

RENAISSANCE NORTH WEST museums for changing lives

Moving towards a
sustainable sector

Renaissance's impact
across the North West

New roles and
responsibilities



“Sustainability means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It also means increasing the capacity of our organisations to survive in an increasingly demanding and uncertain environment.”

Maurice Davies,
Deputy Director, Museums Association



Manchester Art Gallery

Claire Wood

Renaissance North West is working in partnership with MLA, other regional Hubs and the Museums Association to prioritise the sustainability agenda for museums across the region. We are taking an holistic view of sustainability to see how we can strengthen our economic and social impact and make the most effective use of our resources.

There is little doubt of the tremendous impact that our museums and galleries continue to make with social sustainability: helping create strong, cohesive communities, and developing partnerships to deliver against health and adult skills agendas. However, in these challenging economic times, we recognise that we need to draw down expertise from other sectors for the benefit of regional museums and galleries.

Strengthening economic sustainability will require developing new models of working and service delivery, with an increased focus on entrepreneurship, fundraising and innovative business models. It also means ethical trading – promoting fair trade and locally sourced products in museum shops and cafes.

Environmental sustainability means ensuring our buildings are more environmentally friendly and that capital developments have green issues at their core. In the North West, we will use Darwin 200 as an opportunity for the public to engage with biodiversity through our natural science collections as resources for understanding the impact we make on our planet.

This approach to sustainability will inform the next phase of Renaissance in 2009-11. As this newsletter went to press, we were awaiting the results of the national review of Renaissance and writing the second phase of the Renaissance North West business plan. The recommendations in the review will help shape the future of our museums from 2011.

Virginia Tandy, Director of Culture: Manchester City Council & North West Hub Lead

MLA's regional field team in the North

Keith Bartlett has taken up his appointment as the new Director of Engagement for the North.

Keith sits on the MLA Executive Board and is the voice for the three northern regions – the North West, the North East and Yorkshire – into MLA.

Each of the three northern regions has a Regional Manager that supports the Director of Engagement. Nathan Lee, previously Deputy Chief Executive of MLA North West, has been appointed to this role in our region. The team is further strengthened by a Strategic Commissioning Project Manager and two Area Engagement Advisors, who will focus on Learning and Skills and Local Government.

While this 'field team' will offer some services that were provided by the independent regional agencies, its role is distinctly different. The team is part of the national body and will focus on:

★ supporting implementation of the national

programmes of work of MLA within the regions such as Renaissance in the Regions

- ★ being the source of intelligence on the regions that helps shape MLA policy and priorities
- ★ being the voice of MLA and an accessible point of contact within the regions.

The team will also deliver regional priorities for MLA, including:

- ★ jointly agreed priorities with the other cultural agencies, such as Living Places, Find Your Talent, Sea Change
- ★ advocating for culture across the region, including the Integrated Regional Strategy
- ★ developing partnerships with local authorities to deliver A Passion for Excellence.

The new team will arrange a programme of visits across the North West.

For more information, contact Nathan Lee, Regional Manager, North West, MLA: nathan.lee@mmla.gov.uk 0161 952 4375



Renaissance's impact across the North West

During the last year, Renaissance North West has invested almost £500,000 in regional museums and galleries.

Since 2006, the Collections for the Future Steering Group has worked on developing a regional museums infrastructure using the framework outlined in the Museum Association's 2005 report.

In 2008 – 09, through the Collections for the Future programme, **£273,000** was invested across **58** regional museums and galleries through **105** interventions.

This programme uses Renaissance funding to oversee the region's plans concerned with collections care, management, review, interpretation and accreditation advice. In the last two years, the group has delivered this through direct investment in:

- ★ collections access through the Unleash grants
- ★ collections reviews projects
- ★ Roman heritage projects
- ★ collections care development
- ★ events and training opportunities.

Investing in partnerships

This year Renaissance North West has also invested **£225,500** to support strategic and geographic museum partnerships with Hub venues, for example:

The Greater Manchester Museums Forum works with Bolton Museum & Archive Service on audience development research and an emergency response network.

Led by the Harris Museum & Art Gallery, the Preston Museum and Schools Partnership is developing family learning and educational sessions for Key Stage 2 pupils to improve literacy.

Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery works with three Cumbrian Learning Networks to support the development of learning provision in museums in Cumbria through networking, CPD opportunities and joint projects.

