

Bright Sparks: Shining a Light on Museum Learning

Museums Galleries Scotland Learning Symposium

Monday 17 June, 9.30am – 4.30pm, The Engine Shed, Forthside Way, Stirling FK8 1QZ
Scottish museums **£30**; out with Scottish museums sector **£50**

Is your work with schools needing some stimulation? Are you looking to re-invigorate your learning programmes or develop your learning practice? Do you want to know more about the Curriculum for Excellence? Perhaps you're just interested in exploring new ways of working.

Bright Sparks will be filled with inspiration from industry leaders on topics such as **policy**, **practical methods for dialogue with schools**, **STEM**, **how to build a learning programme**, **innovative models for learning**, and **work-based learning**.

With speakers from the public and private sector including organisations such as **Education Scotland**, **Immersive Minds**, **Glasgow Life**, **Developing Youth Workforce (DYW)**, **Young Enterprise Scotland** and the **Group for Education in Museums (GEM)**, the symposium will bring together experts from within and outwith the museums sector to share their experiences and their thoughts on the future of formal learning.

Who Is It For?

The event will cater for both practitioner and strategic level, with engaging keynotes for all, and sessions split into three themes to allow attendees to choose the topics most relevant to their needs.

Policy Add-On (PA) sessions cover strategic topics around policy areas guiding the learning and development of children and young people and how museums can contribute. It gives context to Scottish education system and raises awareness of how learning practitioners can use the policies and frameworks to guide their programmes and activities for formal learning.

Practical Learning (PL) sessions will explore practical approaches to developing programmes and activities relevant to formal learning in museums. The objective is to share pedagogical practices, using museums resources in a more creative ways that stimulate children and young people's curiosity, learning and enjoyment in schools and in museums.

Innovative Practice (IP) sessions will showcase innovative approaches that can be used to deliver formal learning in museums. The aim is to enable practitioners to be aware of alternative models and practices for them to consider when thinking about their programmes.

The programme is outlined below so that you can decide which sessions you'd like to attend before registering.



A Flavour of the Keynotes

Keynote: *The Curriculum for Excellence and STEM*

Nick Morgan, Education Scotland

What exactly is the Curriculum for Excellence? And what are its overall aspirations to improve attainment? In this keynote, Nick will give background and context of the Scottish Education system, the role of Education Scotland, and the opportunities and challenges faced. Providing an insight to the Curriculum for Excellence as a relevant curriculum that offers greater choice, he will also explore the work and support for STEM education.

Keynote: *Innovative Practice in Education*

Dr Catherine Morgan, Director - Education and Outreach, Immersive Minds
Stephen Reid, Director, Immersive Minds

Museums have an opportunity to connect with learners of all ages through digital technologies and play-based learning. In this session, Catherine and Stephen will explain how the team from Immersive Minds have used a range of new and emerging technologies, including Minecraft, to help young people explore heritage and museums in a way that is fun and supports learning outcomes in a range of areas.

Keynote: *Scottish Attainment Challenge and Adverse Childhood Experiences*

Lynne Robertson, Senior Education Officer for Social Studies, Education Scotland

How do we ensure that every child has the same opportunity to succeed? Lynne's presentation will provide background to the Scottish Attainment Challenge and the aspiration to closing the poverty related attainment gaps in Scotland schools. She will also provide an insight into how to prevent and tackle the impact of the 10 Scottish Government categorised 'Adverse Childhood Experiences' (ACEs) through collaborative approaches and programmes. Finally, linking this work to the National Performance Framework, Curriculum for Excellence and Getting It Right For Every Child, find out how museums can engage and contribute to these wider agendas.

Keynote: *queer times school prints: LGBTPQI+ heritage*

Katie Bruce, Producer Curator, Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow
David Dick, Teacher and Core Participant

'queer times school prints' sought to commission Education Prints on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Polysexual, Queer, Intersex + heritage for Glasgow Museums' collection and in the longer term, for use by Glasgow secondary schools. Curator Katie Bruce and core participant David Dick will be in conversation about the project, its development and how David's experience as a teacher informed the lesson plans for the prints – a crucial aspect of the work.

There will also be a final panel discussion which will ask **What Do Schools Want?** so if you have any questions for the experts from Developing the Young Workforce and National Museums Scotland, or for our guest depute headteacher, Caroline Philip (Newbattle High School), then please also indicate this when you register.

A Quick Guide to the Sessions (to help you choose...)

Session One – choose one of...

