

Leeds Museums
& Galleries

Access In Museums Conference



FRIDAY 21ST MARCH

Leeds City Museum
Museum Square, LS2 8BH

DAY 2

Friday 21st March 2025

9.30am-10:00am

REGISTRATION AND RECEPTION

Thorsby Room - Lower Ground Floor

10am-10:15am

WELCOME

Thorsby Room - Lower Ground Floor

Welcome from Carl Newbould and Partner Presentation from GEM
(Group for Education in Museums)

10.15am-10:30am

SPOTLIGHT ON SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS

Thorsby Room - Lower Ground Floor

Sophie Hewitson; Employment and Skills Manager at Leeds City council will discuss what supported internships are and their importance to young adults with additional needs.

10:30am-11:15am

KEYNOTE SAM BOWEN

Thorsby Room - Lower Ground Floor

How to advocate for SEND. Learn about how to support and inspire colleagues to become more inclusive in your organisation. Be the changemaker!

11:15am-11:30am

BREAK

11:30am-12:30pm

SPOTLIGHTS

Thorsby Room - Lower Ground Floor

Hear from a range of organisations highlighting inclusive practice in their museums.

1. Inclusive Partnerships: Creating Meaningful Work Experiences for All by Miriam Rodriguez
2. Authentic consultations -working with young people with special educational needs and disabilities by Helen Pooley and Miranda Millward
3. The Snapshot Project: Exploring identity from a sideways angle, When Should Identity Matter? *Rethinking Identity Conversations in Cultural Projects* by Hudson Ray and Josh Jones
4. Jason Wilsher Mills - Are We There Yet? – inclusive programming for a temporary exhibition by Esther Hallberg

12:30pm-1:15pm

LUNCH AND NETWORKING

1:15pm-2:00pm

WORKSHOP

Option 1 Wolfson Project: Developing a Sensory Trail
Thorsby room- Lower ground

Speakers: Jamie Prada and Jessica Starns

Inspired by the work carried out by the access team at the British Museum through the Wolfson Project (funded by the Lord Leonard and Lady Estelle Wolfson Foundation), this workshop will encourage attendees to think creatively and create sensory items inspired by some of the items in the British Museum's collection.

Option 2 Connection and Belonging in Heritage
Deny room

Speakers: Becki Morris and Parmi Dheesna

In a constantly uncertain global landscape we must examine the ways museums can foster stronger intersectional, inclusive bonds and better resonate with people's lived experiences from a national and global perspective.

In this practical, interactive session, we will be acknowledging the experience of delegates as they reflect on current practice, including taking a moment to acknowledging the diversity of requirements for equity in the working practice, practical actions and reframing challenges to key learning.

2:00pm-2:15pm

BREAK

2:15pm-3:00pm

WORKSHOP

Option 1- 'Autistic Children Become Autistic Adults' - Creating accessible working environments within museums

Thorsby room

Speaker: Emily Elsworth

This workshop will highlight lived experience of working in the heritage sector. You will gain an insight into the importance of including those with lived experience of SEND in and neurodivergence in your teams as well as ideas of how this can be incorporated, making it an accessible experience.

Case studies will be shared highlighting previous employment experiences as an autistic adult within the museum sector both good and bad as well as how they could have been improved.

Option 2 Glimmers and Sparks – creating opportunities for children who can't attend school

Deny room

Speaker: Nicky McIntosh

This workshop will share learning around home education and those with barriers to attendance. It will explore why we need to be inclusive of this audience the opportunities we have to welcome them. This is a growing, diversifying audience and includes a very high proportion of SEND. Through an interactive exercise we will gain insight into how difficulties to attend school can impact families then consider the value museums can give to these audiences.

3:00pm-3:15pm

Closing Statements

3:15pm

Conference ends

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