



Museum Development Midlands

Open to All: Accessibility Audit Programme Information

Museum Development Midlands (MDM) is delighted to be offering opportunities for eight museums to receive accessibility audits and training to improve access for visitors. MDM have commissioned **Direct Access** to deliver this programme.

About Us

From April 2024 Museum Development in England is being delivered by five area providers. Museum Development extends across the UK and forms the national Museum Development Network. Each provider tailors opportunities for participation in schemes, training, grants programmes and networks based on an informed understanding of the context and needs of museums in their area.

The Museum Development Midlands (MDM) programme invests in the development of individuals and organisations via a range of advice, information, initiatives, and small grants and directly supports the delivery of the UK Accreditation Scheme for museums and galleries in England. There are currently 241 Accredited museums across the Midlands region, plus 24 who are formally Working Towards Accreditation. The sector includes English Heritage, Independent, Local Authority, National Trust and University; with a diverse range of collections covering archaeology, archives, buildings, ceramics, costume, decorative and fine art, geology, industrial heritage and social history.

About the programme:

The Open to All: Accessibility Audit programme aims to support museums to develop effective Access Plans. As a result of participating in the programme museums will better understand potential barriers and make informed plans to improve physical, sensory and intellectual access to their buildings and spaces.

This programme consists of two elements:

Accessibility Audits

Pre-arranged Accessibility Audit visit to your site conducted by Direct Access between end of August and October 2024

Accessibility Audit Report – Each venue will receive an access audit report in PDF format identifying a comprehensive list of tailored, prioritised recommendations based on current standards and legislation. The recommendations will also be provided in Excel format for ease of implementation, so that this can be developed into a 'working' accessibility plan.

2) Training

Direct Access will deliver a short online training session on **Wednesday 27 November 2024**.

The objective of the training event is to empower museum delegates with the knowledge and skills required to effectively utilise and respond to the findings of their accessibility audits. This will enable them to develop comprehensive access plans in line with both the findings of the audits, and wider organisational objectives. Direct Access' training will also enhance delegates' awareness and implementation of accessible practices. Direct Access will deliver an interactive and informative online training session tailored to the needs of the museum delegates. The session will focus on practical applications of the audit findings, strategies for creating effective access plans, and best practices for ensuring accessibility across various museum contexts.

The training will be conducted via a live Zoom session to facilitate real-time interaction and engagement. We will utilise various tools such as presentations, breakout rooms, interactive polls, and Q&A sessions to ensure a dynamic and participatory learning environment. To maximise the effectiveness of the training, we will provide pre-event materials to the delegates, including:

- A summary of their specific audit findings
- A template for creating an access plan
- Reading materials on best practices in museum accessibility

Following the training event, Direct Access will offer:

- Follow-up Q&A opportunities to address any emerging questions
- Availability for one-on-one consultations to assist with specific challenges

Participation in the Open to All programme directly supports Arts Council England's (ACE) Accreditation Standard 2018, ***Users and their experiences, 7. Be accessible to the public***.

The programme supports ACE's Let's Create Inclusivity and Relevance Investment Principle.

Who is eligible:

To be eligible for this programme you must be an Accredited museum or Working Towards Accreditation in the Midlands.

NPO and National Museums are not eligible.

Multi-site organisations must specify one venue only to receive an accessibility audit.

Museums that have previously received an accessibility audit through Museum Development (WMMD or MDEM) will be considered.

Please Note: This programme allows up to one day accessibility audit site visit per venue. It may not be possible to fully audit some larger sites within this time. If you are based at a large site please highlight this on your application form (Question 7) and send a floor plan or site map that we can share with Direct Access. We will let you know if it is possible to complete a full audit within one day, or discuss other options with you.

How to apply:

If you would like to know more please contact Michelle Davies at michelle.davies@ironbridge.org.uk

To submit your application please complete the Expression of Interest form and return no later than 12noon, Thursday 15 August 2024 to MDM Enquiries enquiries@mdmidlands.org.uk We will confirm receipt of your application within two working days. If you do not hear from us, please contact us again.