The Principles of Museum Learning

Details

Wednesday 18th September – Wednesday 23rd October 2024
1.00 – 4.30 PM BST. Online.
Watch session recordings on demand until Wednesday 4th November 2024.

Overview

Using the V&A’s practical expertise and expansion as a catalyst for discussion, this six-week course offers a rare opportunity to go behind the scenes and learn how museums, whether at regional or national level, operate programming, events and resources to foster learning.

You will gain an understanding of a broad range of current thinking and critical approaches to facilitating meaningful learning amongst audiences with V&A staff and expert colleagues from across the UK who will reflect on pedagogy, policies and sector priorities from diversity to digital.

This online course comprises live presentations, panel discussions, exclusive interviews, and group workshop sessions, designed to create an engaging and interactive experience in whichever time zone you are joining from.

Your course leader

Kara Wescombe Blackman

Kara has 25 years of experience working in and advising both national and independent museums, including the V&A, where she initiated new learning programmes alongside major museum developments. She has wide ranging experience of working with collections and exhibitions, creating inclusive learning programmes with communities, industry residencies, income generating programmes, national and local partnerships and designing new museum and learning spaces. She supports professional practice and shares her knowledge and experience through advisory and consultancy roles in the arts and heritage sector.
Course Programme

Week One – Wednesday 18th September

*Developing a Learning Ethos*

13.00 Welcome and introduction to the course **Kara Wescombe Blackman, Course Leader**
13.30 Introduction to the V&A’s Learning ethos
14.15 Connecting learning with collections and place **Catherine Ritman-Smith, Head of Learning and Engagement, V&A East and Young V&A**
15.45 Workshop: Finding your USP and learning ethos **Kara Wescombe Blackman**
16.30 End

Week Two – Wednesday 25th September

*Families*

13.00 Families at the V&A **Kat Box, Team Leader – Young People & Families**
14.15 Breakout discussion and activity
15.00 Coproduction with families
16.15 Practical Checklist: From visitor experience to evaluation **Kara Wescombe Blackman**
16.30 End

Week Three – Wednesday 2nd October

*Schools Programme*

13.00 Broad Curriculum, Diverse Collections: Schools and the V&A **Cara Williams, Senior Producer – Schools, V&A**
14.00 Breakout discussion and activity Cara Williams
15.15 Interviews with Learning experts Dr Kate Noble, Senior Research Associate Museum Learning and Participation, The Fitzwilliam Museum; Kate Fellows, Head of Learning and Access, Leeds Museums and Galleries
16.15 Practical Checklist: From SEND to safeguarding Kara Wescombe Blackman
16.30 End

Week Four – Wednesday 9th October

Young People

13.00 Co-working with young people and pedagogy
14.45 In Conversation: Traineeships, skills and meaningful engagement
15.15 Breakout discussion and activity
16.00 Practical Checklist: From audience research to risk assessments Kara Wescombe Blackman
16.30 End

Week Five - Wednesday 16th October

Adults

13.00 Lifelong learning with V&A Academy Ian Ellard, Head of V&A Academy
14.00 Facilitating in practice workshops Liza Mackenzie, Events Manager, Institute of Making, UCL
14.45 Breakout discussion and activity Liza Mackenzie
15.15 Break
15.30 Residencies, cultural space and income generation Ellen Love, Learning & Participation Manager, Leach Pottery
16.30 End
Week Six – Wednesday 23rd October

Communities

13.00 From local to global, connecting communities and collections

14.00 V&A World of Wedgwood Alison Tinning, Learning Producer, Schools, Young People and Families, V&A Wedgwood Collection

15.15 Ethical and inclusive practice Dr Sarah Plumb, Senior Research Associate, University of Leicester

16.15 Wrap up and conclusion

16.30 End