

Gaby Porter+ Associates

I work with people and organisations in the cultural sector to:

- develop policies and programmes where a broad and creative vision is balanced with robust and sustainable solutions
- support organisational and personal learning and development
- assess the impact and effectiveness of clients' work.

I have worked as an independent consultant, with a wide range of clients and projects, since 2000. I often work with other consultants who bring additional expertise. I have many years' experience in museums, heritage and the arts.

Areas of consultancy

- working with organisations to develop the vision, overall strategy and detailed plan for their business and/or projects;
- supporting organisational learning and transformation, and the development of an audience and learning focus;
- undertaking consultation, research and evaluation;
- ICT and web - developing overall strategies which encourage collaboration and creative community; planning projects; advising on funding bids;
- developing and advising on interpretation briefs and strategies to extend access to collections and engage audiences;
- supporting and promoting artists, new makers and creative industries;
- providing mentoring and consultancy to individuals.

How I work

I build a strong and active working relationship with clients to ensure that strategies and programmes are relevant and sustainable, and that clients take full ownership of them. I explore guiding principles and values; share research findings and implications; and work with key staff and stakeholders to develop solutions.

I offer integrity, clarity and flexibility. I approach my work through enquiry and reflective learning.

Fees are variable according to the length of the contract and the work involved. Please contact me directly to discuss your project. I am registered for VAT.

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Clients and projects

Vision, strategy and plan

Museum Leadership Programme, University of East Anglia

Ten-year review, recommendations and programme development, 2003-2004

Wollaton Hall and Park, Nottingham City Council

Developing an overall vision and strategic plan, preparing funding applications to Heritage Lottery Fund and ERDF.

With John Williams, 2000-2001

Sparkling Inspiration: Education Programme Delivery Plan for the East of England hub museums

Consultation and development of a Plan to enhance and extend services for school age children in the East of England region, including advocacy and evaluation. With Anne Murch and Bridget Yates, 2003-2004

Organisational learning, audience focus

Inspiring Learning for All, the Council for Museums, Libraries and Archives (MLA)

Support and advice to MLA and museums, archives and libraries piloting the national framework; resource development.

With Anne Murch, lead consultant, 2002-2004

<http://www.inspiringlearningforall.gov.uk>

Inspiring the Workforce, North West hub museums

Working with the partnership of six leading museums to identify learning and development needs for staff, volunteers and members of governing bodies; developing a 2-year programme to address these needs.

With Anne Murch, 2004

A learning strategy for the Women's Library

Consultation with staff, stakeholders and users to develop a strategy to release the learning potential of the Women's Library.

With Anne Murch, 2004

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The Science Museum

Advice on re-structuring and top team/management team development.
With Anne Murch and Arnie Skelton, Effective Training and Development,
2002-2003

Consultation, research and evaluation

Impact study of Diversify! Positive action traineeships, MLA and the Museums Association

Assessing the impact of the Diversify! Positive action traineeship scheme on individuals and organisations. With Anne Murch, 2004

North West Audience Plan, Arts Council England North West

Developing a strategy for audience development in the region.
With Matthews Millman, 2003-2004

Recommendations for a successor scheme to Sharing Museum Skills, Council for Museums, Libraries and Archives

Recommendations for a successor scheme to the secondment scheme for staff in museums, archives and libraries. With Anne Murch, 2001-2002

Leading networks

Review of the National Museum Directors' Conference leadership initiative.
With Anne Murch, 2004

Web strategy

The 24 Hour Museum/Campaign for Museums and mda

Developing and implementing the Business Plan to build traffic and content, and for the underlying governance, organisation and operation, 2000-2002
<http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk>

A consortium of arts organisations in Manchester

Audit, feasibility study and funding applications to develop a web-based arts portal/ channel for Manchester's arts organisations as a 'creative cluster' project in the context of local, regional and national strategies.
With the Boot Room, 2001-2003

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National Museums Liverpool

Web development strategy, including organisational aspirations and priorities, resources, recommendations for web operations and organisational structure. With the Boot Room, 2003

The National Archives

Developing project proposal, partnership and funding submission to Culture Online for the Domesday Experience, a 3-d learning resource. With Sue Todd, 2004

Manchester City Galleries

Strategy for developing on-line access to collections through narratives, projects and catalogues. With Alice Grant, 2003

Parks and Gardens Data Partnership

Consultation, project and partnership development and Heritage Lottery Fund application. With Alice Grant, 2003-2004

Interpretation and collections

Designation Challenge Fund, Council for Museums, Libraries and Archives (MLA)

Advising Designated museums on their education, interpretation and audience development strategies; assessing grant applications, 2000-2003

Reaching Diverse Audiences: A Review of two English Historic Houses, English Heritage

Review and recommendations for diversity and social inclusion at Kenwood and Chiswick houses. With Helen Coxall, museum language consultant, 2001

Collections Information and Advice, MLA

An overview for the museums domain, 2002

Imperial War Museum – North

Developing local projects with partners and researching histories and collections in the region for inclusion in exhibitions and education programmes, 2000-2001

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Manchester Museum

Consultation with staff and users, recommendations for development of the Discovery Centre, 2002

Supporting and promoting artists, new makers and creative industries

Make Me: North West Arts Board/Liverpool and Manchester Design Initiative

Profiling and promoting the work of new North West designer/makers locally and internationally, through the Make Me programme of events, exhibitions, publications and residencies. With John Williams, 2000 – 2002

Islington Mill, Suite studio group

Feasibility study for artists' workspace and gallery. With John Williams, 2002

Onetree

Curatorial strategy, national tour and education programme for onetree, an exhibition celebrating the diversity of wood as a material.

With John Williams, 2000 - 2002. <http://www.onetree.org.uk>