



The Amelia Scott **Learning Brochure**

Welcome to The Amelia Scott

The Amelia Scott is a multi-purpose, cultural heritage space for Tunbridge Wells filled with historical exhibits, inspirational exhibitions, books and art, providing countless opportunities for inspiring learning.

Our History

The story of The Amelia's Collection began in 1885 when Dr George Abbott launched the Tunbridge Wells Natural History and Philosophical Society with an exhibition of local plants held on the Pantiles. Over the years, the Society's collection grew but for a long time had no permanent home. Amelia Scott, social campaigner and one of the first two women to be elected to the borough

council of Tunbridge Wells, appealed for the provision of a museum for the town but it wasn't until 1954 that the Tunbridge Wells Museum moved into its permanent home in the Civic Centre. It is this site which has recently undergone an exciting redevelopment for a new era, reopening as The Amelia Scott in 2022.



Why organise a school visit to The Amelia Scott?

Museums and cultural spaces provide young people with the opportunity to learn about their own heritage, to be inspired by the ideas of previous generations and to think creatively about the past, present and future. The Amelia

Scott, with its diverse collection of museum objects provides a space where young people can engage tangibly with the many fascinating stories that make Tunbridge Wells a special place to live.



In 2020, Amanda Spielman, Chief inspector for schools stated that: 'A great curriculum gives children the essential knowledge and also builds the cultural capital they need to become well-rounded and informed citizens.' By engaging with our collections, which include objects linked to natural and social history as well as works of art and design, learners of all ages and abilities are able to connect with their local community and respond on a personal level to their own

cultural heritage. Alongside the Ofsted requirement of a "Broad and balanced curriculum", The Amelia's workshops and outreach services are focused on key aspects from the National Curriculum. Our cross curricular opportunities have been developed to identify areas where our Collection can truly enhance students' learning experiences and support a multi-disciplinary approach to learning.

What do our school visitors say?

"What a wonderful morning you had orchestrated for our pupils. It surpassed all my very high expectations. You have really created something very special at The Amelia."

Year 3 The Granville School
(Mechanical Cabaret Temporary exhibition and workshop)

"My class had the best time ever and the learning that took place there was really good."

Year 3 Teacher: The Wells Free School (Fossils and Dinosaurs)

"Your enthusiasm really fed into the children and they were so inspired as a result. Lots went home to research things you had mentioned!"

Year 4 Teacher: St Johns Primary School (Ancient Civilizations)

Stories from the Amelia

Our galleries are designed to tell different stories about Tunbridge Wells. Below are the themes that we have chosen to inspire our learning programme.



Natural History and Ecology

Imagine our area as it was when dinosaurs roamed or when stone-age hunter-gatherers stalked their prey. Find out about the rare plants and animals that still inhabit the High Weald today.

Inspirational people

Be inspired by local residents whose legacy still endures, from social campaigner Amelia Scott, to pioneering engineer David Salomons, to early photographer Thomas Sims.



Local History

Explore the origin story of Tunbridge Wells, from muddy spring to popular spa town. Go further back in time and discover what was here before the spring changed the course of our local history.



Progressive Thinking

Fashionable, radical, progressive and pioneering. All these words have been used to describe Tunbridge Wells over the years. Explore the galleries to find out why!



Traditional Makers and Industry

From clay bricks to intricate wooden 'Tunbridge Ware' souvenirs; from folk art to Subbuteo! The makers and folk artists of our area have enriched our local culture. Find yet more examples as you walk around the Amelia Scott.

Learning Opportunities Primary Schools

All our learning offers are linked to the Amelia's collections, are based on enquiry-led learning and are rooted in the National Curriculum. Our sessions provide unique opportunities for object-handling and inspiring activities to guide pupils as they explore our galleries.

Our workshops

Our onsite sessions are offered free of charge and include the use of the Learning Room. Standard session times are 90mins.

Playtime Past

Topic: History

In this session, pupils look at the changing nature of toys over the past 150 years. As they handle toys from The Amelia's collection, pupils explore the materials they are made from, how they work, who might have played with them and whether we still play with such toys today. Pupils also think about why we play and what toys can teach us about the world.

Suggested age group: EYFS/ KS1

Dinosaurs and Fossils

Topic: History and Science

In this session, pupils are cast as palaeontologists and set out to explore the galleries for clues about what the world was like millions of years ago. The class have the exciting opportunity to handle a range of fossils from The Amelia's collection and investigate how they were made and what they tell us about the past. The highlight of the object handling is the thrilling opportunity to handle a fossil from a local dinosaur: Iguanodon!

