

Strategic Advisory Board Chair and Member Briefing Pack

About Museum Development South West

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 five providers, Museum Development South West being responsible for supporting museums in the South West area.

Museum Development South West is currently funded as a National Portfolio Sector Support Organisation by Arts Council to deliver Museum Development Services for almost 300 Accredited museums in the South West for the period 2024-2027.

The Programme also holds funded Memorandums of Agreement with 18 local authorities across the region contributing additional public investment of approximately £160,000 per annum in the local museum development officer network at county or sub regional level.

Museum Development South West is hosted by Bristol Culture & Creative Industries, Bristol City Council. The MD South West area consists of Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire, Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, Wiltshire, Swindon, Somerset, North Somerset, Devon, Plymouth, Torbay, Cornwall, Isles of Scilly, Dorset, Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight.

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

Read our latest Impact Report here: [Our Impact Report - Museum Development South West](#)

Museum Development England – the National Museum Development Structure

Museum Development England (MDE) is a network constituting the five regional Arts Council England funded Museum Development Providers. MDE 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 Museum Development South West reside with Bristol City Council's Culture & Creative Industries Division.

History of the Strategic Advisory Board

The Strategic Advisory Board was established in 2019 and is currently led by Stephen Boyce as Chair alongside further board members. We are currently recruiting for a new Chair and new Board members. The Board members are sector and non-sector leaders across key identified specialisms who help guide and shape the MDSW programme. You can find out more about the current make-up of the Strategic Advisory Board here: [Our Board - Museum Development South West](#)

The Role of the Strategic Advisory Board

Museum Development South West is governed by a Strategic Advisory Board which comprises a Chair and between 6 and 8 members including a representative from Bristol City Council.

The purpose of the Strategic Advisory Board is to:

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

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

Members of the Strategic Advisory Board 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 Board

The Strategic Advisory Board will be made up of an independent chair, a representative of Bristol City Council and up to eight independent representatives, providing leadership and advice in key areas including:

- Connections: Partnerships and networks
- Capacity building: Learning, skills and volunteering
- Sector intelligence: Evaluation and research
- Environmental responsibility: Sustainability and action
- Inclusion: Equity and community