

Quotes from Staff Ambassadors 2015

“Staff Ambassadors has been very inspiring and a lot of fun. It has been great for me, particularly as I am quite new to GL and tend to work on my own quite a bit. It’s been great to meet all the lovely people from across GL but also to experience what goes on within the other parts of the museum – not something I do often”
(Museum Ambassador)

“I am trying to make the most of this opportunity and I am enjoying being part of a wider group of people that I have never worked with before, there really is so much to learn and it’s definitely a new way of thinking for me.”
(Museum Ambassador)

“I’m really enjoying the programme and looking forward to our next Action Learning Set. I’ve particularly enjoyed being given the freedom to explore other areas and ways of working without anything feeling too prescriptive.” (Communities Ambassador)

“After being on the Ambassador programme, it inspired me to continue learning – I am now on another programme run by the National Association of Gallery Education: <http://engage.org/Extend.aspx> it is interesting that one of the elements of this also focuses upon coaching skills, we had a session and I was lucky that I had already had taken part in the coaching course as part of the Ambassadors Programme it gave me a good grounding.” (Previous Museums Ambassador)

“The programme has been thought-provoking so far and is challenging me in new ways – one challenge is, surprisingly, learning to slow down! Having some time feels very luxurious; I was chatting to a staff member about ways we can try to realistically translate what we’re learning into our every day jobs. There have been lots of interesting conversations going on outside of the SA sessions too.” (Museums Ambassador)

“I’m thoroughly enjoying the programme so far and meeting colleagues from across areas and services. It’s helping to keep me motivated at an uncertain time during the forthcoming Communities and Libraries restructure.” (Communities Ambassador)

“I’ve actually just got back after taking part in a briefing session at Riverside Museum. It was great to get the opportunity to see how other teams work to generate ideas. The Ambassadors programme has been fantastic for finding inspiration.” (Communities Ambassador)

“Really enjoying the experience and the support of group” (Museums Ambassador)

“I am getting a lot out of the programme – meeting other people is so refreshing and I am particularly getting a lot of the coaching!” (Museums Ambassador)

“The Action Learning Sets have bonded us as a group, broken down barriers that may have previously existed and the inputs and support we have been able to provide to each other have been so useful. I’m definitely going to miss these sessions once we complete the programme.” (Communities Ambassador)

Quotes from staff involved in developing the Staff Ambassadors Programme

“Being involved in the project team who planned the next cohort of Staff Ambassadors has been a very rewarding experience for me, both personally and professionally.

I volunteered to do this to continue my own involvement with the SA programme, and to utilise and develop my project planning experience. It also offered the opportunity to work directly with colleagues from the Communities team, which is directly relevant to the next cohort. I also co-chaired the programming group and it was satisfying to see the programme elements come together and be presented to the new cohort at the induction. As my role changed and I’m now managing the design section and one of the new cohort of Ambassadors, I was also directly involved with ensuring the programme materials were produced on time and are to a high quality standard. I enjoyed the manager’s induction and the time I spent with the new cohort at their induction as it reinforces the support network that exists amongst ambassadors past and present. Although the project team was created to carry out a specific task, I feel that it has widened my network of colleagues and working relationships again, in the way that being part of the first cohort of Ambassadors did.”

(Staff member 1)

“When I was asked to assist with the planning of the first joint Museums and Communities 2015 Ambassadors Programme I wasn’t quite sure what to expect, although I was intrigued enough to say yes, this became a definite YES especially after visiting the Facewall Exhibition produced by the previous year’s Museum cohorts at the Burrell Collection. On speaking to some of the previous Museum cohorts I learned a lot about the ethos behind the programme and the potential learning outcomes. I was also impressed that the programme was planned months in advanced and the dates for the full programme would be established for the year ahead to allow participants to plan in advance and make an informed decision whether taking part would be an option, due to the level of commitment required.

I knew at this point I wanted to be involved in some way or another, whether it would be as a participant or involved in helping out as a workplace coach. As my involvement grew and developed from assisting in the planning of the Induction Day, to assisting in the development of the Learning Logs and then the opportunity to deliver my own workshop on Emotional Intelligence, it became clear that I would gain just as much self-learning and experience from playing a greater role in assisting in delivering the programme, as I would participating as a cohort. With the decision made not to take part as a participant, further opportunities were made available under the guidance of other staff members; I am now also leading on the Action Learning Sets Induction Day and providing coaching support to two of the Museum Cohorts for the duration of the programme.

Overall I’m looking forward to seeing the 2015 Ambassadors cohorts learn and develop together over the coming months and seeing what joint outcomes are achieved from the paired projects. As for me I have a greater involvement to manage and organise, but what an opportunity the Ambassadors Programme has provided me. I am grateful of the challenge and excited to be supporting and growing alongside the new cohorts and seeing what opportunities are next around the corner of the Ambassadors Programme Journey...”

(Staff member 2)

“Working on this project has been a really positive experience for me, it has allowed me to spend my time and energy working on something which I genuinely believe in. The project work has kept me going through some

difficult and uncertain times at work as it has lots of positive energy and action around it. Having the work coming to fruition now with the Induction sessions just done is a great feeling as we can see the hard work paying off with the new cohort excited and eager to participate. My motivation at work has increased as a result of being part of the project team which has a knock-on effect to my other remits within the company.”

(Staff member 3)