolton Museum & Art Gallery



Claire Wood

“ We need more communication between Hub venues and small museums to share skills, knowledge and collections ”
Delegate

A series of practical and imaginative collections-based workshops will take place across the region. For instance, in November the Dynamic Rationalisation workshop focused on the priorities for delivering Effective Collections in the region. A PDF summary of the event will be available on the website soon.

Paul Fraser Webb has been contracted to deliver initial research and run a pilot study to progress the Effective Collections agenda, which will prioritise working with the Museums Association to develop and promote a disposals tool kit. The study will also develop a regional infrastructure for peer reviews, through a greater understanding of and support for regional expertise and research provision. The work will inform further investment and development during 2008-09. For more information contact Paul, paul@paul-fraser-webb.co.uk.

Support is being developed for regional curatorial networks that will also inform plans for 2008-09.

Next year, the conference will be a two-day event.

For more information visit: www.mlanorthwest.org.uk/museumslibrariesarchives/museums/renaissancenw/collectionsforthefuture

“ An interesting start for a big topic! ”
Delegate



Lancaster Maritime Museum

Alan Fletcher



Events & Training

15 January Documentation for Accreditation FREE

The National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port. Contact Diane Rushbrook, diane.rushbrook@mnanorthwest.org.uk

18 January Demystifying ILFA FREE

Grosvenor Museum, Chester. Contact Suzanne Spicer, s.spicer@mosi.org.uk, or visit www.gem.org.uk

23 January Practical Retailing: What Every Retailer Needs to Know 15 FREE places Manchester Art Gallery. Contact Diane Rushbrook as above

30 January Artists in Museums FREE

Manchester Museum. Contact Jennie Crawford, j.crawford@manchester.gov.uk

4 February Developing Audiences FREE

Museum of Science & Industry, Manchester. Contact Suzanne Spicer as above

14 February Copyright Exploitation FREE Manchester Museum. Contact Diane Rushbrook as above

27 February Procedural Manual Workshop FREE

Lancashire Conservation Studios, Preston. Contact Diane Rushbrook as above

28 February Museums, Galleries and Schools Improving Pupils' Literacy FREE

Manchester Art Gallery. Contact Katie Athey, k.athey@manchester.gov.uk

4 March Family Learning FREE Touchstones Rochdale. Contact Suzanne Spicer as above

6 March Show Me the Money: Sponsorship in Museums

Tullie House Museum & Gallery, Carlisle. Contact Emma Varnam, emma.varnam@tameside.gov.uk or visit www.nwfed.org.uk

11 March Documentation Planning FREE

The British Commercial Vehicle Museum, Leyland. Contact Diane Rushbrook as above

11 March Telling Tales: Thematic Display Making FREE

Manchester Art Gallery. Contact Jennie Crawford as above

13 March Funding and Fundraising FREE

National Museums Dale Street Offices, Liverpool. Contact Diane Rushbrook as above

We filmed the Live Interpretation in Museums workshop in June 2007. To get a taste of what the day was like and for more event information visit: www.mnanorthwest.org.uk/museumslibrariesarchives/museums/renaissancenw/events/

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