

Geoffrey Bond Conference Bursaries

Bursaries worth up to £250 each are available to GEM members.



GEM Conference 2009

Tuesday 8 September – Friday 11 September
Birmingham

Engaging Diverse Communities



Engaging Diverse Communities

What is community engagement? Why engage communities and how best can the heritage sector develop mutually-beneficial relationships?

This conference will help heritage learning professionals develop ideas, strategies and practices to help them make a valuable intervention in community engagement, and cultural and social diversity.

The 2009 conference will be practical and relevant – both in terms of the issues that define our society and the needs and interests of heritage sector professionals. The final day is an opportunity to find out more about Learning Outside the Classroom.

The experiences and opportunities offered will engage and inspire professionals from career-entry to management level.



Tuesday 8 September

15.00 Conference registration

16.00 First timers' tea and cake

18.30 Leave (on foot) for *Celebrity Indian Restaurant* for evening meal

21.30 Return to Campus

Wednesday 9 September

What do we mean by 'engaging diverse communities'? and Why should the heritage sector be involved?

This day will focus on the political, professional and social imperatives for engaging more explicitly with people and communities, and what this means for the heritage sector. The day will also look at how practice needs to develop for communities to be at the heart of learning programmes.

MORNING PROGRAMME

Lakeside Conference Centre

08.30 Registration for day delegates
Refreshments

09.00 Welcome & Opening Address
John Reeve, Chair, GEM

09.15 Keynote address
Democratic Heritage
David Fleming, Director, National Museums, Liverpool

09.45 Keynote address
Representing diversity through heritage: challenges for heritage practice and education
Dr Rodney Harrison, Lecturer in Heritage Studies, Open University.

10.15 Q&A with keynote speakers

10.30 Refreshments

11.00 Breakout Sessions
These sessions will explore in more detail some of the issues raised in the morning's keynote speeches.

(a) *How can collections connect with communities?* **Liz Braby**, Audience Development Officer, BM&AG.

(b) *What is the role of the educator in helping people understand and celebrate diversity?* **Michael Cooke**, MLA Regional Manager (West Midlands) & **Alison Bodley**, Programme Manager, *Campaign! Make an impact*

(c) *Understanding the perspective of the community user.* **Theano Moussouri**, Lecturer in Museum Studies, UCL & **Lizzy Rodgers**, Community Exhibition Officer, National Museums, Liverpool

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Coaches depart

AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

a) *Working with a local community*
Find out about *Written in the Stars: Chinese Art in the Sky* and working with the local Chinese community to devise a show for the planetarium.
Julia Kingston, **Thinktank** (On foot)

b) *Learning and community work*
Includes a guided visit to an exhibition by BTEC students from Sutton College Design Centre. Hazel Cartledge, **Soho House** (By coach)

(c) *Responding to a diverse area*
Guided tour with reference to the development of the site and a look at either the *Community Mosaic* or *Guns, Gangs and Knives* projects.
Rosie Barker and Rachel West, **Aston Hall**. (By coach)

On-site workshops

(delegates will attend both)

(d) *Breaking down barriers*
Accessing learning using culture and heritage as a springboard through community led projects. Sue James, **National Waterfront Museum**, Swansea.

e) *Engaging diverse communities*
What are the implications for you and how to develop strategies that create a more inclusive organisation? A workshop based on discussion, problem solving and key tips.
Vicky Woollard, **GEM** & Nick Winterbotham, **Millennium Point**.

16.30 Refreshments

18.00 Members' presentations
Short presentations from GEM members on a wide range of case studies, best professional practice and good ideas. (See panel)

19.15 Drinks & dinner at Lakeside Centre

21.30 Networking opportunities



Members' Presentations

Wednesday 9 September 18.00
GEM members attending the conference who would like to present a case study (ten minutes) should email the title, 100 word synopsis and details of any audiovisual equipment that they will need, to office@gem.org.uk by 10 July.

The main criteria for selection will be how relevant the "lessons learned" from the case study are to engaging diverse communities.



Call for Breakout Session Papers

If you have a paper relating to the breakout themes please send your declaration of interest outlining your proposed presentation and how it relates to the theme (200 words max) with name, organisation and role to fenellahunt@gem.org.uk no later than Friday 5 June.

Your presentation (20 mins) may be about some academic research; a debate around policy and strategy; or general lessons learned from some case studies. The main criteria for selection will be a paper's relevance to the session theme and its general applicability.

Thursday 10 September

How can heritage learning bring sites, collections and diverse communities closer together?

Recognising, evaluating, sharing and sustaining good practice in engaging diverse communities in heritage learning programmes, the day will focus on practice and how to embed diverse communities into your organisational ethos and learning programmes with case studies and realistic examples.

MORNING PROGRAMME

Lakeside Conference Centre

08.30 Registration for day delegates
Refreshments

09.00 Welcome & Opening Remarks
Vicky Woollard, Deputy Chair, GEM

09.15 Keynote address
Has diversity come of age?

Professor Nick Stanley, former Director of Studies: Birmingham Institute of Art and Design

09.45 Keynote address
title to be confirmed

Rita McLean, Head of Museums & Heritage Services, BM&AG and Chair of Renaissance West Midlands Programme Board

10.15 Q&A with keynote speakers

10.30 Refreshments

11.00 Breakout Sessions
(a) How to integrate diverse voices into education work

Reethah Desai & Paul Sullivan, Communities Engagement, Bristol's Museums, Galleries & Archives

(b) How can evaluation techniques be used to measure the impact of community engagement through learning programmes?

