

MUSEUM AS MUCK

Gauging the impact of Museum as Muck



A research project in
partnership with the
University of Leicester,
School of Museum Studies



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

MUSEUM AS MUCK

Between August and October 2023, researchers from the School of Museum Studies at the University of Leicester undertook research with our Steering Group, network members and museum partners. We wanted to find out the impact of the work we have been doing since we formed in 2018.

The next pages are a summary of the findings and the areas we aim to develop going forward.

Museum as Muck's Role in the Sector

Museum as Muck as an organisation delivers:

- Peer support
- Diversification of the workforce
- Representation of those from low SEB (socio-economic background)
- Awareness raising of class issues
- Linking lived experience with research

Impact of being part of the network for members:

- Sense of community resulting in reduced feelings of class isolation, feeling less alone
- Feeling comfortable and able to have more open conversations around class and lived experiences
- Provides strength to persevere in the sector
- Gained confidence and less likely to 'mask' low-socio economic background
- Appreciated the support and opportunity to connect

Understanding Class

86% of respondents have changed their understanding of class since being involved in the network

Resulting in:

- Better understandings of others' experiences
- Identify barriers to accessing opportunities due to socio-economic impact on career trajectories
- Developed knowledge of issues facing working class people in the sector as a whole

Impact for steering group members:

- Raising awareness in the sector and direct impact on museum partners
- Holding organisations accountable for their work on equality, diversity and inclusion
- Advocacy and evidence building
- Supporting members and providing a space to connect
- Providing information and training

Impact on Museum Partners:

- **Changes in** recruitment practices, internal monitoring including topic of socio-economic background, and an EDI working group actioning learning from the collaboration.
- **Creation of** working class action plans which were then used to inform equality, diversity and inclusion policies and plans.
- **Recognised the Value of** open conversations and reflection on how change may be possible within individuals' remits.
- **Looking towards** engaging with "*a broader section of our local community as possible*", better representation of working class stories, and more inclusive recruitment practices.
- **Continuing** partnerships can be difficult as relies on funding and individual museum staff taking action.

MUSEUM AS MUCK

A big thank you to everyone who took part in the research.
Thank you to all our members and supporters for being part
of Museum as Muck.

Keep your eyes peeled for new, upcoming activity informed
by the research recommendations!

Thank you to the School of Museum Studies, University of
Leicester who kindly initiated this project.



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER