### **Young Curators Programme Expression of Interest**

### **Thank you for your interest in the Young Curators Programme!**

The Bowes Museum is excited to announce the launch of its annual **Young Curators Programme** for individuals aged 16 to 21. This programme offers young people the opportunity to develop valuable skills, gain hands-on experience in a museum environment, and work on projects that explore local history and the surrounding landscape.

This year, we are marking the 200th anniversary of the first journey on the Stockton and Darlington railway line. As part of the programme, Young Curators will have the opportunity to engage with this significant local event, drawing on The Bowes Museum's collection to respond to its historical and cultural impact.

**Programme Highlights:**

* Curating a display by taking over a museum case as part of the Young Curators exhibition.
* Visiting other museums in County Durham to explore their collections and gain further insight.
* Gaining first-hand experience with curators and collection teams at the museum.
* Contributing to the design, curation, and interpretation of the museum's "Conversation Wall."
* Building curation skills through hands-on activities such as creating “mini museums in a suitcase.”
* Enjoying workshops and talks with local history professionals.
* Participating in workshops with Felicia Gottman, Associate Professor at Northumbria University, focusing on object collection and migration.
* Collaborating with PhD students on local history and themes.
* Developing public speaking skills through activities on Heritage Open Day (Saturday 13 September 2025)

This opportunity is for young people between the ages of 16 and 21 who are passionate about museums, art, culture, and creativity. If you are successful, you will have the chance to gain hands-on experience, learn from museum professionals, and contribute to shaping future exhibitions.

Please note, we unfortunately cannot provide transport to The Bowes Museum, however transport will be provided for external trips.

Please complete the following application form, please note, if you are under the age of 18, you will need signed parental permission to apply. The information you provide will help us understand your interests and potential for this exciting programme.

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| **Personal Information** | |
| **Full Name:** |  |
| **Date of Birth:** |  |
| **Are you aged between 16 and 21?** | * Yes * No |
| **Email Address:** |  |
| **Phone Number:** |  |

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| **About You** |
| **Why are you interested in becoming a Young Curator?**  *(Maximum 200 words)* |
| **What interests you about The Bowes Museum and/or The Stockton and Darlington Railway Bicentennial?** *(Maximum 200 words)* |
| **Which skills or qualities do you possess that would make you a great candidate for this programme?**  *(Maximum 200 words)* |
| **Do you have any previous experience related to art, museums or cultural work (e.g., volunteering, projects, courses)?**  No experience required! Just tell us about your interests. *(Maximum 200 words)* |
| **Which areas of museum excites you the most? e.g. exhibitions, collections, education, events?**  *(Maximum 200 words)* |

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| **Creative Project Proposal** |
| **Please describe a creative idea or project you would like to work on as part of the Young Curators Programme.***(Consider: what kind of exhibition or event would you like to create, how would you engage visitors, use the museum collection and how would you involve other people from your community?)* |

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| **Your Availability** | |
| **This programme runs once a month on a Saturday from March 2025 to December 2025 10am – 3:30pm, are you able to commit to at least 6 out of 10 days?** | * Yes * No |

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| **Accessibility and Support** |
| **Do you have any accessibility needs or require any additional support to take part in the programme?**  (e.g. large print materials, physical access requirements, sensory considerations) |

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| **Additional Information** |
| **Is there anything else you would like us to know about you or your application?** |

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| **Dietary Requirements** |
| **Lunch will be provided for all 10am - 3:30pm sessions. Do you have any dietary requirements?** (e.g. vegan, vegetarian, gluten free) |

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| **Consent** | |
| **By submitting this form, I confirm that all the information provided is accurate and that I am between the ages of 16 and 21. I understand that my data will be used for the selection process of the Young Curators Programme.**  [ ] I agree to the terms and conditions | |
| **Applicant Name:** |  |
| **Signature:** |  |

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| **Parental/Guardian Consent (for applicants under 18)** | |
| **Parent/Guardian Name:** |  |
| **Contact Number:** |  |
| **Contact Email:** |  |
| **Parent/Guardian Signature:** |  |

### **Thank you for applying!**

Once your application is submitted, we will review your responses and contact you regarding the next steps.

If you have any questions, please contact us by emailing [learn@thebowesmuseum.org.uk](mailto:learn@thebowesmuseum.org.uk)

Please note, this programme is free to participate in and you must be between the ages of 16 and 21.

**FAQ:**

**How long are the sessions?**

The sessions will run 10am - 3:30pm on every second Saturday of the month.

**How many days will I need to commit to the programme?**

To get the most out of the programme, we recommend committing to a minimum of 6-10 sessions. This will ensure you have ample opportunity to engage fully with the activities, develop your skills, and collaborate meaningfully with the group. If you have specific availability concerns, feel free to reach out so we can discuss how best to accommodate your participation.

**Will there be ‘homework’ for each session?**

No, there won’t be formal homework. However, we encourage further learning and exploration of the topics covered in the sessions to enhance your experience and understanding.

**What will I get at the end of it?**

At the end of the programme, you’ll have gained valuable skills in curation, teamwork, and creative thinking, alongside the opportunity to help organise a public display at The Bowes Museum. You will receive a certificate recognising your participation and contributions, which can be included in your record of achievements and strengthen your CV. Additionally, you’ll build connections with professionals in the museum and cultural sectors, which could open doors to future opportunities. Most importantly, you’ll leave with a unique and rewarding experience to reflect on and share!

**Will lunch be provided?**

Yes, lunch will be provided. Please ensure you indicate any dietary requirements in the dedicated section of the form so we can accommodate your needs.

**I have some access needs, is there someone I can talk to?**

If you have any access needs, please indicate them on the expression of interest form. We want to ensure that everyone can fully participate in the programme. Please feel free to get in touch with us to discuss your access needs, and we’ll do our best to make the necessary arrangements. You can contact us by emailing the learning team [learn@thebowesmuseum.org.uk](mailto:learn@thebowesmuseum.org.uk)

**What if I don’t like trains?**

That’s okay, throughout the programme, we’ll explore much more than just trains. While the Stockton and Darlington Railway Bicentennial will provide inspiration, the focus will be on a wide range of topics such as local culture, history, creativity, and storytelling. You'll have the chance to engage in activities like art, design, and museum curation that go beyond the railway itself.

**Will transport be provided for each session?**

Unfortunately, we cannot provide transport to The Bowes Museum; however, transport will be provided for external trips. If you need additional support to access the programme please get in touch by emailing [[learn@thebowesmuseum.org.uk](mailto:learn@thebowesmuseum.org.uk)](mailto:learn@thebowesmuseum.org.uk)