

DAY 1

Thursday 23 April

11.45am

## **Choice A: Fostering hope, optimism and inspiration: South Shields Museum and Art Gallery ESBA (Emotionally Based School Avoidance) programme**

Leslie Palanker-Jermyn

Thoresby room

A key question in relation to EBSA is ‘How can we help children thrive, rather than just survive?’ This workshop will show how rethinking the purpose of a museum can foster hope, optimism, and self-expression, and so impact positively on the lives of children and young people and their families experiencing EBSA. We will show how this collaborative project with Educational Psychologists, sensory artists, a local secondary school and our partnership with the National Gallery Masterpiece Tours has inspired children and young people and their families to use art and co-create art exhibitions, as a way to express what makes school a challenging place for them, what it is like to step into their shoes, to help others better understand how they might be able to help.

## **Choice B: Out of Sight, Out of Mind? Making Museums Accessible and Engaging for People with Visual Impairments**

Amy Jo Kearton

Broderick Hall

This workshop will explore how museums can facilitate physical access and promote intellectual engagement for visitors with visual impairments. The key topics discussed are touch, audio, staff awareness, and narratives about sight loss, including interactive activities and demonstrations.

DAY 1

Thursday 23 April

2:15

## **Choice A: Advancing Accessibility: Disability Work Culture in Museums**

Alexandra Morris from the Lived Experience with Disability Museum Working Group

Explore how museums can foster accessibility by rethinking recruitment, hiring, and leadership pathways for disabled people. This interactive workshop shares lived experiences and practical tools, offering fresh strategies to improve organisational culture and inclusion.

## **Choice B: Belonging in Museums: Creative Experiences for SEND Learners**

Dionne Matthews from Lotherton Hall Leeds Museums and Galleries

Join us for an interactive, hands-on session exploring how creativity and mindful practice can help SEND learners feel a sense of belonging in museum spaces. Together, we'll experiment with artforms inspired by museum collections, using simple, sensory approaches to support confidence and self-expression.

This workshop invites you to take part, play, and share ideas while discovering adaptable techniques to enhance personalised learning and inclusive provision. You'll leave with practical ideas, creative inspiration, and fresh ways to support SEND audiences in museums.

DAY 1

Thursday 23 April

10.20am

## **Live Transcription**

Oliver Webster

Throughout the Access in Museums conference we will have access you will have access to Stage Text: a live transcription service for all talks in Broderick Hall. Oliver Webster from will discuss what live transcription is and why it is important for access.

1:15-2pm

## **Belonging in Museums: Creative Experiences for SEND learners**

Louise Bell

Who is the UK Disability History Heritage Hub and what do we do? UKDHHH is a group, created by then-PhD students with links to the heritage industry. We felt there was space for a network to allow those interested in Disabled, Neurodiverse, and D/deaf histories, from the ancient world to the modern era, to connect and collaborate. The Hub is open to researchers, students, archivists, museum professionals, activists and anyone in-between! Come and find out more about us!

## **Disability Badge Scheme**

Emily Elsworth and Pen Foreman

An Introduction to the Disability Badge Scheme for Museums and Heritage.

The Disability Badge Scheme is a way of museums and heritage sites highlighting what they are doing to increase accessibility for disabled people. This scheme recognises the need for increasing access for disabled visitors, staff, volunteers and freelancers.

DAY 1

Thursday 23 April

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1:15-2 continued

## **Museum Development Supporting the Sector**

Museum Development Access Cohort

Find out how 14 museums have been involved in an intensive programme focusing on improving their offer for disabled people. Hear case studies direct from some of the Access Cohort members.