



**January 15 2020**

**AIM NEWS-- EXTRACTS**

### **Updated Success Guide on Negotiating Business Rates**

In partnership with Lambert Smith Hampton, AIM has updated its [guide](#) on 'Successfully Negotiating Business Rates'. Written by Colin Hunter, the guide covers the basics required to understand the complex world of Business Rates. This update is critical as changes to the appeal system in England mean that those concerned that their Rateable Value is too high need to start the process of checking the Valuation Officer's figures as soon as practical, and before the end of March 2020.

[Read the guide.](#)

### **AIM Conference – early bird tickets released Monday 3 Feb.**

This year's AIM Conference – themed 'Fit for the Future?' - will be held in the beautiful surrounds of Port Sunlight June 18-20. Full ticket prices have again been held to 2018 rates and early bird tickets will be available from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. As ever, early booking is recommended. Check out the latest information on the [Conference landing pages](#).

### **Arts Council England announces new Director, Museums Collection Development and West Midlands**

Liz Johnson will be joining Arts Council England in the new role of Director, Museums Collection Development and West Midlands. Liz, who currently holds a senior role at the National Trust, will lead the Arts Council's work supporting museums and collections development, as well as having responsibility for the West Midlands. With a significant amount of experience in the arts, museums and funding sectors, Liz previously worked at Arts Council England as a Relationship Manager in the East Midlands before becoming a Senior Project Manager – leading on the Arts Council's response to the Mendoza Review of Museums.

**Funding of up to £2,500 for Museums sector women available**

Women and Leadership International is administering a national initiative to support the development of female leaders across the UK's Museums sector. The campaign is providing women with grants of up to £2,500 to enable participation in one of three leadership development programmes: Leading Edge (for junior and aspiring leaders and managers), Executive Ready (for mid-level leaders and managers) and the Advanced Leadership Programme (for senior and executive level women).

Expressions of interest are welcome before 31st January 2020.

[www.womenandleadership.org/funding.html](http://www.womenandleadership.org/funding.html)

### **New Leadership Podcast series**

The 'Art of Leadership' is a new three-part series discussing the big issues facing chairs, CEOs and trustees of arts and culture organisations. Hosted by the BBC's Kirsty Lang, episode 1 'About a Board' is live now.

[Listen here.](#)

### **Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS) announce changes to grants programme**

MGS have removed the 25% match funding requirement from the Museums Development Fund and the Festivals Fund. Museums can now apply for 100% funding from any MGS grant, as the match funding requirement for the Small Project Fund was removed in 2019. In addition, the upper limit available for the Small Project Fund has increased to £10,000 and the Purchase Fund has been renamed the Equipment Fund to better outline its purpose.

All changes come into effect at the start of the 2020 grants programme and [the full dates are available on the MGS website.](#)

### **Call for papers South West Fed Conference 2020 – 'Interpreting, curating and combatting the climate emergency.'**

The conference takes place on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th July at Bath Spa University and is a key networking event for those working in the heritage sector in the South West region. Presentations and workshops explore how museums and heritage sites can contribute to increasing public awareness, civic engagement, and develop sustainable practices which will mitigate and adapt to the climate emergency. The South West Fed will provide one free speaker ticket per presentation/workshop for one day of the conference.

[Read more.](#)

### **Visit Britain / Visit England inbound tourism forecast for 2020**

The latest inbound tourism forecast from Visit Britain predicts 2020 to be a record year for both inbound visits and spend. Spending by overseas visitors is predicted to reach a record £26.6 billion in 2020, (up 6.6% on 2019), while overseas visits to the UK is forecast to rise to 39.7 million (up 2.9% on last year).

[See the report](#)

### **Welcoming Families and Young People with Autism**

Would you like to make your venue more welcoming to families and young people with autism, but aren't sure where to start? Kids in Museums are offering free training sessions in Wales to explore practical ways to make venues more welcoming, accessible and inclusive to people with autism.

Tuesday 10 March, 10am-4pm, Wrexham Museum

Wednesday 18 March, 10am-4pm Museum of Cardiff

Places are limited to one per organisation on a first-come, first-served basis.

Find out more and book your place at [www.kidsinmuseums.org.uk](http://www.kidsinmuseums.org.uk)