

The Happy Museum Affiliate Scheme

Would you like to?

- Work within a positive frame for practical action which puts societal wellbeing at its heart?
- Be part of a supportive and collaborative peer network, sharing practice and building learning?
- Explore the particular role of museums and culture in addressing the big issues – such as climate change and social justice?
- Connect with relevant thinkers in fields such as economics, ecology and psychology?
- Have the opportunity to experiment, innovate, reflect, connect and play?

We invite you to apply to join this NEW peer learning network. As an affiliate, you will connect with and contribute to the development of Happy Museum thinking and practice.

Affiliates may be cultural organisations as well as museums. They may be departments. They may be individuals working with or in a museum/cultural organisation. We also invite applicants from beyond the UK who are keen to explore and embed the principles of the Happy Museum.

“We really benefited from the networking and development opportunity offered through the Happy Museum ... [it] celebrates what museums can do, what’s possible, and being positive about change. We found the input from other practitioners helped to shape what was happening, gave us a chance to think about our work, and reflect in a different way.”

Manchester Museum

As an affiliate, you will:

- give public affiliation to Happy Museum and its principles
- experiment with activity framed by Happy Museum thinking, working with staff, board, volunteers, audiences, participants and networks
- join a peer learning network
- connect between and beyond the group with access to Happy Museum events
- supported by Happy Museum, share your practice through:
 - blog posts, reports or articles
 - virtual learning events.
 - physical (face-to-face) sharing – this might include seminars, exhibitions, workshops, placements or other events, inviting affiliates and others.

Happy Museum will:

- run a tailored introductory workshop for each affiliate organisation or team
- support the affiliate peer learning network including a programme of sharing events, connecting ideas and bringing in external thinking, stakeholders and partnerships where appropriate
- promote every affiliate's commitment to Happy Museum principles
- share learning through blogs, reports and articles online and brokering of support between and beyond the group.



Background and principles

The Happy Museum Project brings together thinking around sustainability and wellbeing and explores how these, together, offer an approach to creating more sustainable and resilient museums and communities. Since our inception in early 2012, we have initiated and worked with a growing Community of Practice through funded commissions, open workshops and sharing of tools and resources.

Principles

- Create the conditions for wellbeing.
- Value the environment and be a steward of the future as well as the past.
- Be an active citizen.
- Pursue mutual relationships.
- Learn for resilience.
- Measure what matters.

“The [Affiliate Scheme] understands that museums are well-placed to open up wider societal conversations about difficult and challenging topics and should model this by developing resilience in their own staff and communities. ... it acknowledges that investment in people is key!”

Museum practitioner

Underpinning ethos

To keep the scheme light touch and financially, organisationally and individually sustainable, we will take ideas from the sharing economy such as food sharing, organisation museum B&B (where host organisations offer accommodation to visiting peers) and open source learning – including online and social media alongside face-to-face gatherings. It will be underpinned by principles of give and gain.



"There is a real sense of shared endeavour, enthusiasm and commitment. Being part of an influential and thoughtful alternative museum reality is very inspiring and has clearly met a need within staff and volunteers within the sector"

Member of the Happy Museum Community of Practice

Application

The deadline for this round of applications is Wednesday 7 December.

For more information see www.happymuseumproject.org or

email us at happymuseumproject@gmail.com

