

Aims and objectives of the Challenge Fund

The key aim of the grant programme is to:

support museums, libraries and archives to open up their spaces and resources/collections to self-organised groups of learners in new and innovative ways. These groups can be existing self-organised groups (for example University of the Third Age, local film group, local history group or self-organised reading group), or new groups of adult learners who wish to come together to pursue a common interest or passion.

Specifically we are looking for bids that demonstrate:

- partnerships with community, third sector and voluntary groups engaged in self-organised informal adult learning that identify new ways of using the spaces and resources in museums, libraries and archives
- new partnerships between museums, libraries and archives and the wide range of self-organised groups of learners who meet to pursue an interest that supports informal learning
- a shift in the role of the museum, library and archive from provider to facilitator of informal adult learning through building the capacity of local self-organised groups of learners by opening up our spaces and resources
- commitment to sustainability of the partnership between the self-organised group/s of learners and museum, library or archive post grant funding
- innovative approaches to supporting adult informal learning

Museums, libraries and archives making a bid to the Challenge Fund should identify:

- which self-organised groups you intend to work with
- how you will creatively use the spaces and resources within your museum, library or archive to support local self-organised groups to develop their programmes and activity.
- how the self-organised group/s of learners will develop partnerships to develop innovative, new and exciting opportunities for participants

Funding can be used by museums, libraries or archives to support self-organised learning groups by :

- purchasing equipment to support the self-organised group/s to make use of the collection (e.g. a camera/projector)
- to waive room hire charges
- to fund the development of workshops using the museum, library or archive collection
- to fund an exhibition or learning event in the museum, library or archive space
- fund the development of a publication

Any equipment purchased remains the property of the museum, library or archive but must be made available to support local self-organised groups of learners.

If you would like to check your eligibility or have any specific queries regarding your eligibility or the application process, please contact Chris Fardon

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