Suggested age group: KS1/2

Evolution and adaptation

Topic: Science

In this session, pupils consider the effects of the environment on animal adaptations. They search for clues that might provide evidence of evolution, including hunting down our peppered moths - the insect used as evidence to support Darwin's theory. Children explore a range of fossils, bones and taxidermy in order to support their learning of the process of evolution. The session concludes with an interactive decision-making game to find out if they can help an animal adapt to survive.

Suggested age group: KS2

Pre-History: From Stone Age to Iron Age

Topic: History

In this session, pupils are cast as archaeologists, exploring the galleries for clues about what life was like in the Stone Age through to the Iron Age, with a particular focus on our local area. Pupils have the opportunity to handle pre-historic artefacts and use their enquiry skills to identify and understand the significance of key developments in human progress across pre-history.

Suggested age group: KS2

Inspirational People (Local History)

Topic: History

In this session, pupils explore the galleries to find out about a variety of inspirational characters who are part of our local story, including social campaigner Amelia Scott, innovator David Salomons and 'influencer', Richard Beau Nash. Pupils uncover fascinating facts about key figures and decide who they consider to have been the most influential and why. The session concludes with children considering what they can do to inspire those around them and selecting three objects they would choose to represent them.

Suggested age group: KS1/2

Past Times in the Wells (Local History)

Topic: History

In this session, pupils discover how life in our local area has changed over time. Pupils explore the galleries to find out what life was like here 400 years ago when the town was born, how it had changed by the time Princess Victoria was visiting 200 years ago and why children from the East End of London would spend their summer holidays here 100 years ago! Pupils also explore a series of artefacts spanning the town's history and use them to create their own timeline of Tunbridge Wells.

Suggested age group: KS2

Navigating the Wells

Topic: History / Geography

In this session, pupils find out how and why the geography of our area developed as it did. They use grid references to discover the ways Tunbridge Wells has changed over time, explore the galleries to find out about the main industries that shaped our town and have the exciting opportunity to visit the archive and explore old maps to learn how the natural environment has shaped our local area.

Suggested age group: KS2

Our Georgian Past

Topic: History, Textiles

In this session, pupils are introduced to how the elite of Tunbridge Wells dressed during the Georgian period. They learn the ingredients used in makeup and how ladies made their hair so big! They have the opportunity to interact with some of our Georgian collection, try on replica stays (corsets) and a hoop petticoat and learn how to communicate through 'The Language of the Fan'. Pupils also have an opportunity to explore our Georgian Spa Gallery and sketch some of the beautiful dresses and waistcoats from the era.

Suggested age group: KS1/2

Our Victorian Past

Topic: History

In this session, pupils explore a range of Victorian artefacts (including some mystery objects!) and consider what they can tell us about life 150 years ago. The artefacts serve as springboards for exploring wider topics, including differences in technology, education and the lives of children. Pupils also have the chance to explore the galleries to make more discoveries about our Victorian past, as well as finding out why our area has a special connection to Queen Victoria herself!

Suggested age group: KS1/2

Tunbridge Wells During World War Two

Topic: History

In this session, pupils consider the lives of ordinary people living in Tunbridge Wells during WW2. They learn how public information films were used to help people prepare for life during wartime and take part in activities around museum objects which help them understand the impact the war had on people like themselves. They also study maps to find out which were the safest and most dangerous places in wartime Tunbridge Wells. Finally, pupils test their knowledge with a fun interactive quiz.

Suggested age group: KS2

Portraiture

Topic: Art/ History

In this session, pupils learn how to study portraits. As they explore the galleries, looking at a number of the paintings in our collection, they consider the reasons why they were painted and think about how portraits were used to communicate key ideas about the sitter. Students make their own sketches and drawings of some of the paintings in the collection and consider how they would like an artist to portray them.

Suggested age group: Upper KS1/KS2



Outreach and Digital

Outreach: The following sessions can be booked as 60 mins outreach sessions, are delivered in your classroom by a member of our dedicated Learning Team and include object handling. Outreach sessions are charged at £75 per class.

Key Stage One

Playtime Past

The Age of the Dinosaurs

Discovering a Victorian Past

Discovering the Story of Tunbridge Wells

Key Stage Two

The Age of the Dinosaurs (option to include maths skills for Years 4-6)

Pre-history: from Stone to Iron

The Ancients: Egypt, Greece & Rome

Exploring a Victorian Past

Exploring the Story of Tunbridge Wells

Digital: The following remote/digital sessions are available to be booked free of charge.

Key Stage One

Lord North and the Spring

Topic: History, English and (pre-session) Art & Design

Session duration: 30-40mins

In this session, pupils join in the interactive storytelling of how Lord North's discovery of the chalybeate spring when he visited our area in 1606 led to the birth of the town of Tunbridge Wells.

The session is made up of two parts:

1. Pupils watch a two-minute pre-session film and make props inspired by items in The Amelia's collection, ready for the storytelling.
2. Pupils take part in a live, remote storytelling session on Microsoft Teams, featuring images of items in The Amelia's collection.

Key Stage Two

Amelia Who?

Topic: History and English

In this session, pupils use their enquiry skills to find out about Amelia Scott (1860-1952) - local suffragist, first female councillor for Tunbridge Wells and campaigner for the people of our local area.

The session works like a project pack, with two short films featuring 'Amelia Scott' (a presenter in character), sets of evidence for pupils to explore and the opportunity for the class to write to Amelia Scott at the Town Hall with all their questions – and to receive a personalised reply!

A follow-up session on site at The Amelia Scott can be booked in addition to the digital session.



Arts Award Discover at the Amelia

Arts Award Discover is the start of the Arts Award adventure. It takes children and young people on an artistic journey as they explore the arts all around them, investigate different art forms, research an artist, and then share their discoveries with others.

As well as developing their knowledge and understanding of the arts, Arts Award Discover boosts children's creativity, curiosity, confidence, and communication skills.

Discover in a Day: George Smart, The Tailor of Frant

The day begins with a tour of the Amelia Scott building, with pupils exploring the galleries and community spaces searching for evidence of the arts. They return to the Learning Room to begin work on their Arts Award journals, drawing pictures and writing descriptions of art activities that they enjoy and have taken part in. After a short break, they are introduced to George Smart, The Tailor of Frant, (or Professor of Peculiar Arts, as he preferred to be known!). They learn about his life and work through studying his art and poetry.

After lunch, pupils create their own art work inspired by the work of George Smart. Using a mixed methods approach, pupils invent their very own colourful character, made of fabric and materials and arrange them onto their own watercolour background.

Before leaving, pupils reflect on the learning they have done and share their work with the group, explaining what they have enjoyed, what they have found difficult and what they would like to know more about.

All students who take part and complete their journals will be awarded a certificate from Trinity College London, (these are charged at £4/ child).

If you would like to know more about the Arts Award programme, please visit <https://www.artsaward.org.uk/> or speak to a member of the Learning Team at the Amelia.



Year 4 Children from Rotherfield Primary enjoying taking part in Discover in a Day at The Amelia.



The Amelia Learning Team awarding Year 4 children their Arts Award Discover certificates.

"The children were taken on a journey and immersed in the arts. They reflected on how they use the arts already. They could make own assumptions using first hand evidence and they could apply the skills seen in the work in their own work. The children were proud of their work and this day really fostered a love of the arts."

Year 4 teacher, Rotherfield Primary School

Secondary Schools and Colleges

We are keen to work with secondary schools and colleges but appreciate the difficulties that can come with organising a school trip for this age group, from curriculum constraints to transport and timetabling issues and so are keen to ensure that what we offer is both relevant and useful for students and teachers alike. As a result, we would encourage any teacher who is considering organising a trip to speak with a member of the Learning Team to discuss their individual needs.

We have a wealth of information linking to local history, geography and art and are able to arrange for experts in their field to speak with students on these topics. We can also come into your school to take part in assemblies or speak at careers events.

We also offer the chance for young people to visit the museum collection store to learn about some of the objects in our collection that are not available to members of the public.

For an example of what a day at The Amelia can look like for secondary school groups, see our Case Study section.



“The sessions were really well resourced and run for our children: how are you feeling 'starter', visual timetable, choices of activities, time to talk and settle and even fidget items.”

KS2 teacher, Meadows Schools (SEND)



SEND at the Amelia

We pride ourselves on our inclusive approach to all our learning activities and have worked in consultation with different organisations and experts in the field of SEND in museum learning to ensure that all students are welcomed and able to engage with our sessions.



