

Pete Brown Access, Learning & Interpretation

Consultant profile

Specialist in heritage learning, visitor engagement and evaluation

Pete has worked for over 20 years in the heritage sector, interpreting fine and decorative art; historic houses and grounds; science and technology; natural history (including living animals), and human history through learning programmes, community engagement, exhibition making and gallery development.

Pete is used to working in teams with colleagues and external partners such as designers and constructors. He also has many years experience of audience development work particularly on externally funded projects, including visitors and users in the development of new interpretation and learning materials as advisors, sounding boards and partners in piloting ideas. He has been the lead or a key player in several HLF funded projects, responsible for activity planning, implementation and evaluation.

Pete has used a wide variety of evaluation tools, including questionnaires, interviews and accompanied visits, focus group discussions, online surveys, comments books, cards and graffiti walls. He has also used Personal Meaning Mapping together with the Inspiring Learning for All GLOs (Generic Learning Outcomes) to engage visitors in a qualitative assessment of the learning impact of museum displays.

Since 2015, Pete has been Course Director for the Foundation Course: Museum Learning, which he developed for the Group for Education in Museums (GEM), and has recently developed a new foundation course – Effective Engagement – for all new museum staff with public facing roles.

Pete is also a tutor on the Glasgow University MSc course in Museum Education, helping postgraduate students turn theory into practice.

CONTACT DETAILS

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RECENT RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Mansfield Townscape Heritage Project:

2017-18 Pete has developed the Activity Plan for a £1 million Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) project to refurbish town centre building, engage the community and re-establish pride in Mansfield's past.

Buxton Crescent Heritage Skills: 2017-18

Pete has co-developed and run a series of on-site construction skills days with contractors on this Grade1* listed building project.

Buxton Museum and Art Gallery: 2015-17, Copy-editor for the museum's HLF funded Collections in the Landscape project, overseeing production of all text for exhibitions and online resources, community consultation and staff training.

https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/buxton_museum/collections/landscape/default.asp

Sheffield Industrial Museums Trust: from 2012-2014, Pete led two complex projects:

1) £100,000 learning and community participation project at Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet (part of a £1 million Heritage Lottery funded project that included building a new Learning Centre and restoring water-powered machinery). His role was to lead a team renewing the interpretation for visitors on the site, overseeing the community events and volunteering programme, and ensuring that relevant aspects of the Activity Plan were properly evaluated for reporting back to the Trust Board and the funders.

<http://www.simt.co.uk/about/projects/abbeydale-works>

2) Access All Areas – a £125,000 disability access improvement programme for Kelham Island Museum and Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet. The team Pete led included an advisory forum of people with personal or professional experience of disability recruited for the project.
<http://www.simt.co.uk/about/projects/access-all-areas>

The role involved overseeing consultation activity, evaluation and reporting, training for staff and volunteers, sourcing and purchasing new equipment and commissioning contractors for improvement works.



Pete Brown

Qualifications

MA Interpretive Studies,
University of Leicester 2009

Career Summary (museums & heritage)

Current: Self-employed
Heritage Consultant

2012-14: Learning Services
Manager, Sheffield Industrial
Museums Trust

2010-11: Head of Learning &
Access, Imperial War
Museum North

2005-10: Head of Learning &
Interpretation, The
Manchester Museum,
University of Manchester

2004-5: Learning Manager &
Inspiring Learning
Coordinator, The Manchester
Museum

2001-4: Education Officer,
People's History Museum,
Manchester

1999-2001: Education &
Access Officer, Bolton
Museums & Arts gallery

1996-98: Education Officer,
Calderdale MBC Museums &
Arts Division, Halifax

1998-90: Education & Display
Officer and Curatorial
Assistant, California Academy
of Sciences, San Francisco