Alison James and Nicky Boyd, independent museum consultants

(c) What are the keys to good community engagement?

Chandan Mahal, Head of Audience Development, Women's Library & **Melissa Strauss and Aretha George**, Policy Advisors, Participation and Learning, Heritage Lottery Fund.

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Coaches depart

AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

(a) Community engagement
Explore work ranging from a 'disability and art' AV tour to an Islamic art interpretation trail and an exhibition exploring hair, culture and identity. Liz Braby, **Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery**. (On foot)

b) Birmingham's diverse communities
Find out about the innovative work the service has been engaged in with the city's communities. Izzy Mohammed, **Birmingham Archives & Heritage Centre**. (On foot)

(c) Audience communication
The Ikon learning team will discuss how their programme is communicated to audiences and how communities participate in it. Kaija Kaitavuori, **Ikon Gallery**. (On foot)

On-site workshops
(delegates will attend both)
(d) Developing your practice
Diversifying your organisation to support social and cultural change. Catherine Bloodworth & Suzanne Carter, **English Heritage**

(e) Informal adult learning
Find out about the new adult learning movement and the Challenge Fund to encourage the sector to support self-organised learning groups in their community. Natasha Innocent, **MLA**.

16.30 Refreshments

EVENING PROGRAMME

17.15 Drinks and networking.

18.30 Leave for Highbury Hall

19.00 Annual dinner & AGM and explore all the ground floor rooms.

21.30 Return to Lakeside Centre.

Friday 11 September

Learning Outside the Classroom - Quality Badge

The aim of this additional training day is to improve awareness and understanding of the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge, and to improve your organisation's chances of making a successful application.

Alternatively, delegates may like to spend the day visiting the major heritage attractions in the city to which they will have free access.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Representatives from organisations in the heritage, sacred space and built environment sectors interested in applying for the Quality Badge
- Learning specialists or those who plan and deliver learning programmes at heritage, sacred space and built environment organisations or sites

PROGRAMME

Lakeside Conference Centre

08.30 Registration
Refreshments

09.00 Welcome & Introduction

- Understanding the Quality Badge
- Benefits of the Quality Badge
- Applying for the Quality Badge

10.30 – 10.45 Break

- Introduction to the Quality Indicators
- Exploring the Quality Indicators
- Understanding learning objectives
- Applying the Quality Indicators

12.15 – 13.15 Lunch

- Where are you now?
- Action planning
- Questions & answers

15.00 Finish & refreshments

Delegates will be in groups of no more than 30 and will have a trainer approved by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom.

For more information about the badge, visit:
www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk.

BENEFITS OF THE BADGE

The Quality Badge will become a national benchmark for the provision of educational visits, recognising organisations that are delivering high quality learning experiences and managing risk effectively.

It provides a framework for working in partnership with schools, youth groups and local authorities and aims to reduce red tape, making Quality Badge holders a more attractive prospect for those organising educational visits.

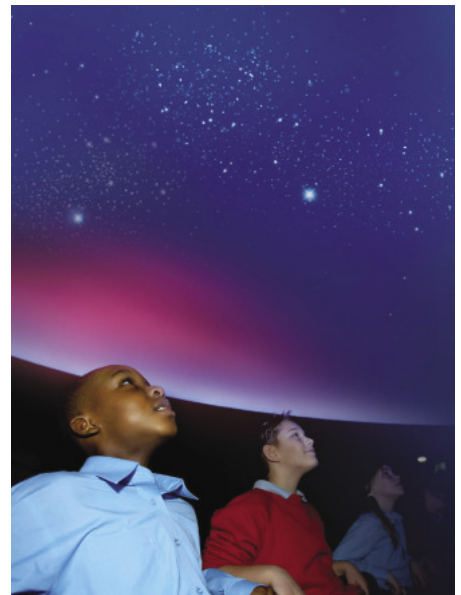
The Quality Badge also provides a useful developmental tool, enabling organisations to improve their practice so that they are confident of providing meaningful and inspirational experiences for young people.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The Quality Badge is for all organisations providing learning outside the classroom experiences. There are two routes to the Quality Badge - the route an organisation takes is determined by the degree of risk management required to manage the activities offered. Route 1 is for those organisations whose activities are considered relatively low-risk, such as museums and historic houses.

In order to achieve the Quality Badge your organisation must be committed to providing high quality teaching and learning experiences. You will need to demonstrate that:

- Learning outside the classroom is understood and valued;
- Processes are in place to establish and maintain effective partnerships with schools and other groups of young learners;
- Structures are in place to support and enable effective learning.



Lakeside Centre

Aston University's Lakeside conference centre is situated at the heart of cosmopolitan Birmingham on a green and tranquil campus just minutes from Junction 6 of the M6, and mainline rail links including New Street and Snow Hill are just 15 minutes walk. Birmingham international airport is nine miles away. The conference facilities are just a few minutes walk away. All Lakeside rooms have en suite shower facilities.

Access

If you have specific access or other needs, please tell us well in advance.

Fees

The fee for the whole conference is £395 for GEM members and £435 for non-members. There is a reduction of £25 for members if booked before 31 July and fees paid by 14 August. Full details of fees are on the booking form.

Conference Bursaries

Details of conference bursaries are on the website: www.gem.org.uk.

General Enquiries

For general enquiries about the conference please contact GEM at 131 Trafalgar Street, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 4RP. Tel/Fax: 01634 853424. Email: office@gem.org.uk

While GEM hopes to run the conference according to this programme, changes at short notice are possible.