A Place for Everyone

Sensory backpacks are available for students who may feel intimidated by a visit to a large public space and include visual timetables, fidget items, sand timers, ear defenders, a torch, magnifying glass and a small teddy. These are available for any student to use during their visit with us.

A No-Stress Experience

Our staff are trained in the delivery of the Arts Award for SEND and have also received Makaton Level 2 training.



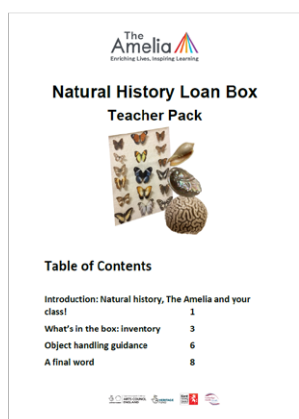
We are happy to discuss any needs that your students may have and will aim to work with you to ensure that your visit with us is a stress-free and enjoyable experience.



Loans Boxes

Handling objects allows students to create tangible links with the past and with the world beyond their own scope of experience and fosters a climate of curiosity, creativity and open inquiry.

The objects included in the Amelia's Loans Boxes have been specially selected by the Learning Team to encourage students to interact meaningfully and creatively with the objects they contain.



Natural History Loan Box

Our Natural History Loan Box includes a range of beautiful butterflies, a selection of shells (gastropods and bivalves) and some fascinating coral. This loan box is ideal for cross-curricular learning and comes with a Teacher Pack which includes a fact file, activity ideas and guidance for object handling.

Price £50/ Half term



Inspiration Loans Boxes (x2)

Our Inspiration Loans Boxes contain a range of objects from our collection which have been specially selected to encourage students to use their imaginations and to think creatively. The boxes are accompanied by a Teacher Pack full of creative thinking activity ideas.

Price £50/ Half term

We can also offer a facilitated session in your school for an additional £75



Digital Loan Box including Arts Award

As well as our physical loans boxes, we offer an innovative digital loan box, called Crafty Collections, which includes the opportunity for pupils to complete their Arts Award Discover.

Each week teachers will receive a private YouTube link to a video showcasing an object from our Natural History collection, followed by a demonstration of a related craft activity. The videos have been developed in line with National Curriculum requirements and are accompanied by a Teacher Resource Pack. An Arts Award workbook is available for students to use as they complete their award. In the final week, we will arrange to visit schools with the objects and lead a one-hour object handling session.

Price: £75 (basic package)

Arts Award Discover upgrade (including certification) +£150 for up to 30 students

£4 for each additional student in your class

We will be expanding our Loan Box offer during the year. Keep an eye on our website for updates!



Rainbows, Beavers, Cubs, Brownies, Guides and Scouts

We offer workshops especially designed to help your groups achieve their badges.

Current sessions include the **Book Lover Badge** and **Local History Badge**.

If you would like to book a session for either of these or would like to discuss a workshop to help your group achieve a different badge, please get in touch with the Learning Team.

Sessions are charged at £37.50 for an hour, which includes a 30mins self-led gallery visit and a 30mins facilitated activity.

Please note, an additional charge for out of hours sessions will apply.





Case Study 1:

A Day at the Amelia - Mascalls Academy

"The Amelia Scott is well worth visiting - it regularly showcases different aspects of its collection based on current events, and offers an amazing space to work in, as many of our Sixth Formers will attest."

Teacher – Mascalls Academy

In March 2023 we welcomed students from Mascalls Academy for an enrichment day at The Amelia...

The aims of the day were to give students from Years 8-11 working together the opportunity:

- to learn about the role and function of a museum and archive
- to explore our galleries and get 'behind the scenes' access to our collections
- to consider some of the ethical implications of museum collections

The day began with idea-sharing about the purpose of a museum, with students challenged to think about ethical issues currently being scrutinised within the sector (and beyond) such as who 'owns' the past and whether objects should be returned to their country of origin.

Working in smaller groups, students were then taken down into our Collections Store where members of the Collections Team gave them a special tour with access to areas not usually open to the public and our Collections Librarian gave them an introduction to the Archive.

The students were also given the chance to explore the galleries for themselves, completing a series of selfie challenges which directed their focus, evidenced their findings and were the cause of much hilarity!

The day ended with a quiz and prizes for the winning team!

