



**Association of  
Independent Museums**

Helping Heritage Organisations  
Prosper

## **Association of Independent Museums**

### **AIM E-News – April 2015 – Number 68 – **EXTRACTS****

#### **Give your views on business rate relief**

The Charity Finance Group (CFG) has released a [policy briefing](#) for charities on business rate relief to coincide with a debate on the long-term future of business rates, which will affect charities. CFG is also carrying out a [survey](#) of charities on business rate relief to gather evidence which members may like to take part in.

#### **MUSEUMS + HERITAGE SHOW, 29/30 April, Olympia West, London**

##### **Win £1,000!**

The Museums + Heritage Show is offering show visitors a chance to win £1,000 for your organisation. Entering is easy – download the entry template [here](#), say in 250 words what the project is and how £1,000 would make a difference to it, register for your free pass and drop off your entry at the information point when you arrive. The winner will be announced by 31 May.

#### **Museums against unethical disposal**

Museum sector bodies across the UK have released a [joint statement](#) saying they will not seek to work with museums whose governing bodies sell items from their collections in contravention of the Museums Association's (MA) Code of Ethics and the Accreditation Standard. AIM is among the 10 signatories which include some of the

largest funding bodies for museums such as Arts Council England (ACE), the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Art Fund, as well as membership bodies and museum organisations from across the UK, such as the MA, the National Museum Directors' Council (NMDC), the National Archives, Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS), the Northern Ireland Museums Council and the Federation of Museums & Art Galleries of Wales. The group states that the UK's cultural heritage and reputation will be put at risk if museum governing bodies decide to sell items from their collections for financial gain. The Museums Association's 2014 Cuts Survey found that one in 10 museums were considering selling items from their collections. The statement follows controversial sales of Chinese ceramics from the Museum of Croydon by Croydon Borough Council in 2013 and of the Sekhemka ancient Egyptian statue from Northampton Museum by Northampton Borough Council in 2014. Both sales went ahead against the advice of ACE and the MA. Consequences of such sales are likely to include potential loss of investment from major funding bodies, and the loss of Accreditation and membership of sector bodies. <http://www.museumsassociation.org/news/27032015-unethical-sale-from-collections>

### **2015 Telegraph Family Friendly Museum Award**

The 2015 Telegraph Family Friendly Museum Award has been launched, giving the public the chance to say which museum, gallery, heritage site, science centre or historic home in Britain gives the warmest welcome to families. Run by Kids in Museums, the competition can be won by a giant national museum or a tiny two-room local gallery, and cover any subject. Anyone can make a nomination, whether museum worker or visitor. Deadline for nominations is 10 May, and they should be sent to [award@kidsinmuseums.org.uk](mailto:award@kidsinmuseums.org.uk). Find out more [here](#) and [here](#).

### **Free ACE retail resilience programme to roll out nationally**

The Association for Cultural Enterprises (ACE) is to roll out its retail resilience programme nationally following its £359,985 funding in Arts Council England's (ACE) recent Museum Resilience Fund grants round. With museums and galleries encouraged to adopt an ever more business-like approach to their activities, this free programme will provide information on integrated commercial development and a peer-to-peer support network, designed to encourage best practice in income generation by equipping museums with expert retail skills and knowledge. It will begin by recruiting staff and venues that would most benefit from the programme, to be followed by training sessions by expert practitioners covering buying, financial management, visual merchandising and shop staff skills. There will also be a commercial forum, enabling experiences to be shared with other museums via training events, study days and professional resources. John Orna-Ornstein, director of museums for Arts Council England says: "Cultural heritage trading plays an important role in engaging with our audiences and in generating income, and this injection of funding from the Arts Council will help regional museums and galleries to become really strong practitioners in this sector." Find out more [here](#).

Charities have welcomed the Chancellor's increase in the limits to the **Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme** but have expressed disappointment that the Government did not bring forward a review of the scheme. In the budget George Osborne [announced](#) that the limit would be increased from £5,000 to £8,000 a year. A review of the scheme is scheduled to take place in 2016. Many organisations have urged the Government to make it easier for organisations to use.

**Museums new to Gift Aid on admissions** can ensure they are following correct procedures by visiting guidance on the Museums Association's website, to which AIM contributed. Following a query from a member earlier this month, it is clear that it is necessary for 12 months' free admission offered to visitors who Gift Aid their entry payment, to also be available for those visitors who do not Gift Aid their payment. Whilst this used to be optional, HMRC later changed it to compulsory. Read the advice [here](#).

Sir Peter Luff has been appointed as the **chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund** and the National Heritage Memorial Fund. MP for Mid-Worcestershire since 1992, he stood down prior to this year's election. He has co-chaired the Speaker's Advisory Committee on the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta and the 750th anniversary of the de Montfort Parliament since 2013. His term is for three years.

The Law Commission is inviting comments on whether charities should have more **flexibility to spend permanent endowments**. The Commission says its 40 proposed changes would remove unnecessary burdens on charities. Find out more [here](#).

### **Grant Schemes Closing Dates**

Sustainability Scheme – 15 January and 1 June

Conservation Scheme – 31 March and 30 September

Preventive Conservation Scheme – 31 March and 30 September

AIM Training Grants – 10 March for courses between 1 April-30 June; 10 June for courses 1 July-30 September, 10 September for courses 1 October-31 December and 1 December for courses 1 January-31 March.

[www.aim-museums.co.uk](http://www.aim-museums.co.uk)