

ADVICE AND SUPPORT FOR MUSEUMS IN THE NORTH WEST, August 2004

This briefing note provides information about the availability of advice and support to the museums community in the North West. It is not exhaustive, but aims to cover the main areas of museum operation. It is a joint publication by the North West Regional Museum Hub and MLA North West.

Museums, Libraries and Archives North West (MLA North West)

MLA North West – a strategy and advocacy organisation working to deliver Renaissance in the Regions, and to raise the profile of museums and galleries across the North West. This Regional Agency develops strategy by consultation with venues and agencies through a network of sub-regional fora. It implements policy to lead the sector forward and is responsible for setting and monitoring standards for improving practice. The organisation is able to offer the following support:

- Learning development (Learning and Access Team).
- Museum development, stewardship and Designation (Museum Development Officer).
- Registration/Accreditation, application guidance and assessment (Museum Development Officer).
- Learning and Educational department, including Inspiring Learning for All (Learning and Access Team)
- Diversity and Social Inclusion (Learning and Access Team)
- Workforce Development and Training (Head of Policy and Development)
- Funding advice and application guidance (Museum Development Officer).
- MLA North West undertakes a number of other functions at a regional level, full details can be found on their website or from the MLA North West Museum Development Officer.
- The MLA North West website and Bulletin provide regular updates on funding opportunities, changes in legislation and other initiatives.

Address: MLA North West, Ground Floor, The Malt Building, Wilderspool Park, Greenall's Avenue, Warrington WA4 6HL.

Tel: 01925 625050, Fax: 01925 243453. Email: info@mlanorthwest.org.uk, Website: www.mlanorthwest.org.uk.

North West Regional Museum Hub

A partnership of North West museums and galleries lead by Manchester City Galleries. It promotes excellence and leads museum practice as part of the Renaissance in the Regions – an ambitious programme to create outstanding, innovative and inclusive museums.

Please remember that while the Hub museums are keen to help colleagues across the North West, some are still in their early stages of Hub development and may not be able to respond to your needs immediately.

The Hub can assist with:

- Advice in the following areas:
 - Curatorial Archaeology
 - Fine and decorative art and textiles
 - Natural history, including geology
 - Social and industrial history

- World Cultures
- Functional Conservation and Collections Care
 - Interpretation and exhibition
 - Education
 - Finance and administration
 - Information and communications technology and documentation
 - Marketing
 - Trading
- Training, secondment and job shadowing in Hub museums
- Exhibition partnership
- Loans of objects
- Support with the development of formal and informal learning and access
- Specialist subject talks and presentations
- Professional advice
- Signposting and referral to other relevant sources and agencies

For general enquiries, please contact Emma Anderson, Hub Manager, Manchester Art Gallery, Mosley Street, Manchester, M2 3JL.
Tel: 0161 235 8888 Fax: 0161 235 8899

North West Museums Hub

Manchester City Galleries (Lead Partner)
Mosley Street, Manchester, M2 3JL
Tel 0161 235 8888, Fax 0161 235 8899 Textphone 0161 235 8893 Website
www.manchestergalleries.org

Bolton Museum, Art Gallery and Aquarium
Le Mans Crescent, Bolton, Lancashire PR1 2PP
Tel 01204 332211 Fax 01204 332241 Website www.boltonmuseums.org.uk

Harris Museum and Art Gallery
Market Square, Preston, Lancashire, PR1 2PP
Tel 01772 258248 Fax 01772 886764 E-mail harris.museum@preston.gov.uk
Website www.visitpreston.com/harris

Manchester Museum (University of Manchester)
Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL
Tel 0161 275 2634 Fax 0161 275 2676 Website www.museum.man.ac.uk

Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery
Castle Street, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA3 8TP
Tel 01228 534781 Fax 01228 810249 E-mail enquiries@tullie-house.co.uk Website
www.tulliehouse.co.uk

Whitworth Art Gallery (University of Manchester)
Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL
Tel 0161 275 7450 Fax 0161 275 7451 E-mail whitworth@man.ac.uk Website
www.whitworth.man.ac.uk

Conservators

Conservators in the region work in both the public and private sectors. Some will charge for their services. They can be contacted via museum development officers. Information is also given in the Directory of Suppliers and Consultants published annually by the Museums Association; the Conservation Register, www.conservationregister.com; and by the UK Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, www.ukic.org.uk

Curatorial advisors

Every Registered museum that does not have the services of a professionally trained and/or experienced curator has a Curatorial Advisor. These Advisors are also a primary source of information and support. Contact Claire McDade at MLA North West for further information.

Membership organisations and Specialist groups offering advice and support:

Association of Independent Museums provides a network of information and help to members. The regional representative for the North West is Richard de Peyer, Macclesfield Silk Museums Tel: 01625 613210 Website: www.silk-macclesfield.org

engage is a leading international association for gallery educators, artist educators and other arts and education professionals. The North West area rep is Sally Entwistle, URBIS, www.engage.org/

Group for Education in Museums (GEM)

GEM promotes the importance of learning through museums and galleries. The regional representative for the North West is **Suzanne Spicer** Museum of Science & Industry in Manchester, Tel: 0161 606 0150 Website: www.gem.org.uk

The Army Museums Ogilby Trust

The Ogilby Trust supports the development of those museums in the UK displaying the collections of regiments and corps of the British Army.