"I can connect today to my work at school because I can use some of the artefact knowledge I have acquired that might be useful in history and maybe even science."
Caitlin, Year 8

"The biggest controversy museums today are facing is repatriation, and if it is right or not." Emily, Year 9



Case Study 2:

Kids in Museums Takeover day with Meadows School

"Thank you so much giving our students such a wonderful opportunity. They really enjoyed it and were so proud of their curated cabinet. We will return to admire it!"

KS2 teacher – Meadows School (SEND)

On 18th November 2022 we celebrated Kids in Museums Takeover Day...



Kids in Museums work with museums, heritage sites and cultural organisations nationwide to make them more welcoming for children, young people and families. **Takeover Day** is a national event in which museums, galleries and other historic sites invite young people in to take over jobs normally done by adults. Since Takeover began in 2010, over 40,000 children and young people have taken part!

For Takeover Day at the Amelia, we invited the children from Meadows School to join us as artists and curators for the morning. The children explored a range of museum objects, some manmade and some from the natural world.

They handled the objects and explored the shapes, textures and colours before choosing one object they were particularly drawn to. We then gave the children pebbles to paint and they created beautiful works of art inspired by their museum object.

The next step was for the children to curate their creations. They wrote labels for their artworks and then took ownership of a museum cabinet, making decisions as a group about where their objects should be positioned and how their labels should be displayed.

The Meadows School display was in the front entrance of The Amelia Scott for three months and our own curators passed on their compliments to the children for a beautifully curated cabinet!

"It was fun!" Cillian

"I felt proud of my work going on display." Isaac

"I didn't know what a curator did before but I do now." Archie-Lee

"I would like to do another display!" Jack

For Teachers

School Partnerships

We are constantly looking for ways to support schools with our collections and themes. During your visit, if you notice something that sparks your imagination that you think would benefit your students outside of our core programme, please speak to one of our team. We are keen to form partnerships with local teachers and schools and would love the opportunity to work on projects with you on a short/ mid/ or long-term basis.



Preview Events

During the year, we offer exclusive preview events for school staff to visit our temporary exhibitions to learn about the installations and ask our team questions. We will email schools with details of the exhibition prior to the launch so that it can be disseminated to relevant staff members. This is to ensure an interdisciplinary approach can be taken.

Schools Newsletter

We send out our Schools Newsletter once a term. The newsletter contains learning programme updates, as well as information about exhibitions, curator talks, library sessions and the theatre programme.

If you would like to sign up to receive our Newsletter or are interested in being involved with any of the opportunities above, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at:

Learningattheamelia@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Theatre:

The theatre aims to provide entertainment for everyone. Ranging from stand-up comedy, to musicals, dramas and productions for children. There are a number of talks and tours available that relate to a multitude of skills required to work in the theatre or arts industry.

How to produce a show

How does a theatre operate, how do you light a stage, organise the sound, build a set, fit in an orchestra?

Insights into marketing

How to market an entertainment product? What are the fun and engaging tools we use to make people aware of the shows at the theatre?

Digital tools

What digital devices and platforms are used in the theatre? Ranging from social media to sales websites and video production.

Panto is also always the biggest event of the year!



Library:

The adults' and children's libraries at The Amelia Scott are integrated into our learning programme and we encourage and support schools to take advantage of all that they offer. This could be by taking out school library membership which, among other advantages, allows you to borrow up to fifty books at a time. We have extensive fiction and non-fiction collections covering all genres, levels and ages. Our e-resources are an excellent resource giving, for example, access to millions of pages from current and historical newspapers and magazines from the UK and abroad. There are also tens of thousands of e-books that library members can download.

We can include an introduction to the most relevant aspects of the library service when you visit us.

To find out more about the library in Tunbridge Wells contact Stephen Wickens, Collection Development Librarian, at stephen.wickens@tunbridgewells.gov.uk



Exhibitions:

The Amelia has three temporary exhibitions per year, held in the purpose built Temporary Exhibition Space. Past exhibitions have included, Henry Moore: Threads of Influence, Cabaret Mechanical Marvels, Body Beautiful and Leviathan by Kelly Richardson. The exhibitions range in scope from exhibitions that focus on one large artwork to exhibitions that feature several objects and focus on a moment in history or a particular theme. The exhibitions at The Amelia are free to enter and view.

We welcome and encourage school visits to the exhibitions in the Temporary Exhibition Space at The Amelia. Curator Talks are available to schools and teachers but must be booked in advance to ensure the availability of Curators.

