

Alison White  
Media and PR Officer  
alison.white@thebowesmuseum.org.uk  
thebowesmuseum.org.uk  
Barnard Castle  
DL12 8NP  
01833 690606



## The Bowes Museum awarded funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund

The Bowes Museum is one of the latest recipients of the Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund, receiving £95,545 to embed Community Co-production participatory approaches at the Museum.

The funding, which is administered by the Museums Association, will be used over two years to support staffing, community workshops, volunteer resources, and provide training for staff and volunteers.

It will support the Museum to work with volunteers and groups drawn from the diversity of the local area to: explore the collections and site, develop and test ideas about the purpose and potential of the collections and the stories they tell about the past and unlock for the future, using these ideas to shape the future Museum as a place for people.

The Bowes Museum's Director of Programmes and Collections, Vicky Sturrs, said: "We know from the work we've carried out with the local community over the last six months that there's a strong desire for people of all ages and backgrounds to become more involved in the Museum. We're delighted to have been awarded this funding, which will allow us to create a pipeline of co-production opportunities for people to engage with the Museum and play a real part in shaping its future work."

It's hoped that at the end of the funding period there will be more than 100 regular volunteers at the Museum and that a quarter of them will be aged 16 - 24. The Museum also hopes to be able to provide school placements, work experience and paid internships to utilise and share skills and knowledge.

The Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund is run by the Museums Association, funding projects that develop collections to achieve social impact. Since its launch in 2011, it has awarded 178 grants totaling over £12.9 million.



Esmée Fairbairn  
Collections Fund

Notes to editors:

- The Bowes Museum is a charity managing a Grade 1 listed accredited Museum and Grade 2 listed parkland in Barnard Castle. Founded by Joséphine & John Bowes 150+ years ago, this purpose-built Museum brings together an extraordinary, Designated collection of European fine and decorative art as a cultural resource for the people of Northern England, where today we celebrate artists, designers and makers.
- The Bowes Museum receives funding from Durham County Council and, as a National Portfolio Organisation, receives support from Arts Council England. Arts Council England is the national development body for arts and culture across England, working to enrich people's lives. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)
- The Bowes Museum is a member of the Discover Durham partnership of attractions, whose commitment is to promote Durham as an exciting and vibrant group travel destination and to provide the travel trade with a professional and knowledgeable service. [discoverdurham.co.uk](http://discoverdurham.co.uk)
- Admission to The Bowes Museum is £13.50 for local members (residents of County Durham and Darlington), £15.50 for members (residents elsewhere), £18.00 for a day ticket, £19.80 for a day ticket including gift aid. Under 18s, full time students and carers are free.

As a registered charity (number 1079639) we need to generate more than half of our income each year to care for our historic collection, buildings and parkland. Your donations are vital to our work. Visit <https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/support/> for more information.