

MD North Launch Event 18 April 2024

FAQs



Question Area	Question
<p>Governance/Management of MD North: Board/Directors and Advisers Group/Team structure/ACE RM</p>	<p>Does the £1.4m investment by ACE into MDN include staffing and on costs? If so, what proportion does this account for of the investment? The £1.4m over two years does include staffing and on costs and all the administrative arrangements around that. Approximately 70% of that investment is going towards the Museum Development Adviser team to make sure that we can provide museums with access to great advice from people who are museum, heritage and environmental specialists. Approximately 16% is going into the grants programme and the remaining investment is going into our responsive training programme, events, networks and projects.</p> <p>Could we have a structure chart with names, roles, responsibilities and contact details? Information about the team can be found on the Meet the Team page of the website.</p> <p>Are there any areas and priorities which MD is looking to develop that are not already covered or any plans to expand the team in the future? The Activity Plan is submitted to ACE once a year, so this year's plan is now confirmed. There are several areas that we are exploring this year, such as place making and innovation, routes into the sector and emergency preparedness that we need to explore further. These may be things we pilot this year that we develop for future years, but we are not ready to launch yet. These potential programmes, as well as responsive training, will be informed by the Skills Needs Survey results. With regards to the team, we are keen to learn how to work as a Museum Development North team first before thinking about growing the organisation.</p>
<p>Workforce Development: Training/responsive training/Elevenses</p>	<p>How will you include/ connect with freelancers and consultants? Our Elevenses and networking events are open to everyone. Other CPD events like Roots & Branches may be open to freelancers depending on capacity. Many freelance people are Accreditation mentors, and we have training support for that as well.</p>

	<p>Whereas previously MD providers commissioned support from freelancers, we see more of this happening directly from museums using MD North grants. We encourage museum workers and freelancers to look at Arts Council initiatives like Develop your Creative Practice.</p>
Open Grants	<p>Are your timescales for the process of Open Grants roughly the same as before?</p> <p>Details of the Open Grants can be found on the website and we will discuss timescales with each museum upon award. All monies will need to be claimed before the end of the 2025-26 financial year. It is possible that some projects can run over two financial years.</p>
CPD Grants	<p>Do you have to be an Accredited Museum to benefit from your grants / CPD opportunities?</p> <p>MD Open grants are available to Accredited and Working Towards Accreditation museums. Unaccredited museums may benefit from the grants programme if they are part of a partnership project, but they would not be able to be the lead partner.</p> <p>Eligibility for CPD grants will be dependent on the requirements of our funders and we will be able to give more information on that in May/June 2024.</p> <p>Freelance professionals may be able to access CPD grants if they are working with Accredited museums.</p>
Forums & networks: Brew up/county forums/existing networks/new networks	<p>Will meetings of the Industrial Heritage Network continue?</p> <p>Brew Up! sessions start on 15 May - the first 2 are online but then there are some coming up in person. These are for museums with industrial museums. Check the Brew Up! page on the website.</p> <p>Do other areas of the North have Museum Development cohorts or similar? Will these be continuing/expanding this year?</p> <p>We have some Forums already available that anyone in the region can attend, along with our Brew Up Industrial Collections Forum and Celebrating Museums of course!</p>
Collections Development	<p>Will your collections programme include practice focused activity with a hands-on approach such as object marking and other collection care/handling skills?</p> <p>There is no collections care programme planned currently. Future programming will be based on the results of the Skills Needs Survey and if the demand is there, we will look to repeat the programme. You do have access to collections care specialists within the MD North team, so you are able to contact us to help with any collections care queries.</p>

Accreditation	<p>Do you know when those of us who went for Accreditation in January 2024 should expect a result? You should contact the Arts Council England person who is named in your correspondence.</p> <p>When you say working towards Accreditation what does this mean practically? How early in a museum's journey could that be? You can find information about the Accreditation scheme on the Arts Council website.</p>
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If you have any questions for MD North, please contact us at hello@museumdevelopmentnorth.org.uk