

The latest news from AIM, 16 July 2020

£1.57bn for the culture and heritage sector

AIM has welcomed the government's announcement for £1.57bn for the culture and heritage sector. You can read the [joint statement from NMDC, AIM and MA here](#).

We know that AIM members need to know as soon as possible when and how they can access these funds. We are pushing hard for this money to be made available quickly and widely to independent museums to ensure that jobs, museums and collections are saved.

Reopening guidance

The Coronavirus Covid-19 NMDC Good Practice Guidelines on the Reopening of Museums after July 4, 2020 has been developed by the National Museum Directors' Council (NMDC) Planning and Remobilisation Group with support from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and contributions from across the museum sector, including AIM. It is intended for use by museums in England and can be [accessed here](#).

Separate guidance published by the Scottish government can be found [here](#), and the Welsh government guidance for reopening from 27 July can be found [here](#).

Alongside this, a checklist has been produced by AIM and the Museum Development Network (MDN) to be used in conjunction with the Guidelines and to help museums take a strategic, well informed approach to making decisions on reopening and implementing a safe and effective plan in conjunction with the national guidance for museums. [Find the checklist here](#).

CTG gift aid emergency relief proposal

AIM has added its name to the list of over 100 charities that are supporting Charity Tax Group's campaign for the Government to temporarily increase the level of Gift Aid that can be claimed on donations. The move to boost the Gift Aid charities receive from eligible donations comes as charities of all sizes face a crisis to their income caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The change would mean that a £100 donation from a UK taxpayer would increase to £133.33 for the charity once Gift Aid had been claimed. This compares to £125.00 as is currently be the case. [Find out more and add your support to the campaign](#).

Arts Council England project grants reopening

From 22 July, Arts Council England project grants will be reopening for applications. You can find out more and register to receive an alert as soon as the guidance is updated [here](#).

Julia and Hans Rausing Charity Survival Fund

This fund has been launched to provide core funding to offset lost income and help support charities through the impact of Covid-19. Applications are open to UK independent museums, who are a registered charity with an annual income of under £5m. The deadline is Monday 27 July and you can [find out more and how to apply here](#).

Icon new professional standards and ethical guidance

The conservation sector is constantly evolving as techniques and practice change over time, therefore Icon has updated and adapted the codes of practice and guidance which define professional practice and guide and support professional conservators in their decision making to reflect this dynamism. In this way, those commissioning conservation services from Icon members can rest assured their conservator will be working to the exacting standards demanded of Icon members - giving real peace of mind. [Read the updated standards and guidance here](#).

Help for heritage collections dealing with post-lockdown pests

Thanks to funding from Historic England, South West Museum Development is running a project to help up to 200 heritage organisations across South West England to monitor, identify and deal with pests. [Find out more here](#).

Connecting Culture virtual conference and expo

AIM members are invited to attend Connecting Culture 2020, the free to attend virtual conference and expo helping to kickstart the rebuilding of the worldwide cultural sector. Taking place on 9 and 10 September, [you can register for a place here](#).