



## Association of Independent Museums

The National Body Connecting, Supporting and Representing Independent Museums

### Association of Independent Museums AIM E-News – SPECIAL – Arts Council England (ACE) and Museum Development Funding

#### Museum Development funding to be maintained – 2015-2018

Arts Council England (ACE) have clarified their plans for 2015-18 funding, to reassure the sector that Museum Development will continue to be funded in the coming years, following a recent report that it would cease.

There will be -

A slight increase in the Major Partner Museums (MPM) budget.  
An Open Fund of around £10 million a year, with a lower bottom limit to allow wider access.  
A smaller sum of strategic funding which includes continued funding for Museum Development.

John Orna-Ornstein, Director of Museums at ACE, has confirmed to AIM that there is no cut intended in museum development in particular, although there is a slight reduction in the overall fund for all museum project strands.

The MPMs fund expands slightly to give better regional coverage and more obligation to act in leadership roles.

The Strategic Fund will transition into an 'Open Fund' with a value of some £10 million, but with lower thresholds to give wider accessibility to smaller museums.

Further information will be in the January issue of the AIM E-News and subsequent AIM Bulletins. Arts Council's guidance on 2015-18 funding can be found at <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/our-investment-2015-18/>

#### INDEPENDENT MUSEUM STATISTICS

- There are over 1,200 independent museums in the UK
- They attract 9 million visitors a year
- They provide nearly 6,000 jobs supported by 100,000 volunteers
- The sector is worth up to £930 million to the economy

#### CONTACTS

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**Grant Schemes Closing Dates**

Sustainability Scheme – 1 June and 15 January  
Conservation Scheme – 31 March and 30 September  
Preventive Conservation Scheme – 31 March and 30 September  
AIM Training Grants – for 2014 onwards, 10 March for courses between 1 April-30 June; 10 June for courses 1 July-30 September, 10 September for courses 1 October-31 December and 1 December for courses 1 January-31 March.  
National Heritage Landmarks Partnership AIM/Biffa Award Scheme – 23 August  
[www.aim-museums.co.uk](http://www.aim-museums.co.uk)

**AIM Annual Conference 2014**

The 2014 conference will be held at the Black Country Living Museum on 19/21 June, sponsored by Development Partners. [www.aim-museums.co.uk](http://www.aim-museums.co.uk)

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