We will be hosting private teacher openings at the start of each new exhibition that will include a chance for teachers to learn about the installation and exhibition and discuss opportunities for school visits. These events will be advertised on our website and via social media.



Bookings:

To book any of our school sessions or outreach visits, please contact us at Learningattheamelia@tunbridgewells.gov.uk, including the following details:

- Session(s)
- Preferred Dates
- In house or outreach session preferred
- Year group
- Number of students

We aim to provide a fully inclusive service for all our young visitors, so please also let us know if any of your pupils have SEND or access needs that we can help support to ensure all participants make the most of their session.

We have two time slots available each day for onsite learning sessions: 10.00-11.30am and 1.30-3.00pm. To arrange a visit to start at a different time, please include details when you make your initial inquiry.

All our on-site sessions remain free of charge and our outreach will continue to be charged at £75/ class.

Please note that the Learning Team are unavailable for facilitated sessions on Mondays. Should you wish to visit on this day, please contact us and we will discuss options for a self-led visit.

During last academic year we experienced high levels of enquiries and would ask that you contact us at least six weeks before your planned visit to avoid disappointment. Please also note that we are unable to hold unconfirmed dates for longer than two weeks, after which time your date may be re-released.



Hands-on
Experiences

Enriching
Lives

Inspiring
Learning

Unique
Collections

Fascinating
Stories

A note on Risk assessments:

Prior to bringing your group to The Amelia Scott, we would recommend that you undertake a site visit to enable you to create your own Risk Assessment. In order to help you, please note the following:

- All activities for schools and educational groups have been planned and designed with full consideration of risks.
 - All Learning Team staff members have been appropriately vetted and DBS checked.
 - Risk assessments are completed for all new work and activities within The Amelia.
 - When planning gallery tours, potential trip hazards are identified and excluded.
 - Equipment and resources for school visits and activities are ordered and selected with a view to safety. All items are used to manufacturer's guidance.
 - All electrical equipment is regularly checked.
 - Fire exits are clearly marked and staff are trained in evacuation procedures.
 - Children remain the responsibility of teachers and other accompanying adults at all times.
 - Uniformed staff can be called on should you require first aid.
 - Should a child become separated from your group, speak to a uniformed member of staff immediately.
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Whilst we endeavour to minimise risk and ensure that all visitors are safe, it should be noted that the welfare of all students remains the responsibility of teachers and school support staff accompanying the visit. It is for this reason that we ask you to adhere to our adult-child ratios when planning your visit. These ratios are:

- Nursery (3-4 yrs): 1:4
- Reception & KS1 1:5
- KS2 (Years 3-5) 1:10
- KS2 (Year 6) 1:15

Contact details

For all workshop bookings and enquiries regarding our learning programme, including library and exhibition visits, please contact the Learning Team at learningattheamelia@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

For library visits please also copy in: Stephen.Wickens@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk

For enquiries about temporary exhibition opportunities for schools please also include: edward.liddle@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

For all theatre enquires or to discuss a school theatre booking please contact: GroupBookings@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk

For all other enquires regarding services at the Amelia please email: info@theamelia.gov.uk

Social Media

Twitter: [@theamelia_tw](https://twitter.com/theamelia_tw)

Facebook: [@theameliatunbridgewells](https://www.facebook.com/theameliatunbridgewells)

Youtube: [@theamelia7744](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtheamelia7744)

Instagram: [@theamelia_tw](https://www.instagram.com/theamelia_tw)

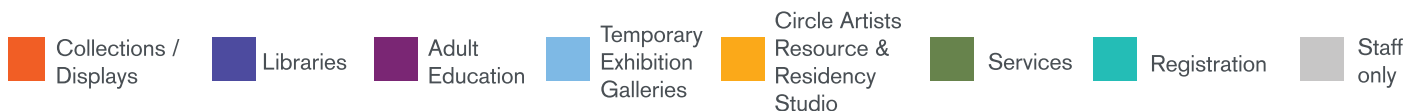
Visitor Map

Ground floor



Artists Commissions

1. James Tunnard: Spectrum
2. Angus Ross: Fountain Seating
3. Eksait Design with Sebastian Cox Studio: Kinetic Woven Sculpture
4. Adam Chodzko: Holding the Earth *This Way*
5. Tim Ward: A-Flow
6. Catriona Rowbotham: The Amelia Curated Courtyard
7. Alex Fox: Iron in the Weald



First floor



Second floor



