

Transcript – Victoria Osborne

I'm Victoria Osborne, and I've been a WHAM trustee since 2023. My background is in museums. I'm currently senior curator of art at Birmingham Museums Trust, and I got involved with WHAM because I live in Worcester, and I wanted to help support the museums to develop the collections, but also to support their work around broadening access to collections through all sorts of different activities, events, and learning programmes, as well as through exhibitions and displays.

Obviously, as an art curator, I'm really excited to see the new displays at the City Art Gallery and Museum, but I'm also really looking forward to seeing the new gloving gallery take shape. Glove-making and designing is such an important part of Worcester's heritage, and the new display will tell that story and also allow more of the really significant glove collection to be on display.

I am also really pleased that WHAM can support the museums in broadening access to collections. We've funded the purchase of new audio guides for the exhibitions at the City Art Gallery and Museum, and we also provided funding to support a pilot project to explore how engaging with museums may help to reduce levels of loneliness and social isolation.

One of the things that WHAM can also do is to provide small pots of money that can allow the museum to test out different programmes, different ways of doing things, that they might not otherwise be able to do. And it feels really positive that we can help the museum in that way and allow them to explore how they may do things differently.

If anyone's thinking about becoming a trustee, I'd definitely recommend it. It's a great opportunity to bring your skills and experience to helping to support arts and heritage in the city and in the region. But it's also a chance to learn from the other trustees, to learn from the staff at the museum, and to help to build your skills and experience as well. Everyone is really friendly and welcoming, and it's just a really rewarding thing to do, so I would definitely recommend it.