

MUSEUM AND HERITAGE RESOURCE - a single museum or heritage site

How do I run Arts Award in my museum or heritage organisation?

Here's an overview of how Arts Award can work at a museum or heritage site, including some frequently asked questions and an example of what your Bronze Arts Award programme could contain. The museum is fictional but the questions are real ones posed by museums and heritage organisations. We hope this will help you think about how you can run Arts Award at your museum or heritage site!



Organisation profil

An industrial museum wants to offer Arts Award to the young people in its youth group in order to recognise and record the activities they are involved in, and to attract new members to join the group.

The group take responsibility for projects linked to the collections, including organising events and family days and helping run workshops. The museum wants to expand their role in interpreting the collections for a young audience.

Questions around delivering Arts Award

Me're a science museum. How is Arts Award relevant to us?

Any museum collection or object can inspire a creative response. This might be as simple as a drawing, story or poem or more in-depth activities, such as designing a new guide or exhibition. If you are unsure do contact the Arts Award helpdesk.

Q Our learning team are all volunteers. Can they be Arts Award advisers?

A Yes, anyone can train as an adviser as long as they have experience of working with young people. Understanding Arts Award is use beneficial for volunteers at the beginning of their museum career and older volunteers may appreciate the recognition it gives their work with young people.

Q Our regular groups work informally and only come to sessions when they want to. How would Arts Award work for them?

A Because Arts Award is a flexible framework, young people can decide how and when they want to work – especially at Silver and Gold levels. Allocate some time during sessions to agree arts challenges, talk with the young people about their progress and check that portfolios are on track. Book a moderation date so that the young people have a deadline to aim for.



Holborne Museum

Delivering Bronze Arts Award in a museum or heritage setting – some ideas

The following programme is just one example of how Arts Award can be delivered. We recommend having a look at the Arts Award Guide before reading this, to get an idea of the Bronze Award structure.

| Bronze section | Session activity | Arts Award activity for workshop leader | Arts Award activity for participant |
|---|--|--|---|
| A explore the arts as a participant | The youth group want to create a short piece of costumed interpretation about the changes in local industry over the past 100 years, using the site and collections as inspiration. They work together to research, write and rehearse the piece. It is performed at a special weekend event for young people. | Lead activities to generate ideas. Support the group in finding the information and materials needed to develop the piece. Record evidence: take photos and video discussions which young people can use for their portfolios. | Young people record their experiences and their individual role for their portfolio. This may include: a plan of their role in the piece photographs of them working on it comments on what they learned and enjoyed. |
| B explore the arts as an audience member | The group visit a similar museum to see how they use costumed interpretation and workshops. They review the dramatic impact of the live interpretation they see and share their opinions with the rest of the group. | Organise visits to other museum site(s). Facilitate sharing of responses. Offer some tips on review techniques or provide some prompt questions. | Young people record evidence for their portfolios, including: evidence of the performance (and any other events) they visited personal reflection. Young people share their experience with others through: a blog post a group sharing a recording. |
| C arts inspiration | The group each choose an artist or designer that has had an influence on their life. The research is presented back to the group and may feed in to the piece of interpretation. | Give guidance to young people on research and stimulate thinking about the artist or designer they choose to find out about. | Young people record their research in their portfolios. This might include a recorded interview done individually or as a group. |
| D arts skills share | The groups share the skills they have learned while preparing their piece, eg teaching traditional songs or costume making, at a family day. They collect feedback from families that take part. | Facilitate the setting up of the presentation. Photograph or record the presentation. Suggest simple ways to collect feedback. | Young people make a plan of what they will demonstrate. They put photos of the presentation and feedback from the visitors in their portfolios. |
| Portfolio session | | Adviser monitors portfolios during project and leads portfolio session. | Short session for whole group to finish off their portfolios for assessment. |
| Portfolio assessment | | Adviser completes assessments and fills in forms for moderation. NB Book your moderation at least eight weeks in advance | |