

MDEM New Narratives 2023

Programme information

New Narratives is an intensive development programme from MDEM which will help participating museums and heritage sites to explore ways to develop a better understanding of their collections such as working collaboratively with different communities and undertaking targeted research to introduce new voices and new stories into their interpretation and documentation.

Does your museum have a collection you want to shine a light on? You might want to delve deeper to allow communities the chance to add their stories to elements of a collection. Or there may be a group of objects which you need technical advice and support to better understand. There might even be problematic items in your collection, which have previously proven too challenging to address. This programme will enable museum teams to explore new narratives, with the support of MDEM and the wider museum sector.

It is a facilitated programme led by Regional Collections Advisor Anita Hollinshead. It will provide a blend of facilitated sessions, including inspirational visits to other sites in the region, as well as online training and access to other expert practitioners.

This programme aims to:

Enable museums to explore a different perspective for a discreet part of their collection. With a focus on inclusive practices, shining a light on objects full histories and creating a plan to utilise this information.

Recruitment

This opportunity is open to six museums in the East Midlands region who are Accredited or working towards Accreditation. Your organisation must have also completed the [MDEM Organisational Health Check 2022](#).

Each applying organisation should nominate up to three people to be involved, this should include an individual responsible for making decisions concerning your museum's collection. Please note we can only accept applications from those who can commit to sending representatives to all the proposed support available.

Timetable:

Dates	Programme Detail
2 nd February	Applications open
24 th March	Closing date for application
27 th March	Outcome of recruitment
w/c 3 rd April and w/c 10 th April	An initial introductory telephone call with Anita Hollinshead programme facilitator to discuss the scope of each museums project.
19 th April	Introduction to the programme – including a case study visit to Newstead Abbey and networking lunch. <i>In person</i>
May - July	Programme Training (<i>online</i>) – themes will cover co-curation, decolonisation and rethinking documentation.

12th July	Mid – point meeting (<i>online</i>)
Ongoing	Individual tailored support from MDEM to support activity – Dates TBC with museums
31st October	A peer network sharing session for all programme delegates. This is likely to be <i>in-person</i> , venue to be confirmed.

Museum Outcomes:

- Improved documentation of your chosen collection, with appropriate language and classification.
- Increased knowledge of your chosen collection including new and different perspectives.
- Upskilling your team, to be more confident to undertake exploratory collections work in this area.
- An action plan for the collection, looking at what to do with their newly acquired information.

How to apply?

To apply for this opportunity, please complete the [Expression of Interest](#) form by the **24th March 2023** and email to sarah.hartshorne@leics.gov.uk Depending on interest this may be a competitive process and all applicants will be notified if they are successful by **30th March 2023** (*please note this is an extension of 1 week from originally advertised*). If you have any questions about the opportunity, then please email [Anita Hollinshead. – Please](#)