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## **The Bowes Museum Announces Leadership Development Opportunity for County Durham Arts & Culture Community**

The Bowes Museum announces the launch of Durham Creative Community Fellows, a free learning experience for individuals driving positive change in County Durham through arts and culture projects. The innovative programme, run in partnership with NAS based in the USA, Derby Museums and supported by Arts Council England, is now accepting applications until 11 November 2024 at <https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/fellows>.

Durham Creative Community Fellows empowers artists, community organisers, administrators and creative entrepreneurs who are driving social and physical transformations in County Durham to develop their leadership skills and take their arts and culture projects to the next level. The fellowship's nine-month journey begins in February 2025. It includes a unique curriculum emphasising learning and growth, featuring monthly online meetups, online group sessions facilitated by leadership coaches, in-person convenings and more. Participants will also form a community of practice throughout the programme, drawing on their experiences to exchange knowledge, collaborate and hold each other accountable.

Durham Creative Community Fellows is a partnership between The Bowes Museum, NAS, a US-based organisation that builds and supports diverse communities of cultural leaders and Derby Museums. The three organisations are also partners on a country-wide version of the programme called UK Creative Community Fellows, which is now in its third year.

Durham Creative Community Fellows is a strand of the Into the Light Place Partnership Initiative in County Durham. Into the Light aims to develop enduring growth by fostering creative collaborations over 2024-2027. The initiative seeks to nurture talent, broaden access to creative education, enhance skills, and facilitate engagement and connectivity across the creative sectors.

Durham Creative Community Fellows' curriculum was co-created by UK Creative Community Fellows alumni to ensure participants gain relevant and proven tools for advancing their projects. The programme's teaching and facilitating team comprises artists, academics and creative leaders from across the globe.

Hannah Fox, Executive Director of The Bowes Museum, commented, "This is an exciting opportunity for County Durham's talented arts and culture scene to elevate their work and further enrich our vibrant community."

“Our hope with Durham Creative Community Fellows is to focus the success and impact of UK Creative Community Fellows on a county level, creating an intimate and profound experience for leaders who want to make this community a more future-thinking, inclusive and creative place to live.”

Prospective participants can learn more about the Durham Creative Community Fellows journey by signing up for an information session on 22 October or beginning their application at <https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/fellows>.

### **About The Bowes Museum**

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 collection of fine European 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 £16.00 for local members (residents of County Durham and Darlington), £18.00 for members (residents elsewhere), £19.00 for a day ticket, £20.90 for a day ticket including gift aid. Under 18s, full time students and carers are free.

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

### **About NAS**

Established in 1983, NAS has been at the forefront of leadership development in the arts and culture sector for four decades. Its mission is to build and support a diverse community of arts and culture leaders who drive inspiring change for the future. In addition to leadership development, NAS offers coaching and a powerful network to arts and culture leaders at every stage of their careers. NAS has trained and supported more arts and culture leaders than any other organisation in the field. Learn more at [www.artstrategies.org](http://www.artstrategies.org).

### **About Derby Museums**

Derby Museums is an independent charitable trust operating three museums: the Museum and Art Gallery, the Museum of Making, and Pickford’s House. It cares for the cultural heritage collections on behalf of Derby City Council for the people of Derby. Derby Museums has the finest collection of work by Joseph Wright of Derby, the 18th-century artist of the Enlightenment and is ‘Designated’ by Arts

Council England as a collection of national significance. Visit [www.derbymuseums.org](http://www.derbymuseums.org) to find out more.

### **About Into the Light**

Into the Light is a transformative programme that will drive long-lasting growth in County Durham through creative collaboration. Over the next three years, it will cultivate talent, widen access to creative education, enhance skills, and break down barriers in the creative industries. Fuelled by community empowerment and connection, Into the Light will support over 100 creative commissions, ignite performance-making at the heart of our communities, inspire children and young people, and deepen understanding of our unique heritage and global relevance. Into the Light is delivered by Durham County Council in partnership with Beamish Museum, The Bowes Museum, Durham University, Ensemble '84, The Forge, No More Nowt, Northern Heartlands, Redhills CIO and TIN Arts. Culture Durham is a key stakeholder, representing the broader cultural sector.

<https://www.visitcountydurham.org/into-the-light/>