



Sustainable practices inspired by The Wild Escape

Thursday 8 June, 1–2.30pm

These are the notes and key takeaways from the online session that took place on Thursday 8 June if you missed it! This was the last session in the series of online workshop for museums, an amazing series of workshops with over 500 museums sharing helpful expertise and knowledge.

Updates with Jo Paton, producer, The Wild Escape

- The Wild Escape is looking ahead to the [Great Big Green Week](#), 10-18 June and the ways that we can celebrate the work that has been done and some of the changes to approaches in our organizations.
- First, we wanted to find this moment to celebrate the huge impact that artists have had on The Wild Escape across the project.
- Museums across the UK have had artists involved in different and diverse ways.
- We're being blown away by the artists who have supported the project to connect schools with nature and with museums, discovering ways to listen to young people and their concern for nature.

Artists on how The Wild Escape inspired them

- **Bob and Roberta Smith** was inspired by The Wild Escape to think about how art can give children the opportunity to escape through imagination, linking it to the idea of animals escaping from the zoo. Bob created images of animals that inspired freedom and captured spirit of the imagination, using animals to talk about the power of emancipation through art.
- **Clare Twomey** returned to the V&A ceramics gallery to connect with a collection with meaning to her, inspiring her to create a porcelain chalk which she called a "sympathetic material". Clare spoke about the potential of new journeys with tools and materials to inspire young people to access with museums and connect with what they love.
- Connecting with his local gallery Kettle's Yard, **Harold Offeh** found a piece through the online collection that encouraged him to think about accessing the space of gallery, asking how we connect with both historically distant objects in museums, and animals in nature, with the aim to engage young people and spark curiosity.
- We asked them "How can museums work best with artists?":
 - Bob highlighted the use of collections to ignite children's imagination and the importance of museums and galleries as an alternative space away from curriculum and school to inspire.
 - Clare and Howard both highlighted the role of museums as an experimental and learning space, emphasising the importance of dialog between museums and artists to encourage experimentation.

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Sustainable practice in museum learning programmes

Mary Corfield, head of operations & project management, The Climate Coalition

- [The Climate Coalition](#)'s objective is to unite organisations together through Great Big Green Week to inspire people to imagine a better future.
- Museums can get involved with Great Big Green week, 10-18 June, by adding activities onto the website, including any pre-existing exhibitions or activities that feature climate or nature, so people can discover activities at your museum.
- Museums are also invited to share stories social media about what inspires you to take action on climate change. [You can download the social media toolkit here.](#)
- Getting involved in Great Big Green Week offers the possibility to increase coverage in local publications engaging in Great Big Green Week activities.
- Great Big Green Week has huge potential to reach new visitors and inspire them to take action.
- Looking forward, The Climate Coalition is hoping to increase engagement with schools and local communities through museums for Great Big Green Week.

Louise Bragan, senior officer: programming & learning, Wakefield Council

- Motivated by Wakefield Council's Climate Change Plan, sector support, and the Arts Council funded remix and action plan, Wakefield Museums and Castles has begun to move towards environmental sustainability by adopting green champions and creating an environmental action plan.
- Wakefield Museums and Castles has been developing learning and engagement activities focusing on environmental awareness and projects aimed at increasing biodiversity around Pontefract castle.

Karen Thomas, community manager, Kettle's Yard

- Local increase in climate awareness has prompted shift a more sustainable use of materials in Kettle's Yard studio, taking a 'small steps add up' approach.
- The gallery has stock-taking to monitor and action a better use of materials. They have opted for more sustainable suppliers, implemented circular projects, and invited visitors to reuse wasted materials for more sustainable practices. These philosophies were taken into The Wild Escape, reusing and recycling materials.

Useful links:

- Use our [new quick activity worksheet](#) for a simple activity to offer an event
- Explore The Wild World collective artwork on thewildescape.org.uk
- Submit your creatures to the collective artwork via creatures@thewildescape.org.uk
- Remember to evaluate your Wild Escape activities to use [the evaluation toolkit here](#)
- Book a 30-minute slot with to ask any questions to The Wild Escape team [here](#)
- Contact us anytime with questions at thewildescape@artfund.org

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