

DCMS statement on future of MLA functions

The Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) has confirmed again this month that responsibility for the work of the Museums, Libraries & Archives Council, abolished in the 'bonfire of the quangos', "is likely to transfer to Arts Council England (ACE)". Culture minister Ed Vaizey says the Arts Council "has an exciting opportunity to integrate the MLA's expertise and bridge some artificial divides between different aspects of cultural funding and get the maximum bang for the taxpayer's buck". Detailed plans still have to be worked up, says the statement, "and therefore there will be no core museum selection process before next year". Functions which ACE would take over include the Renaissance in the Regions programme, accreditation and designation, and museums development work. It also says "additional funding of over £46 million each year from 2012/13 will be available to deliver the work".

The full Press Release is only one page long and is at http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/media_releases/7581.aspx.

List of potential funders

A new list of funding bodies to which museums may like to apply for grants has been drawn up by AIM and is available freely from the website – <http://www.aim-museums.co.uk/images/uploads/Funding%20Sources.pdf>. The list was put together by museums and heritage consultant Julia Holberry as part of AIM's strategic review, currently under way.

HLF's new measures to help applicants in tough times

The Heritage Lottery Fund has brought in a second set of new measures to help applicants in challenging times. These are:

- *Reduced match funding requirements.* For grant requests over £1 million, the requirement is reduced from 25% to 10%, and for those under £1 million, from 10% to 5%
- *Management and maintenance costs to be included in match funding.* These costs, for projects with capital works costing over £200,000, will now count towards the match funding contribution
- *More accessible grant increases.* HLF will be more willing to consider requests for increases arising from pressure on existing projects, to protect money already invested and ensure a successful outcome
- *Protecting HLF investment.* Requests for short-term revenue funding from past grant holders will be considered where the current economic climate is putting the achievements of HLF-funded project at risk.

Further decisions on future funding priorities will be announced shortly. Meanwhile HLF and the National Heritage Memorial Fund are seeking two new trustees. Closing date for applications is 13 December. Further information from http://www.culture.gov.uk/about_us/public_appointments/7566.aspx and from heather.batchelor@culture.gsi.gov.uk

Other news

- **Museums may have to stop granting free entry to local people** because EU rules say the policy discriminates against other Europeans. Carlisle City Council has been told it is likely to be breaking EU law by enabling people who live in the city to enter Tullie House Museum without paying, thus giving preferential treatment to local people. The European Court of Justice has previously ruled against the Italian government for letting pensioners into museums for free.