

Slough Museum

Funded in round 2, March 2010

Main Fund grant - £10,000

In partnership with local organisations Slough museum worked with their underused photographic and film collection to increase community access and engagement. The project saw local students curate their own exhibitions and hold reminiscence sessions with older visitors.

Eleanor Pulfer, Curator, Slough Museum:

The project enabled slough Museum to work with its underused collection of photographs and films, transforming the collection's value through increased community access and engagement and gifting the Museum a greater understanding of the amazing potential of the collection.

Through partnership with The Langley Academy, Age Concern, Creative Junction and the Wessex Film and Sound Archive, the project has empowered local students to engage with the collection and curate their own exhibition, facilitated dialogue with older people through reminiscence sessions, encouraged young people to present their vision for Slough's future and inspired by images of Slough's past, and enabled the film collection to be digitised.

In addition to the considerable increase in access and engagement, significant and sustainable benefits to the Museum include increased collections knowledge, revised copyright, loan, and collection policies, learning resources and a digitised film collection. The project also influenced the Museum's thinking on loans to non-Museums, dispelling previous concerns. The success of the project has also inspired the Museum's current HLF funded 'Slough Satellites' project which empowers community groups to curate their own exhibitions across Slough.

Another significant legacy is strengthened partnerships, most notably with The Langley Academy. As the only school in the country to deliver museum learning across the curriculum, The Academy and Museum share an aspiration to increase students' exploration and understanding of their local heritage. Inspired by the successful loans of photographs, a museum display case is now on long-term loan at The Academy with objects from the museum's collection displayed on rotation.

In a town which has acquired such a negative image, project partners understood the importance of increasing a sense of place and more importantly a pride of place for local people. Engaging with Slough Museum's photographic and film collection has been an amazing opportunity for local people to do just that.

www.sloughmuseum.org/activity-archive/effective-collections