

AIM E-News - June 2015, No 70 - EXTRACTS

New assistant director for AIM

Helen Wilkinson has been appointed to the position of assistant director with AIM. Helen will take a lead on the *AIM Hallmarks & Investing in Independence* project, funded by Arts Council England, as well as other aspects of AIM's work. She will begin on a part-time basis, moving to full-time in September. With 20 years' experience in the museum sector, Helen has most recently worked as a consultant with the Museum Consultancy. She led the Museums Association's policy work for five years before a career break, and has also worked as a curator, documentation officer and manager in museums including the V&A. She will bring to AIM, and its new *AIM Hallmarks & Investing in Independence* programme much knowledge and experience of the museum sector, including from her work with the East Midlands Museums Service on its 'Stronger Museums' programme and supporting museums of all types and sizes through her consultancy work.

ACE money to spread further beyond London

New Arts Council England (ACE) chief executive Darren Henley has announced a "significant shift" in the distribution of Arts Council National Lottery funding to spread more money beyond London. The move follows criticism that London cultural activity benefited from ACE funding disproportionately compared with the rest of England. Now an increase of 5% will ensure that by the end of 2018 at least 75% of Lottery revenue will be invested outside the capital. Darren Henley said in his first major speech in Hull that the move would support "interchange between our great capital city and other parts of England". He added that a flourishing London was "essential" to the success of the national arts and culture ecology.

Budget cuts for DCMS and ACE

The Department for Culture, Media & Sport's annual budget of £1.2 billion will be cut by £30 million following Chancellor George Osborne's recent 2015-16 budget announcement. This is expected to include a 0.35% cut for bodies such as Arts Council England (ACE) and museums it funds directly. The current 2015-16 grants for National Portfolio Organisations and Major Partner Museums will not be affected. DCMS says £25 million of the savings will be delivered through underspends within the "DCMS group" by the end of the financial year, while 1% will be cut from its core budget and 0.35% will be cut from arms-length bodies, such as ACE.

New advocacy campaign for museums

I Love Museums is a new campaign led by the National Museum Directors' Council (NMDC) to demonstrate the depth of support for UK museums by empowering the public to share why museums are important to them. Museums and galleries are more popular than ever, playing a vital role in the lives of individuals, families and communities across the UK and making a key contribution to our society and economy. But museums face challenging times with a tough funding environment. I Love Museums will show funders and policymakers how much museums matter by celebrating the UK public's support for them. More information about the campaign, including a toolkit for museums with details of how to get involved can be found at www.ilovemuseums.com. AIM is supporting the campaign and museums are urged to follow the campaign on Twitter at @ILoveMuseums and ask their staff and supporters to do the same and retweet messages.