

Wellbeing Workshops



*Creative and Wellbeing Practitioner Commissions*

Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum

Worcester’s wonderful museum collections have their origins in the antiquarian collecting of the early nineteenth century and the formation of the Worcestershire Natural History Society. These early and now extremely significant natural history collections, enhanced with fine and decorative arts, world cultures and archaeological discoveries, were bought by the Corporation of Worcester in 1881 and displayed in the newly built Victoria Institute which housed not only the Museum & Art Gallery, but also the Public Library and School of Art & Science.

Since the 1990s our focus for collecting archaeology, social history and applied art has been more precisely defined as the area governed by Worcester City Council and, of course, the people who have lived and worked within our beautiful city. Our fine art collection is an invaluable record of Worcestershire’s changing landscapes. From Benjamin Williams Leader to Dame Laura Knight, Worcestershire has inspired local artists across generations.

In recent years our exciting temporary exhibitions programme has also included touring exhibitions from The Ashmolean (The Young Turner), collaboration with Meadow Arts (Living Ruins), and blockbuster exhibitions such as our record breaking Star Wars exhibition, ‘May The Toys Be With You’. We are committed to putting Worcestershire on the map with innovative and challenging exhibitions, and our frequent collection-based exhibitions help us to showcase our County’s impressive creative output.

Project Overview

Museums Worcestershire was awarded £96,454 as part of the [Government’s £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/445-heritage-organisations-saved-by-103-million-investment-from-government) (CRF) to help face the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic and to ensure it has a sustainable future, the Culture Secretary has announced today.

Our museums work across Worcestershire’s communities, including providing moments of connection for those living with dementia, for looked-after children and during lockdown, those at risk of social isolation. This funding equips our museums to engage with schools and communities both in-museum and providing outreach support for those who are unable to visit in person.

This commission has been developed to enable a creative practitioner to create and deliver short 30 minute sessions (virtual and on-site) which provide a creative experience that will improve wellbeing for adults. We expect these to be simple, but meaningful, and give our communities the chance to take part in something that lifts spirits in these uncertain times.

Project Commission

* We are looking for creative wellbeing practitioner to deliver x3 30 minute virtual workshops, and x2 30 minute workshops at Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum – 5 sessions in total
* This commission will focus on providing creative sessions for adults which helps to improve wellbeing
* **We welcome workshops inspired by our collections** **and/or building** – this could be responding to our collections broadly or to focus in on specific themes or objects. (See further information on page 5 for links to our collections)
* These sessions must take between December 2nd and December 22nd. Creative practitioners must be available for 2 onsite sessions (10:00 – 10:30) and 3 virtual sessions (times TBC) to deliver. This is subject to change dependent on changing government guidance
* We expect the successful creative practitioner to be responsible for safeguarding and hosting virtual sessions
* **Budget: up to £1000 – to include all performer’s costs and materials**

How to Apply:

**Your application should include:**

* A proposal of what you would like to do and who it will engage with (**up to 500 words**)
* A brief summary of your creative practice, and any images, information or links from past projects that you think will help your proposal (**up to 1 page of A4**)
* A breakdown of how you would use the budget awarded

**We welcome video applications of up to approximately 10 minutes in length.**

Please send applications to: gemma.dhami@worcester.gov.uk

Please feel free to get in touch for an informal chat about the programme, this commission or for further information about our collections.

Assessing your application:

Your proposal will be assessed according to a scoring matrix as follows:

1. How appropriate and practical is the activity for the current situation?

2. Does it have an engaging offer for adults?

3. Does it offer an experience that will improve wellbeing?

4. Does the proposal utilise the Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum collections and/or building as inspiration for the work?

5. Is this proposal value for money?

Project Schedule:

* + The deadline for applications:  **18th November 2020**
  + We will contact applicants: **20th November 2020**
  + We may request a conversation if we feel like elements of the proposals need further discussion

Further Information:

**For further information about our collections and exhibitions, please visit:**

Research Blog: <https://researchworcestershire.wordpress.com/>

Our Website: [www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk](http://www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk)   
Our Collecting Policy: <https://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s8332/jmc2015-11-23%20Collection%20development%20policies%20-%20App2.docx.pdf>

