

## **WMMP 2015-18, Year 1, Quarter 1**

The first three months have seen the West Midlands Museum Partnership (WMMP) recruit staff to the following key roles required to successfully run the three year programme:

- MPM Project Manager
- Two Development Managers,
- Two Strategic Audience Development Managers

as well as seven Trainees, and two Apprentices.

A Project Board has also been formed to support the running of the programme. This Board draws experience from across the museum sector, and includes Diane Lees, Director General of Imperial War Museums; Tim Bryan, Head of Collections & Interpretation of the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust; a Council Member of the Association of Independent Museums; as well as the Chief Executives of each partner museum and a member of each partners' board of trustees.

We've listed the key developments for the first quarter below, arranged by Arts Council England's 5 goals.

**Goal 1: Excellence is thriving and celebrated in the arts, museums and libraries**

June 2015 saw the partnership go out to tender for a contemporary arts commission, interpreting the Designated Collections of both Black Country Living Museum and Coventry Transport Museum. We hope to select the successful Arts Organisation for the commission in September this year and we're delighted to have Darren Pih, Curator for Tate Liverpool, joining us on the selection panel. The successful organisation will work with the partnership up until 31 March 2018.

**Goal 2: Everyone has the opportunity to experience and to be inspired by the arts, museums and libraries**

Both organisations have recruited a Strategic Audience Development Manager and work is already underway to better engage with the underrepresented groups in our local communities and make sure that our audiences are representative of the diversity of contemporary England.

**Goal 3: The arts, museums and libraries are resilient and environmentally sustainable**

We have started the process of putting in place mentor opportunities across the partner organisations and the museums sector in the Midlands as a whole with the aim of strengthening the current knowledge and expertise within the sector.

**Goal 4: The leadership and workforce in the arts, museums and libraries are diverse and appropriately skilled**

The Museums and Resilient Leadership Course (MRL) began its first year under the MPM programme in May, with a cohort formed of sixteen successful applicants. Each member of the cohort will be mentored by a member of the MRL team, as well as joining each other on away days covering areas of resilience within the museum sector.

**Goal 5: Every child and young person has the opportunity to experience the richness of the arts, museums and libraries**

Partnerships have been built with local schools and colleges, as well as fellow museum sector organisations. A project is underway to bring the museum's collections to life via the use of tablets.