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Description automatically generated**Applying for a GEM Cymru Learning Support Fund grant 2023-24 round 2**

The Group for Education in Museums (GEM) strives to support and empower our community of colleagues to connect and learn together across all four nations of the UK, Europe, and Worldwide. Our vision is of a connected and equipped community of people enabling learning across museum heritage and cultural settings, creating inspiring experiences relevant for everyone promoting equality, transforming and enriching lives. GEM delivers a range of services to support museum educators, including professional membership, training and development opportunities, career mentoring, regular publications and dedicated representatives.

GEM Cymru has received generous support from the Welsh Government, Culture Division to fund a Learning Support Fund for accredited museums in Wales in the form of small grants. The objective of these grants is to encourage innovative thinking, original practice and evaluation of new resources and Curriculum for Wales specific activities for museums to deliver to schools.

**Eligible accredited museums in Wales can apply for grants of up to £1,500** for activity which takes place between February to March 2024.

***Museums who have received funding from the 2023-24 GEM Cymru Learning Support Grant Fund are not eligible to apply***

Please complete the application form at the end of this document.

**The closing date** for applications is 5pm on 26th February 2024

**The GEM Cymru Learning Support Fund aims:**

* to facilitate new ways of working with schools
* to develop best practice partnership working
* to support the creation, development, or adaptation of innovative working practices
* to develop, expand or enhance new school visit resources related to the new Curriculum for Wales.

**The grant assessment will favour applications that demonstrate:**

* \*how their new activity helps ***to develop the museum’s digital learning output***
* how their new activities and workshops have taken the content of the new curriculum as a stimulus and how their collections have been used to inspire pupils in new and exciting ways.
* that new partnerships between school/s and the museum have been identified, particularly ones which emphasise cynefin and the local Black Asian and Minority Ethnic experience.
* how their project activity helps meet Welsh Government objectives such as The Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Programme for Government.

**Who can apply?**

We can only award grant funding to museums located in Wales that are enrolled in the Museum Accreditation Scheme (fully or provisionally accredited). Non-accredited and nationally funded museums are not eligible to apply.

**Things to consider**

* Think about a clear and specific ways in which your proposed use of the fund will help your organisation adapt its learning offer to take into account the needs of the schools related to the new Curriculum for Wales.
* How you will embed the results of the project into your museum’s programme going forward
* Think about who would need to be involved in making the grant activity happen and check that the work can be completed by March 2024.
* If your proposed activity involves commissioning freelancers, ensure you allow costs to pay for their time, both to develop proposals and deliver activities.
* You must agree to share the results of the work with the wider museum learning community, through a project report.

**How can I spend a grant?**

Examples of activity which a Learning Support grant *could* be spent on include:

* Creation of an online schools learning resource or creative resource for home school use that are relevant to the new curriculum for Wales
* Piloting of new, original formal learning sessions that are relevant to the Curriculum for Wales
* Extending / adaptation of an existing schools learning resource that is relevant to the Curriculum for Wales
* Evaluating the effectiveness of an existing schools learning resource or virtual resource for relevance to the Curriculum for Wales
* Commissioning a freelance artist or museum educator to deliver a new schools learning activity that is relevant to the Curriculum for Wales
* Working with a freelance artist or educator to try out a new way of working with schools in this new learning environment
* Grants cannot be used to fund basic utilities and core costs, staff time/salaries (unless you are offering additional hours to part time or casual staff to deliver grant activity) or something that has already been undertaken

**How will your application be assessed:**

GEM Cymru will appoint a panel of museum professionals to assess all applications. They will examine:

* How you have demonstrated that your project has taken the content of the new curriculum as inspiration ***and uses digital engagement as its focus***
* How you are inspiring pupils in new & exciting ways
* How your project emphasises cynefin and the local Black Asian and Minority Ethnic experience
* How you intend to create new partnerships / co-production
* How your project supports the four purposes of the Curriculum for Wales and helps pupils become:
* ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
* enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
* ethical, informed, & active citizens of Wales and the world
* healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society
* How your project helps support Welsh Government objectives such as The Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Programme for Government?

**Approval and accepting a Learning Support grant**

* Successful applicants will be notified by the end of the week of 26th February 2024
* Project activity must take place between February 2024 to March 2024
* You will need to spend the grant by the end of March 2024
* You can claim your whole grant immediately on approval of funding
* You will need to complete a report on your project along with a statement of accounts by 12th April 2024
* You must acknowledge GEM Cymru and the Welsh Government in any publicity or marketing material related to the project
* You must have and up-to-date safeguarding policy for your organisation. Advice on this can be found at <https://gem.org.uk/resource/safeguarding-policy-example/>
* The application must come from the museum, who will be the grant recipient (i.e., we do not pay any individual directly).
* Any unspent grants will need to be paid back by the end of March 2024

If your museum is not currently an institutional member of GEM, you can find out more at:  <https://gem.org.uk/join-gem/>

*GEM Cymru would like to thank the Welsh Government, Culture Division for their support.*

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**Learning Support Fund 2023-24 round 2**

**Grant application**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Contact name:** |  |
| **Job title / role:** |  |
| **Museum address: (including postcode)** |  |
| **Email:** |  |
| **Telephone:** |  |
| **Please describe your project:**  *(minimum word count 150,*  *maximum word count 300)* |  |
| **Please state how the project will benefit your audience and how it helps to embed learning in your museum:**  *(minimum word count 150, maximum word count 300)* |  |
| **Total grant requested**  *Please provide a breakdown of project costs (including VAT if relevant)* |  |

**Please check:**

**The museum is an Accredited Museum in Wales**

**The museum has an up to date safeguarding policy**

**I have read and understood the accompanying notes and information**

**I understand that I will need to write a project report for GEM Cymru**

**I am authorised to apply for this grant on behalf of my museum.**

**Signed:**

**Dated:**

***Please return to*** [**office@gem.org**](mailto:office@gem.org) ***by 5pm on 26th February 2024***

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