

18 April 2008

'Young Advocates' in Museums

Cambridge museums offer dynamic new scheme to engage local young people

Cambridge teenagers are being offered the chance to gain a fascinating insight into the world of museums, thanks to a pioneering new programme at The Fitzwilliam Museum, The Cambridge Folk Museum and The Cambridge Museum of Technology this summer.

The 'Young Museum Advocates' scheme, which runs from April to July 2008, has recruited ten students from Cambridge's Chesterton Community College to form a panel of 'cultural advocates'. This unique group will receive the opportunity to go behind the scenes at these three Cambridge museums, and then use their own experiences to encourage more young people to become involved with the museums on their doorstep.

A series of initial welcome sessions and weekend visits will introduce the participants to the institutions involved, and dispel some of the myths surrounding the museum world. The Young Advocates will also receive advice and support from past museum work experience students as well as staff from The Fitzwilliam Museum, The Folk Museum and The Museum of Technology.

As part of the scheme, the Young Advocates will be 'assigned' to one of the three museums, and given a choice of exciting multi-media projects to work on. These briefs will challenge the participants to encourage people of their own age into museums, and include:

- The Fitzwilliam Museum - design, write, record and produce a podcast for the Museum's website
- The Museum of Technology - research and develop a new section of the website that tackles the question 'why aren't more girls interested in technology?'
- The Folk Museum - plan an event at the Museum, using photography to help prepare for the occasion

Margaret Greeves, Assistant Director of The Fitzwilliam Museum said "By sharing their own positive experiences, these Young Advocates have the opportunity to introduce other young people to museums they might have previously felt were 'not for them'. The scheme is also a chance for young people not only to gain new skills, but also to have their opinions heard, as the feedback from our Young Advocates will help us to explore new ways of developing our services and meeting the needs of younger visitors."

The Young Advocates scheme has been developed with developed with the Museums Libraries and Archives Council East of England, and will launch at The Cambridge Folk Museum at 14.00 on 19 April 2008.

Press | The Fitzwilliam Museum

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.../ Further information

'Young Advocates' Launch

19 April 2008 | 14.00

Cambridge Folk Museum
2-3 Castle Street
Cambridge
CB3 0AQ

The media are invited to attend this event.

For further information about the launch, please contact Polly Hodgson, Curator, or Becky Proctor, Assistant Curator at the Cambridge Folk Museum: 01223 355 159.

'Young Advocates' - Further information from:

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Notes for Editors The Fitzwilliam Museum

The Fitzwilliam Museum houses the University of Cambridge's art collection and is a public museum and art gallery with an international reputation. More than half a million objects and works of art are held in five curatorial departments: Antiquities, Applied Arts, Coins and Medals, Manuscripts and Printed Books and Paintings, Drawings and Prints.

The Fitzwilliam's treasures range from Ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman antiquities to the arts of the 21st century and include masterpieces by Titian, Canaletto, Stubbs, Constable, Monet, Renoir and Picasso, one of the world's foremost Rembrandt print collections, Handel music manuscripts and the famous Fitzwilliam Virginal Book, one of the most significant collections of Korean ceramics outside South-East Asia, medieval illuminated manuscripts and outstanding collections of pottery, porcelain and medieval coins.

The Fitzwilliam Museum welcomes over 300,000 visitors a year, offers a wide-ranging programme of temporary exhibitions and events, and has an award-winning Education Service. The Museum is open Tuesday - Saturday: 10.00 - 17.00, Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays: 12.00 - 17.00.

Admission to the permanent collections and to temporary exhibitions is FREE.
Website: www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

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