
Museum Basics offers a practical introduction to the nature, context and operations of museums. By providing indicators and examples of good practice, it validates existing experience and knowledge and enables the evaluation of current practice against agreed norms. A key element of the programme is contextualising and positioning museums as public entities working as part of, and in the service of, society as whole. **Museum Basics** is bench-marked against agreed international standards and is relevant to institutions embarking on the Heritage Council's Museum Standards Programme for Ireland or the Northern Ireland Museum Council (NIMC) Museum Accreditation scheme. All the instructors are leading figures in their respective fields.

Eight Modules:

Introduction to Museums

Positions museums in their historical, social and cultural context. It provides participants with an understanding of the function of museums and how they are organised in Ireland.

Collecting and Collections

Examines the role of collections, why and how to collect and how to devise a collection policy. It also looks at the meaning and context of collections and the challenges of collecting intangible heritage.

Management and Governance

Looks at types of governance within the museum sector, the roles of executive officers (including curators), forward planning and project management. Advice is also given on fund-raising and ensuring sustainability.

Display

Covers interpretation and display in museums, participants are encouraged to look at communication strategies within their museums, as well as practical issues such as writing text, choosing cases, displaying objects, arranging lighting and dealing with contractors.

Caring for a Collection

Provides an introduction to the broad conservation principles and offers a practical overview of the principles of preventive conservation covering storage, handling and correct methods of display.

Documentation

Offers an understanding of the role of documentation in the museum and its importance. Topics include loan management, documentation systems, collection audits and writing facilities reports.

Education and Access

Emphasises the centrality of learning as a function of museums. It gives an appreciation of the diversity of museum audiences and the different approaches required to connect effectively with each of them.

External Relations

Enables participants to gain an understanding of the place of the museum within its various external environments and how best to communicate with those areas. It covers marketing, publicity and press relations, funding, Public Administration Awareness and Private Sector Dynamics.



Four Days

The Museum Basics course runs over four consecutive Saturdays, two sessions per day.

Twenty Participants

With a maximum of 20 participants, the course emphasises the benefits of creating networks and support systems for museums within the local community.

Museum Basics is held in association with local partners. For more information on bringing a course to your area or taking part, please contact:

The Irish Museums Association

email. office@irishmuseums.org

tel. +353 (0)1 412 0939

www.irishmuseums.org



*An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta*
Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



The Irish Museums Association gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht and The Heritage Council.