Address: 58 The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire SN1 2EX Tel: 01722 332188 Fax: 01722 334211

Email: dir@amot.demon.co.uk

Website: www.armymuseums.org.uk

North West Federation of Museums and Art Galleries

The Federation promotes the value and benefits of museums and art galleries and their collections in the North West and represents and supports their workers and supporters.

Contact: Jim Forrester, Imperial War Museum North, The Quays, Trafford Wharf, Trafford Park, Manchester, M17 1TE. Telephone: 0161 836 4000. www.nwfed.org.uk/

National organisations

Charity Commission website provides legal advice regarding constitutions, trusteeship, etc. www.charity-commission.gov.uk/

International Council of Museums (ICOM)

Dedicated to the development of museums and the museum profession, and operates globally for the preservation of cultural heritage.

ICOM UK

The UK branch of ICOM.

mda has a telephone and email advice point which provides support on all aspects of museum information management including documentation, ICT and terminology. mda also maintains and provides guidance on Spectrum, the museum documentation standard.

Telephone advice point: 01223 415520 Email: advicepoint@mda.org.uk

MODES Users Association is a support group for the users of Modes and Catalyst documentation programmes. www.modes.org.uk

Museums Association runs training seminars and maintains the professional qualification schemes, and the codes of professional ethics. It also publishes Museums Yearbook, listing most museums in the UK, and a supplement listing specialist suppliers and consultants. The member of staff for responsibility for the North West is Helen Wilkinson, Policy Officer Tel: 020 7426 6970

www.museumsassociation.org

Museums, Libraries and Archives Council website has information and reports about strategic planning and development for museums, libraries and archives.

www.mla.gov.uk

The **National Museum Directors' Conference** represents the leaders of the UK's national museums and galleries. [National Museums Director's Conference](http://www.nmdc.org.uk)

The **Visitor Studies Group** exists to help museums & galleries connect with their visitors and create a positive visitor experience. [Visitor Studies Group](http://www.visitorstudiesgroup.org)

UKIC United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works

<http://www.ukic.org.uk/>

The **Conservation Register** holds detailed information on conservation-restoration practices from across the UK and Ireland. <http://www.conservationregister.com/>

Many of the contact sources quoted require internet access. If you do not have this, your local library will be able to help or advise you.

MLA North West And NW Hub: Roles and Responsibilities

A Summary of Who Does What?

MLA North West	Advocacy	Ambassador and advocate for the region's museums and galleries at local, regional, national and international level. Advocacy of role and benefits of regional sector with the key stakeholders
	Co-ordination	Formal link to the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. Provides link to key Government Departments (Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Department for Education and Skills, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs etc) Provides link to key regional agencies/organisations (North West Development Agency, Government Office for the North West, Cultural Consortium, Heritage Lottery Fund, Arts Council North West etc) Formal link to Hub. Planning to develop an advisory committee for museums and galleries in the region
	Standards	Responsible for Museums and Galleries Registration Scheme
	Strategy	Implementation and monitoring of Regional Museums Strategy. Implementation and monitoring of Regional Learning & Access Action Plan. Cultural diversity initiatives. Preparation and implementation of Workforce Development Strategy Implementing Inspiring Learning for All
	Services and Support	Provides funding via Museum Development Fund Establishes and maintains regional information portal. Commissions/co-ordinates research and evaluation initiatives. Promotes and disseminates best practice
NW Hub venues & First Partners	Advocacy	Promotes Hub members' regional, national and international activities. Develops sector research and evidence base. Promotes best practice from Hub initiatives to the sector
	Co-ordination	Hub Leader has formal link role to both MLA North West and MLA. Hub Leader represents Hub members on the National Museums and Galleries Committee for the Regions
	Standards	Hub venues in first phase of Registration; act as pre-application advisory contacts for subsequent phases
	Programmes & Initiatives	Delivers the Renaissance in the Region in partnership with MLA North West. Undertakes joint initiatives between its members. Implements and monitors the Hub Education Programme Delivery Plan
	Strategy	Piloting workforce development strategy using

		Inspiring Learning for All
	Services and Support	Commissions/co-ordinates research and evaluation initiatives
MLA North West/Hub Joint Responsibilities		Data collection and evaluation (standards and monitoring). Joint delivery of agreed initiatives. Strategic planning for the sector alongside others
Nationally Funded Museums and Galleries in the Region		Represented on the MLA North West museums and galleries advisory committee. Involve regional museums as partners in Strategic Commissioning Work with MLA North West and Hub to deliver Workforce Development. Make available specialist resources, facilities and expertise to regional museums and galleries
Sub-Regional/Area Fora		Effective networks for Museums and Galleries in five sub-regions. Fora leaders sit on proposed MLA North West museums and galleries advisory committee. Provide link to Tourist Boards and Sub-Regional Economic Partnerships.
Local Level – Individual Museums and Galleries		Members of appropriate sub-regional forum Seek opportunities to work in partnership with Hub members and First Nationals and National Museums and Galleries. Participate in the work of Local Strategic Partnerships and other targeted initiatives (e.g. Education Action Zones, New Deal Communities etc). Engage in local community partnerships. Form local cluster groups to pursue joint initiatives. Advocacy at a local level