The year in figures

This year Renaissance North West has supported regional museums and galleries with a total of **£498,500** funding as follows:

- ★ £127,000 in Unleash grants
- ★ £15,000 for places at Museums Association conference
- ★ £225,500 for family learning, schools, and audience development initiatives for established regional consortia and partnerships
- ★ £131,000 for collection care development grants, collection review pilots and Roman Heritage projects.

Training and Events

This year our events and training opportunities attracted more than **800** attendances, of which:

- ★ 70 people at 17 venues were trained to use the collection care kits issued to their venue
- ★ 65 first time delegates received a sponsored place at the 2008 Museums Association conference
- ★ about 100 people took advantage of more than one event or training opportunity.

Did you attend one of our events or training sessions this year? Did it help you with a specific project at your museum? If so, we'd like to hear from you. Contact Jennie Crawford, details below.

Looking ahead

These figures exclude support given by the Renaissance Development Officers, such as site visits and time spent organising events and training.

Though **98%** of regional museums have been visited or received advice from a Renaissance Development Officer, there are 84 museums that have not received funding since the start of the Collections for the Future programme. Renaissance North West aims to build on these achievements to extend the benefits of the programme to every Accredited museum and gallery in the region by the end of 2011.

Breakdown by sub-region

Although the funding distributed by sub-region is unequal, the figures are generally proportionate to the number of museums in those counties. Therefore, counties with fewer museums, such as Merseyside and Cheshire, have had a higher success rate for their grant applications through the Collections for the Future programme.



£93,000 direct investment through 23 interventions
12 venues have benefited from £58,000 Collections for the Future funding
£35,000 invested via Tullie House to support the Cumbrian Learning Networks
125 attendances at events and training, representing about 23 venues
11 sponsored places at the MA conference



£198,500 direct investment through 24 interventions
15 venues have benefited from £68,500 Collections for the Future funding
£130,000 invested via the Harris Museum & Art Gallery for the Preston Museums and Schools Partnership
113 attendances at events and training, representing about 19 venues
12 sponsored places at the MA conference



£144,500 direct investment through 37 interventions
20 venues have benefited from £84,000 Collections for the Future funding
£60,500 invested in learning initiatives and the Greater Manchester Museums Forum
235 attendances at events and training, representing about 42 venues
27 sponsored places at the MA conference



£27,500 direct investment through 13 interventions
8 venues have benefited from Collections for the Future funding
48 attendances at events and training, representing about 15 venues
8 sponsored places at the MA conference



£20,000 direct investment through 9 interventions
6 venues have benefited from Collections for the Future funding
57 attendances at events and training, representing about 16 venues
7 sponsored places at the MA conference

Regional role of Bolton Museum & Archive Service

Bolton Museum and Archive Service is passionate about workforce development. We have taken a leading role in this area since 2004, when MLA introduced the Inspiring Learning For All initiative.

In response to the Improving Visitor Learning project, we developed Learning Styles Workshops to help museums realise the learning potential at their venues. In addition, we ran a programme for regional Visitor Services Managers that challenged traditional front and back of house roles and responsibilities.

We also established an Organisational Development Group, made up of senior managers from the six Hub venues. The group continues to develop ideas around workforce that address the changing agendas that challenge public, private and national museums and galleries. Sharing knowledge on workforce development issues is an essential part of the group's objectives over the next two years.

As a member of the Professional Development Steering Group at the University of Manchester, Bolton was involved in recruiting the first cohort for the Centre for Museology's Professional Development Programme that Renaissance North West is supporting. We also sit on the regional Collections Review Board, which advises museums and galleries on difficult collections management issues such as transfer and ethical disposals.

Finally, Bolton is an active member of the Industrial Powerhouse network. Finding ways to publicise the Industrial Powerhouse theme is paramount to increasing visitor numbers to Industrial Powerhouse attractions across Lancashire and raising the tourist offer throughout the North West.

**Joanne Irvine, Head of Service,
Bolton Museum & Archive Service**



Introducing the North West Fed

The North West Federation of Museums & Art Galleries is currently undergoing a transformation to best serve its members across the region.

The Federation is changing its constitution to become a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity.

It is changing its name to The North West Fed, but will remain a grassroots organisation for all museum, gallery and heritage people in the region. For the first time, it will be able to apply for funding and employ a co-ordinator.

To make the transition, The North West Fed is working with the following regional partners:

Business in the Arts North West is providing advice on constitutional changes.

Renaissance North West is supporting the development of the website, transitional arrangements, collaborative events and joint promotion.

