



## Natalie Chambers: Cultural Consulting Network

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### Qualifications

- BSc Hons, City, University of London
- Post Graduate Certificate of Education, University of Reading
- Post Graduate Certificate in Museum Learning, Institute of Education (UCL)
- Arts Award Trainer

### Experience

I work with museums, galleries and natural heritage sites across the country. I have wide experience of helping and supporting organisations to inspire and engage visitors of all ages. I have enabled national, regional and volunteer-led organisations to think creatively about working with their visitors, helping them to develop imaginative learning solutions

In 1998, after gaining experience as a teacher, I became an education officer working in Oxfordshire Museums. In 2001, I moved to Banbury Museum, a brand-new Heritage Lottery funded museum. I formed part of the management team working on developing a new service, taking the lead on education programming, management and evaluation.

I have been a Cultural Heritage Learning Consultant since 2006 and a mentor on the National Lottery Heritage Fund's Register of Support Services since 2013. My experience includes service development for new heritage sites, audience development, evaluation, learning reviews, training, mentoring, resource development and strategic planning work for small and large organisations.

In 2010-11, I worked as a Creative Agent on the Government's Creative Partnership scheme, brokering and managing relationships between schools and creative practitioners and acting as a 'critical friend' to challenge thinking and practice. I have wide experience in planning and carrying out consultation and evaluation for projects and producing evaluation reports.

## Specialisms

- Arts and heritage education
- Audience development
- Evaluation
- Mentoring
- National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) Activity Planning
- Training

“Natalie brought clarity to the project and helped me to understand the requirements of the development phase and how that links to the delivery phase. She simplified a complicated process and helped us to focus on the outputs and deliverables whilst consistently providing sound, sensible advice. Without Natalie’s involvement, we would not have been in a position to submit a bid!”

Royal College of Music Museum

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## Examples of Recent Projects

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**Wiltshire Wildlife Trust:** I led on the development of an Activity Plan and Interpretation Plan to support a successful NLHF bid for the purchase and restoration of chalk grassland priority habitat at Coombe Bissett Down. My role included managing the Activity Planning process, including a review of WWT’s start point (interpretation, people, learning), undertaking comparator research, guiding the strategic decision-making process about engaging people, and creating an inclusive three-year Action Plan to support project delivery.

**Lyme Regis Museum - Mary Anning Wing Project:** Development of an Activity Plan to support a successful NLHF bid. I led on the review of public programmes, learning and engagement activities. My input helped the museum identify the key audiences they wanted to reach and understand why those audiences mattered. This process informed the development of the project’s Activity Plan which set out the museum’s vision for audience engagement and a practical Action Plan for how to achieve it.

**Youth Strategy for Museums Partnership Reading:** I worked with the Learning and Participation teams from Reading Museum and the Museum of English Rural life to lead a strategic planning process. This resulted in the production of a Youth Strategy and Action Plan developed to support the policy landscape of both Reading Borough Council and the University of Reading. The Strategy was developed to enable MPR to reach out from a position of complementary strengths, and to build and deepen engagement with children and young people.

**NLHF Mentoring:** I have supported a wide range of organisations through the development and/or delivery of their projects, including for example: Moving Poppy (Poppy Scotland), Braemar Castle, Sensing Culture (RNIB), Snakes in the Heather (Amphibian and Reptiles Trust), and the EPIC urban chalk restoration project (Ouse and Rivers Trust).