



Association of Independent Museums

The National Body Connecting, Supporting and Representing Independent Museums

Association of Independent Museums AIM E-News – November 2013 – Number 51- **EXTRACTS**

New executive director for AIM

Sam Hunt has stepped down from his role as AIM's executive director this month and AIM Council has appointed Tamalie Newbery in his place. Tamalie knows AIM well, having formerly served on Council for 10 years. For the past six years she has been a consultant with A Different View She has worked with some of AIM's largest members and some of the smallest..... Tamalie can be contacted at tamalie@aim-museums.co.uk

AIM Success Guide of the month – *Successfully Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers*

.... Volunteer policies are covered, along with case studies on a variety of subjects including volunteers and Accreditation, child protection, and health and safety. It ends with a large section providing further sources of information and advice. AIM's new Success Guides replace the Focus Papers, they are free and you can download them as pdfs from AIM's website at http://www.aim-museums.co.uk/content/success_guides/. All freshly written or updated, most have been funded by ACE (Arts Council England) through AIM's Resilience programme.

New Collecting Cultures initiative has £5 million to spend

The Heritage Lottery Fund is investing £5 million in collection development with another *Collecting Cultures* initiative. Grants of between £50,000 and £500,000 will be available for developing collections over time through targeted purchases with an emphasis on enhancing knowledge, curatorial skills and public engagement. At least 50% of the grant must be spent on purchases. One innovation is that applicants will have a sum of money in advance enabling them to collect as and when the opportunity arises, moving faster on potential purchases. The original *Collecting Cultures* programme ran six years ago and was a ground-breaking scheme enabling applicants to purchase items to develop their collections strategically. The new initiative will build on its achievements, and includes archives and libraries. Examples from the first programme include: purchase of fossils for the Jurassic Coast Museums Partnership in Dorset; enhancing the HMS Titanic and White Star Line collections for National Museums Northern Ireland, over 400 post-war rural objects for the Museum of English Rural Life, Reading and nearly 80 works of art illustrating gardens and gardening for the Garden History Museum, London. Applications deadline is 2 May 2014 for decisions in September 2014. www.hlf.org.uk/collecting

Museums and arts come together in new ACE plan

Arts Council England (ACE) has launched its refreshed 10-year strategic plan, bringing together its remit for the arts with that for museums and libraries for the first time. Great art and culture for everyone retains the ambitions of its predecessor frameworks to invest in, develop and advocate for the arts and culture, supporting them to generate value for the public. The strategy rests on the same five goals, broadly – excellence, opportunity and inspiration, resilience and environmental sustainability, leadership and workforce and children's opportunity. The framework aims to be clearer about what success looks like, and how ACE will know whether it's achieving its mission. It describes the data and evidence ACE will need to collect to evaluate its performance and inform future funding support. ACE chief executive, Alan Davey, said the plan was "the essential guide for organisations who seek funding from us about our priorities – excellence and quality in the work they do, and the importance of engaging ever more people with arts and culture." <http://tinyurl.com/lgr4rmf>

Help for industrial heritage groups in the West Midlands

A practical networking event for industrial heritage groups in the West Midlands will be held on 26 November at Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT), Shropshire. The evening, which is free, is an opportunity to meet the AIM-supported Industrial Heritage Support Officer (IHSO), Ian Bapty and the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE), the fastest growing professional engineering institution in the UK. Together they are working to support the care of England's industrial heritage. The event will explore how industrial heritage sites can benefit from working with IMechE members, and will be followed by others next year. To book contact Ian at ian.bapty@ironbridge.org.uk, tel 01952 435970. The IHSO post is funded by English Heritage, and managed by IGMT in partnership with AIM and the Association for Industrial Archaeology. The aim is to develop a national strategy to improve standards of preserved industrial sites with public access.