Access all Areas? 11th November 2015

The Whitworth, Manchester

Following the success and feedback from our *Access all Areas?* event last year in Edinburgh, we are excited to offer another full-day session in Manchester that will focus on access and accessibility within the cultural sector.

Aimed at people who work in **visitor studies**, **learning**, **engagement** and **front of house** we will take a deeper look at current projects and training and discuss new challenges and resolutions to physical, sensory and intellectual barriers.

The day will include:

- **Practical accessibility training** from HearFirst and The Whitworth's Dementia Friends Champions
- **Demonstrations** of live captioning from STAGETEXT
- **Practice based case studies** of recent and ongoing access work at Eureka!, the Science Museum, The Holocaust Museum, The Whitworth and others
- **Latest research** in the field of arts and health
- Examples of best practice working in relation to **audience consultation** and **co-design**
- Focused discussions around **access for specific audience groups** including isolated older men and young people with learning disabilities.
- Opportunities for **networking**, **Q and A** and to take a tour of The Whitworth, Art Fund Prize Museum of the Year 2015.

VSG Members: £50
Non-Members: £70
(Price includes Lunch and refreshments)

More details about our speakers:

Julie Ryder, HearFirst
Julie Ryder is the Founder and Director of HearFirst Training and Consultancy. HearFirst is made up of a small team of professional tutors, with disabilities, who have been delivering innovative, relevant, hands on disability equality training across the UK including working closely with the Whitworth and Manchester Museum. Julie's session will explore how to equip visitor services teams with the skills, knowledge and confidence to meet the needs and expectations of visitors with a range of specific disabilities.

Ed Watts, Engagement Manager, The Whitworth
Danger! Men at Work at the Whitworth
Over the last year the Whitworth has turned its attention to addressing a traditionally under-represented audience within cultural activities, older men. Ed's session will present findings from his Baring Foundation funded project exploring older men's participation in society and culture. He will also take a look at Danger! Men at Work*, a special co-curated exhibition at the Whitworth tackling isolation and loneliness in older men.*

Wendy Gallagher, Arts and Health Co-ordinator, The Whitworth
Wendy Gallager is the Arts and Health Co-ordinator at The Whitworth. She will be discussing the role that the arts and museums sector can play in contributing to positive health and wellbeing. Wendy will be discussing her latest research in this area 'Not so Grim up North' that seeks to fill gaps in the evidence base for understanding the value of museum encounters on health and wellbeing and identify the critical success factors for museums in health programming and evaluation.

Jessica Bradford, The Science Museum
Jessica Bradford is Interpretation Manager for Masterplan projects at the Science Museum, and previously the Content Manager for the museum's Information Age gallery. Information Age aimed to be the most accessible permanent gallery in the museum. The project team strove to go beyond legal requirements and basic design guidelines to create a space which felt fully inclusive. They introduced new strategies to break down multiple physical and intellectual barriers to engagement and worked closely with groups, including a panel of blind and visually impaired people, to co-develop new forms of accessible interpretation. Jessica's session will give an overview of the accessible features in Information Age, reflect on visitor evaluation and look in particular at how more participatory ways of working shaped the project.

Deepa Shastri, STAGETEXT.
Stagetext is a registered charity which provides captioning and live subtitling services to theatres and other arts venues to make their activities accessible to people who are deaf, deafened or hard of hearing. Deepa Shastri, Talks Programme Manager at Stagetext will be demonstrating their work during a 30 minute live captioned tour of The Whitworth.

Kate Allen, **University of Reading, RIX Research and Media University of East London**
The award winning Sensory Objects project creates multisensory interactive art works that respond to museum collections. Alternative approaches to interpretation are developed through sensory art and electronics-based workshops by people with learning disabilities in collaboration with an interdisciplinary research team. Kate Allen will be presenting with researchers and co-researchers (people with Learning Disabilities) from the Sensory Objects team.

Dr Heather Hollins, **University of Leicester**
Dr Heather Hollins will be presenting a case study from the Holocaust Centre, Nottinghamshire which considers the principles of reciprocity and empowerment in relation to museum consultation with young disabled people.

Trizia Wells, Inclusion Manager, Eureka!
Eureka! 's The National Children's Museum is fast becoming known for an inclusive approach, and this year, achieved Gold in the Visit England access awards. Inclusion Manager Trizia Wells will be discussing examples of examples of visitor consultation at Eureka! These will include consultation with learning disabled children, their parents and professionals working with them to develop an autism friendly user guide and focus groups with learning disabled children to assist in the design of a new gallery.

Dementia Friends Accredited Training

The Dementia Friends Sessions will be run by The Whitworth's Dementia Friends Champions. Dementia Friends is about learning more about dementia and the small ways you can help. You will learn more about dementia and how you can help to create dementia friendly communities. From telling friends about Dementia Friends to visiting someone you know living with dementia, every action counts.