

Briefing Pack

About South West Museum Development

Our Vision: Working together for diverse, inclusive and inspiring museums relevant to the lives of the diverse communities they serve

Our Mission: We are museum and heritage development specialists working with the museum and heritage sector in the South West of England to effect positive, lasting change and deliver public value. Together we create opportunities which build confidence and skills, encourage innovation, and celebrate our heritage and culture.

Our Values

Relevant - operating a flexible, responsive and forward-thinking development service

Evolving - building on our and others' experience to effect positive and lasting change

Collaborative - creating and engaging in partnerships to maximise impact

Inclusive - putting an inclusive culture at the heart of our work and engaging with empathy

Trusted - operating with fairness, transparency and openness

Environmentally aware - conscious of our impact and prioritising a reduction in our environmental impact

The Arts Council England Museum Development programme was launched in 2012 to support all Accredited museums, and those formally working towards Accreditation across England. The programme supports the museum sector to meet and exceed national standards, raise ambition, drive excellence and strengthen resilience. It is delivered by nine providers, the South West Museum Development programme being responsible for supporting museums in the South West ONS region.

For the period April 2018-March 2022 the Arts Council has awarded the South West Museum Development Programme (SWMD) £2,126,020 as a National Portfolio Sector Support Organisation to deliver Museum Development Services for the 216 Accredited museums in the South West. In 2021 it was invited by Arts Council to apply for an extension year for 2022-23 in recognition of the impact of Covid-19 on portfolio organisations. Confirmation of continuation of funding for 2022-23 will be announced in December 2021.

The Programme also holds funded Memorandums of Agreement with 18 local authorities across the region contributing additional public investment of approximately £120,000 per annum in the local museum development officer network at county or sub regional level.

The South West Museum Development programme is hosted by Bristol Culture, Bristol City Council.

Further information on the South West Museum Development Programme can be found here: www.southwestmuseums.org.uk

Read our latest Annual Review here:

<https://southwestmuseums.org.uk/who-we-are/our-annual-review/>

National Museum Development Structure

The Museum Development Network (MDN) is a constituted network of the nine regional Arts Council England funded Museum Development Providers and representatives of the Welsh Government, Scottish and Northern Ireland Museums Development providers. MDN is responsible for collective national advocacy and representation of Museum Development. Each Arts Council England Museum Development Provider holds an individual grant-in-aid funding agreement with Arts Council England and therefore the legal and financial responsibilities for South West Museum Development reside with Bristol City Council's Culture Division.

History of the Strategic Advisory Group

The Strategic Advisory Group was established in 2019 following a review of the SWMD Partnership board made up of nominated representatives across Major Partner Museums and key cultural regional organisations. The Strategic Advisory Group is led by Stephen Boyce as Chair with up to 7 members. Its members are sector and non-sector leaders across key identified specialisms who help guide and shape the SWMD programme. You can find out more about the current make-up of the Strategic Advisory Group here:

<https://southwestmuseums.org.uk/who-we-are/our-strategic-advisory-group/>

The Role of the Strategic Advisory Group

South West Museum Development is governed by a Strategic Advisory Group which comprises between 6 and 8 members. Bristol City Council provides one officer and there are up to 7 independent advisory members including the Chair.

The purpose of the Strategic Advisory Group is to:

- Develop a strategic focus to drive quality of the programme;
- Provide scrutiny and leadership, democratic accountability, and enterprise support and challenge to SWMD and its programme team;
- Oversee the overall governance and strategic leadership of SWMD in accordance with SWMD's missions and objectives;
- Ensure SWMD's continuing financial viability and long term sustainability including supporting SWMD to take advantage of new opportunities;
- Ensure SWMD is making effective use of its assets, services and resources to support museums and heritage organisations in the region,
- Ensure SWMD is meeting the needs of its users and communities.

It is the responsibility of the Strategic Advisory Group members to ensure that these requirements are effectively delivered.

Members of the Strategic Advisory Group must act within the Nolan Principles which underpin public life:

Selflessness	take decisions solely based on the mission, strategic objectives and values of SWMD
Integrity	not to be compromised by individuals or outside organisations
Objectivity	remain impartial and ensure choices are made on merit alone
Accountability	be responsible for their decisions and actions
Openness	give reasons for their decisions and actions
Honesty	declare any private interests
Leadership	promote and support these principles by leadership and example

Representatives of the Strategic Advisory Group

The Strategic Advisory Group will be made up of an independent chair, a representative of Bristol Council and six independent representatives, responsible for leading on key themes including:

1. Connections: Partnerships and networks
2. Capacity building: Learning, skills and volunteering
3. Sector intelligence: Evaluation and research
4. Environmental responsibility: Sustainability and action
5. Inclusion: Equity and community