

## Session notes

### 'In conversation' Museum management and leadership

'In conversations' focus on a particular theme or current issue in the culture and heritage sector. They work alongside our e-learning modules and will add an extra dimension to your 'core skills' sessions. They are informal discussions with

colleagues across the sector and while we can't deliver 'live' sessions the ITP team aim to ask the questions you would be asking if you were in the room with us!

In this 'in conversation' Claire Messenger talks to Maria Ragan, Director of St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery about museum management and leadership.



### Introduction

Prior to the COVID pandemic it had been a highly successful time for Museums in the UK and according to *Museums Matter*, a report produced by the National Museums Directors' Council.....

'The UK museum sector is more vibrant, popular and internationally respected than it has ever been'.

Much of that success is down to the hard-work and dedication of museum staff and the dynamic and creative leadership shown by the Directors of these institutions. Having a strong, shared vision and strategy within an institution can ensure the successful delivery of a museums programmes and activities, as well as helping it to withstand challenges and pressures both externally and internally.

Maria will use this 'in conversation' to introduce you to her museum, St Barbe's and discuss their active collecting policy and how the museum is funded. She will explain how a dynamic and agile programme of exhibitions and events are key to their aim of diversifying their audiences and how the museum has been impacted by COVID. Maria will also focus on how leadership, vision and engagement are key to the success and sustainability of any institution.

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## Course resources

The links below will provide you with more information on the theme of the session. Additional resources are provided with this session which aim to give you reading material that you may find useful – both now and in the future.

St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery

<https://www.stbarbe-museum.org.uk/>



## Museums: role and ethics

The British Museum's policy on ethics and code of conduct for staff

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/about-us/governance#governance>

The British Museum's policy on human remains (acquiring, storing and displaying)

[https://www.britishmuseum.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/Human Remains policy 061218.pdf](https://www.britishmuseum.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/Human%20Remains%20policy%20061218.pdf)

Human Tissue Act <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/30/contents>

The International Council of Museums, Code of Ethics

<https://icom.museum/en/resources/standards-guidelines/code-of-ethics/>

## Museum and Government (UK)

Department for Culture, Media and Sport: the British government department with overall authority for museums, including funding

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-digital-culture-media-sport>

The British Council: UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural heritage

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/>

The Heritage Lottery Fund: The Fund has awarded a series of grants to fund museum infrastructure, projects and positions <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/>

Arts Council England (ACE): the national agency working on behalf of museums, libraries, archives and advising government on policy and priorities. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

Museums Association: museum ethics, conferences, museum-sector job adverts and training courses [www.museumsassociation.org](http://www.museumsassociation.org)

English Heritage: the national organisation responsible for many of England's greatest monuments and buildings. English Heritage is also the Government's adviser on archaeology.  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

Museums: international organisations, guidelines, relationships, and treaties  
The International Council of Museums, an organisation committed to the conservation, continuation, and communication to society of the world's natural and cultural heritage, present and future, tangible and intangible.  
<http://icom.museum>

International Council on Museums and Sites: non-governmental organisation providing forum for museum and site-management professionals.  
<https://www.icomos.org/en>

Museum-ID is an independent think tank for museum and heritage professionals. Innovative ideas between professionals working in museums and heritage.  
<http://www.museum-id.com/>

### **Museums (UK)**

The British Museum [www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org)

Partnership UK programme, linking the British Museum with other UK museums, underlining its role as 'a national museum for the nation'.

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/our-work/national>

### **Staff Training and Skills Development**

British Museum skill sharing programmes <https://www.britishmuseum.org/our-work/international>

National Museums Directors Council <http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/what-we-do/sharing-skills-and-collections/sharing-skills-and-knowledge/>

### **Museum news**

The Art Newspaper: news, articles, and comment about museums and galleries, including job adverts [www.theartnewspaper.com](http://www.theartnewspaper.com)