

Leeds Museums
& Galleries

Access In Museums Conference



THURSDAY 20TH MARCH

Leeds City Museum
Museum Square, LS2 8BH

DAY 1

Thursday 20th 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 YAMN (Yorkshire Accessible Museums Network)

10.15am-11:00am

KEYNOTE DR. JOANNA GRACE

Thorsby Room - Lower Ground Floor

This Keynote reveals the magic of sensory stories: these narratives in which concise text is partnered with rich and relevant sensory stimulation provide an inclusive invitation to stories for all.

10.15am-11:00am

BREAK

11:15am-12:00pm

WORKSHOP

Option 1 How can you make your interpretation more Accessible?
Thorsby room

Speakers: Sam Bowen and Sarah Oswald representing GEM (Group for Education in Museums)

Join GEM Trainers Sam Bowen and Sarah Oswald to learn more about how you make your museum interpretation more accessible. The workshop will provide participants with 10 top tips for making interpretation accessible with examples, case studies and practical tips you can take away and implement.

Option 2 Running an Accessible Workshop
Deny room

Speakers: Hannah Thompson, Sophie Vora, Charlotte Slark

The Sensational Museum is a 2.5-year research project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. Co-creation between disabled and non-disabled museum professionals and visitors has been at the heart of our work as we develop and test a toolkit for running inclusive co-creation workshops to develop inclusive exhibitions or experiences in museums. In this interactive workshop we will share our tips for running an accessible workshop (either in person or online).

12:00pm

PINC: A COLLEGE INSIDE A MUSEUM

Thorsby Room - Lower Ground Floor

Learn about the authentic story of a grass roots social enterprise that became a creative college (SEND) based in museums and galleries nationally.

12:15pm-1:00pm

LUNCH AND NETWORKING

1:00pm-1:45pm

WORKSHOP

Option 1 Promoting an honest and objective accessibility offer on your website and online.

Thorsby Room

Speaker: Ally Becket

A recent Euan's guide survey shows that 91% of disabled people will try to find access information on your website in advance of a visit. If your website and online presence doesn't include this, 59% will assume you are inaccessible and decide to go elsewhere. Therefore, it is crucial that your website accurately and accessibly promotes what you have on offer. This workshop will look at simple ways to improve the access information you share online, promote your access offer, and be objective and honest about what you do and don't have.

Option 2 Sensory Journeys: Bringing stories to life with your help.
Deny room

Speaker: Leslie Palanker-Jermyn

Participants will learn about how South Shields Museum and Arbeia Roman Fort are reaching beyond their walls and connecting with Special Educational Needs Disability (SEND), Profound Multiple Learning Disability (PMLD), and hard-to-reach disadvantaged audiences, through free, on-demand, innovative digital sensory story telling sessions and on-line activities.

Participants will then have a hands on session using and art work to create their own sensory picture with various resources and Foley art. Rolling for poetry, a sensory literacy activity will complete the workshop.

1:45pm-2:00pm

BREAK

2:00pm-2:30pm

CONVERSATION GROUPS

TBC rooms

An opportunity to discuss a key topic of interest around access with similar minded peers. You can choose from:

- Galleries and Interpretation
- Community Engagement and Education
- Employment, staffing and diversifying the workforce

2:30pm-2:45pm

CLOSING STATEMENTS OF THE DAY AND PREPPING FOR TOURS

2:45pm-3:45pm

LOCAL SITE TOURS

Join a tour of one of our local Leeds sites:

Option 1: Leeds City Museum

Option 2: Leeds Art Gallery

Option 3: The Stanley and Audrey Burton Gallery, Leeds University Library Galleries

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