

Museum 2015 CONFERENCE

Panel Discussion

The Power of Partnership

The Greater Manchester Museums Group (GMMG), a partnership of eight Museum Services in the North West of England, have been working together for over ten years on innovative projects. GMMG represents a successful example of how a group of museums can work collectively to share connections and methods of working.

Since 2000 GMMG's exhibition programming has been proactive, rather than reactive. Most notably, the International Touring Exhibitions Group (ITEG) develops exhibition concepts drawn from existing collections across member organisations, and shares these with international client galleries. Prompted by significant economic challenges, this innovative programme has opened up new sources of funding and has helped establish strong contacts with international colleagues. In turn, this has fostered productive conversations concerning how museums can flourish in times of change.

We are keen to share our expertise and insights into how museums can accommodate change and be flexible by design. Moreover, we believe it is crucial to enter into dialogue with international museums about how our organisations can create and maintain partnerships in order to build financial resilience and explore creative programming.

The panel discussion will explore topics relevant for museum practitioners, academics and students, through case-study examples, including:

- How collaborative working between museums can promote cross-cultural dialogue.
- How we can negotiate issues surrounding knowledge production and translation in changing international contexts.
- Exploring innovative collections management methods that support openness, flexibility and creativity.

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- The practicalities of facilitating exhibitions in radically different markets and funding climates.

About the panel leader (200 words max)

Tony Trehy is the Director of Bury Art Museum and Sculpture Centre and the International Text Festival. Over the last 20 years he has developed an alternative model of museums practice based on challenging the definition of local in the context of 21st Century globalisation. He has also been developing the commercial possibilities of curation and collection use. Tony is lead on international Touring for Greater Manchester Museums Group (www.gmmg.org.uk)

Other panel members

Name: Richard Bealing
Title: Head of Culture
Organization: Wigan Museums

Name: Rebecca Hill
Title: Curator of Art
Organization: Gallery Oldham

Name: Amy Goodwin
Title: Exhibitions Officer
Organization: Salford Museums