Association of Independent Museums
AIM E-News 31 July 2018 – EXTRACTS

Grants Of Up To £12,000 Now Available From The AIM Hallmarks Awards
AIM members in England can now apply for a grant of up to £12,000 through the new AIM Hallmarks Awards. Funded by Arts Council England through AIM's National Portfolio Organisation funding, the AIM Hallmarks Awards will provide grants totalling around £55,000 each year over the next four years and are available in two strands:
Main grants of £4000 to £12000: will enable museums to implement the key ideas of the AIM Hallmarks. We will support projects that have an impact on museums' ways of working, culture, strategy or business model. These will be open to all Accredited AIM member museums in England.
Small grants of £3000 – £6000: will support museums to improve their financial sustainability through either cost saving or income generation. These will only be open to Accredited AIM member museums in England in AIM's small museum category (that is, museums with up to 20,000 visitors a year).
The closing date for Round One is 20 November. Please click this link to find out more.

New! AIM Resources For Boards
We have just launched two new 'how to guides' for trustees, written for AIM by Adrian Babbidge, a leading expert on board development and structures.
Keeping up to Date: provides a step-by-step guide to reviewing an organisation's governing document and legal form. It offers guidance on the benefits of different legal structures and outlines the process to follow if you are considering changing your legal structure.
Doing a Governance Audit: provides a simple but comprehensive checklist that boards can use to ensure that they have all the policies and procedures they need in place and are reviewing them on a regular basis.
Both guides can be downloaded from the AIM resources for Trustees webpage along with the other guidance notes launched earlier in the year. We will be adding to the series over the coming months: please let us know if there are topics you would like to see covered.

Financial Strategy And Governance For Trustees: New Free Workshops
AIM's new series of skills development workshops for trustees focus on what it means to provide effective financial leadership for your organisation. All trustees – not just treasurers – share responsibility for the financial health of their charity.
These free workshops are designed to offer a refresher in basic financial management skills, as well as the opportunity to develop higher level skills in financial strategy and financial leadership. Trustees will have opportunity to network and share experiences with other heritage trustees. The workshops will cover:

- The financial challenges facing the sector
- Financial strategy and governance
- Risk management and financial policies

The workshops are being presented by Caron Bradshaw, CEO of the Charity Finance Group and Caron spoke about financial leadership at AIM's recent conference, with great feedback from AIM members. Check dates and venues HERE.

Are You Ready For Making Tax Digital (MTD)?
The new requirements for organisations that are VAT-registered come into force in April next year. CFG is working to help the sector navigate the new HMRC guidance. If you've registered for free CFG membership, check out July's Finance Focus for an article by VAT specialist Socrates Socratous. We'll publish updates as and when they happen. In the meantime, check out our 2018 guide to VAT and charities.

New Free Guide: Working With Freelancers
A new guide – *Working with Freelancers* – has been created to support museums in finding, commissioning, briefing, working with and paying freelancers and consultants. Written by AIM Associate Supplier, Christina Lister and commissioned by SHARE Museums East, it aims to help museums to find the most appropriate freelancer for their project, advice on what to look for and how get the best out of the relationship. Click here for full information and to download the guide in PDF format.