National Museums Liverpool is providing a registered office and human resources advice.

At the end of March, The North West Fed launched its new website at an event in Liverpool and completed its first business plan, which outlines its aims and objectives over the next three years.

Jo Jones, President, The North West Fed

Visit the new website and become a member: www.nwfed.org.uk

Centre for Museology's professional development programme

The University of Manchester has launched a new professional development programme for museum staff throughout the region.

Supported by Renaissance North West, seven people have been recruited to take part in the pilot phase of the programme, which was launched in February and will run in 2009 – 10. They are:

Gurdeep Thiara, Curator of Community Engagement, The Manchester Museum

Susan Mackell, Educator, Prescott Museum & Norton Priory

Sarah Rainbow, Collections Care Assistant, Manchester City Galleries

Joanna Pugh, Regional External Affairs Manager, National Trust NW

Joanne Davies, Schools & Colleges Manager, Manchester City Galleries

Neil Green (not pictured), Educator, The Manchester Museum & The Whitworth Art Gallery

Claire Jones (not pictured), Services & Events Manager, Victoria Gallery & Museum

Over the next year, they will:

- ★ develop a strategic understanding of their role within their organisations and the contexts that shape an organisation's policies
- ★ acquire knowledge and skills in different aspects of museum practice
- ★ research and reflect on the impact and effects of a work-based project
- ★ be part of the learning and research community in the Centre for Museology
- ★ share their knowledge with others and form a network of learners.

The programme is supported by the North West Universities Association Higher Level Skills Pathfinder Fund.



The Whitworth Art Gallery

Steve Devine

For more information, contact Helen Rees Leahy:
helen.rees.leahy@btinternet.com
or visit: www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/museology/professionaldevelopment

EVENTS & TRAINING

16 April Environmental Monitoring and Control FREE

Lancashire Conservation Studios.
Contact Kaye Tetlow:
kaye.tetlow@lancashire.gov.uk

14 May The North West Fed's annual 'Shout it from the Rooftops event'

The Manchester Museum.
Contact Emma Varnam:
emma.varnam@tameside.gov.uk
or visit www.nwfed.org.uk

28 May Metals in Social History Collections – Identification and Conservation FREE

Lancashire Conservation Studios,
Preston. Contact Kaye Tetlow
as above

11 June Object Assessment and Condition Reporting FREE

The Whitworth Art Gallery,
Manchester. Contact Kaye Tetlow
as above

9 July Collections Review & Assessment workshop FREE

The Manchester Museum.
Contact Sally Cross at the
Museums Association:
sally@museumsassociation.org

10 July Collections Review & Assessment workshop FREE

Tullie House, Carlisle.
Contact Sally Cross as above

National Museums Liverpool
is offering five **FREE** places to
regional museums professionals
on the following full-day collections
management courses:

28 April Introduction to Collections Management and Environmental Control

National Conservation Centre,
Liverpool

7 July Integrated Pest Management

Entomology Library and Laboratory,
World Museum, Liverpool

These courses will be delivered by
National Museums Liverpool staff.
Please note that you need to register
your interest by 10 April.
For further information on the
sessions, please contact Kaye
Tetlow as above

New roles & responsibilities

The Renaissance North West team is growing!

Following MLA's transition to a single agency and the closure of the regional agencies, Renaissance is responsible for delivering skills and workforce development and Accreditation advice and support. In the North West, we are keen to build on the model of the Roman Heritage Development Officer to foster partnerships and increase access to the region's outstanding collections. In the next few months, Renaissance North West will be recruiting the following posts:

Accreditation, Standards & Review Officer

This post will consolidate the North West's nationally significant work in collections review and support museums through the Accreditation process

Workforce & Skills Development Officer

This post will deliver a world class programme of events and training for the sector, including the annual Curating for the Future conference.

All Renaissance North West jobs and contracts are advertised via our e-bulletin. To sign up for the e-bulletin, go to: www.renaissancenw.org.uk



Contact the Renaissance North West team:

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Katie Athey, Renaissance North West Project Support Officer

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Jane Fletcher, Renaissance North West Education Development Manager

01228 618767 / 07854921522 (currently on maternity leave)

janef@carlisle.gov.uk

Kate Measures, Learning Development Consultant

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Kaye Tetlow, Collections Liaison Officer

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Alex Saint & Andrew Palmer

Renaissance North West Strategic Audience Development Consultants

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