PL1: Secondary Schools: How to Keep Them Wanting More

Jenny Blay, Head of Museum Learning, Langley Academy Trust

Session in partnership with the Group for Education in Museums (GEM)

How does a Trust that consists of three schools, with higher than average numbers of students from disadvantaged backgrounds or with English as an additional language, work with museums to widen and enrich learning? In this interactive session, Jenny will expand on The Langley Academy Trust's approach to partnerships and planning, enabling delegates to trial some sustainable engagement techniques to help them develop sustainable relationships with their secondary school audience.

PA1: Raising Attainment: Museums Supporting Language and Literacy

Lyn Mooney, Learning & Access Curator, Glasgow Museums

Glasgow Museum's iconic Riverside Museum has worked extensively with both family and school groups to address challenges around English as an additional language and narrowing the attainment gap. In this session, Lyn will share how museums can better support language and literacy and support the Curriculum for Excellence.

IP1: Powering Up: Supporting STEM Through Museum Outreach

Craig Sinclair, Science Engagement & Outreach Assistant, National Museums Scotland

Jamie Menzies, Learning & Access Officer, Scottish Maritime Museum

In 2017, NMS introduced *Powering Up*, their engagement programme targeting harder-to-reach schools from areas of multiple deprivation. Run in partnership with four museums across Scotland, Craig and Jamie will share the benefits of the programme and give participants an opportunity to try and test some of the activities and resources developed to support the learning and teaching of STEM in local schools.

Session Two – choose one of...

PL2: Alchemy: Inspiring Art, Inspiring Science

Lynsey Merrick, Formal Learning Officer, Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museums

Rachel Thibbotumunuwe, Learning Manager, Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museums

The Alchemy project – an object based learning project for schools - used collections to inspire learning and creativity, working collaboratively with freelance artists and academic scientists. Lynsey and Rachel will offer insights into the practicalities of using collections to support cross curricula or STE(A)M learning in both school and museum settings and share what works – and what didn't.

PA2: Top Tips for Evaluating Learning Projects and Programmes

Sheena Muncie, Director, Scotinform

Lewis Hui, Fun Palaces

Lynsey Anderson, Learning & Access Officer, Carnegie Birthplace Museum

Get to grips with why, and how, you can best use evaluation to improve your work, share the value of what you do, and generate better results. This informal panel discussion will offer top tips from evaluation experts and museums professionals, as well as an opportunity to ask questions and explore potential future areas of innovation to explore.

IP2: The Inventors' Challenge: Using Museum Artefacts as Stimulus

Marie Leck and Lisa Wardlaw, Senior Programme Executives, Young Enterprise Scotland

Annie-Leigh Campbell, Senior Outreach and Education Officer, The Engine Shed

The Inventors' Challenge is a one day enterprise programme for primary schools, designed to bring inventors and inventions into the lives of Primary 5-7 pupils and using museum artefacts as stimulus. In this session, participants can hear from primary school pupils themselves about their experiences and learn about potential partnerships to support and enhance their delivery of innovative learning.

Session Three – choose one of...

PL3: Building a Successful Learning Programme

Kate Fellows, Lifelong Learning Manager, Leeds Museums & Galleries

Sarah Cowie, Learning Officer (Schools), National Museums Scotland

Session in partnership with the Group for Education in Museums (GEM)

How do you build a learning programme that is so successful that it actually prompts schools to alter their curriculum in order to take part? Leeds Museums has achieved just that, using a unique place-based approach and working with a range of organisations to build a learning programme for pupils across the city of Leeds. Hear from Kate on how this was developed, and from Sarah, who will provide a Scottish perspective using the Curriculum for Excellence.

PA3: Future Proofing Industry Engagement with Schools

Steven Turnbull, Senior Engagement Manager, Developing the Young Workforce

What are the benefits of connecting museums and galleries with education and how can we inspire young minds to engage with museums and galleries? Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) is the Scottish Government's Youth Employment strategy. DYW regional groups set up across Scotland are currently connecting employers with all levels of education. In this workshop find out how the DYW groups using innovative practise can support museums and galleries to effectively engage with schools at all levels.

IP3: The Art of Digital Learning

Jenni Mackay, Education Support Officer for Digital Learning, Dundee City Council

Using the example of the Forth Bridges project and the subsequent education resources developed, Jenni will outline digital technology's central role in the classroom and explore the potential of 3D digitisation to promote learning. Participants will have an opportunity to try out some of the games-based and interactive resources developed and gain ideas and tips for developing their own digital learning offer.