

Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto Conference
Making a difference in the heritage sector
9 July 2007 London

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FORMS

A total of 107 delegates booked for this conference and 95 delegates actually attended. Feedback forms were received from 72. The conference took place at the Bishopsgate Institute.

CONFERENCE RATINGS

	%
Overall	80
Speakers	75
Venue	76
Value for Money	95
Course Content	86
Catering	85
Administration	88

ORGANISATION

Most people recognised that this conference (which was heavily subsidised) was excellent value for money. Many people were unhappy that there was no hot drink during the morning or at lunch time but otherwise the catering was praised.

Most people liked the venue except for the poor acoustics which made it difficult to hear speakers and also difficult to hear other members of a table during discussions.

DELEGATES

A wide range of museums and galleries were represented from national museums to small ones and including cathedrals and shrines. There were also delegates from associations like the MLA, Civic Trust, English Heritage, National Trust, Council for British Archaeology, universities, DCSF and a zoo. There were a few teachers and representatives of schools but it would have been good to have more.

Most delegates had come from the south and east.

PRESENTATIONS

The presentations were mostly praised, although many delegates commented that there was too much too fast in the PR presentation.

DISCUSSIONS

Many people found the discussions the most useful part of the day. They appreciated the opportunity to exchange views with people from very varied institutions and backgrounds but facing the same problems and also the general opportunity to network. They liked being made to change tables and thus meet lots of different people.

FUTURE EVENTS AND RESOURCES

- Most people would like to be kept informed about developments and progress (perhaps by an online “diary of progress”. They want the conference information to be made available as soon as possible and they would also like contact details for the main ‘players’.
- Many would like some resources to be available online eg checklists and pro formas for providers of what to provide etc. and checklists for schools to help with planning actual days out and the associated preparation and follow up. Also case study examples of good practice would be useful.
- Information on meeting health and safety standards was mentioned by several.
- Meetings at regional and local level were suggested.
- Concern was expressed about the position of smaller museums meeting standards.
- More participation/involvement with schools was seen as a good idea and that there was a need to include trip planning/running in teacher training.

HERITAGE SECTOR PARTNERSHIP NETWORKING

There were a great many suggestions about who should be involved. These included:

- Government departments - national and local
- Education bodies – LEAs, schools, teaching unions, community groups, etc
- Heritage groups and networks of all sorts.

FURTHER INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT

Most people want to be kept informed by email – but not all left a name.

A number of delegates offered to help – mostly with organising a ‘mini network’, helping with the PR campaign, and providing case studies.

OTHER COMMENTS

- People appreciated having the opportunity to give input at this early stage in LOtC.
- The involvement of schools was seen as crucial.
- Some felt that there was an over emphasis on health and safety, and risk assessment.
- Some were concerned about funding for this project being spent on employing private companies.
- Some objected to the ‘badge’ idea.