

Shared Island GLAM Programme Training and Workshops

■ Call for Participants

Window: 6-30 October 2026



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Shared Island
Initiative



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



IRISH
MUSEUMS
ASSOCIATION

■ The Shared Island GLAM Programme

The Shared Island GLAM Programme is a five-year all-island initiative led by the Heritage Council and delivered in partnership with the Irish Museums Association.

Funded through the Shared Island initiative, the programme aims to strengthen collaboration, visibility and public engagement across not-for-profit galleries, libraries, archives and museums (GLAM) in Ireland and Northern Ireland, while supporting a deeper understanding of shared cultural heritage.

Through collaborative project funding, professional development and networking opportunities, mentorship and exchange programmes, and an annual GLAM Awards programme from 2027, the initiative will strengthen relationships across the GLAM sector, encourage knowledge-sharing and innovation, recognise excellence, and help build a stronger and more connected cultural heritage sector across the island.

The GLAM Programme forms part of the Heritage Council's wider programme of Shared Island initiatives, which also includes the Shared Island Heritage Networks Programme and an annual all-island conference for heritage professionals.

■ Call for Participants

The Irish Museums Association invites colleagues across the all-island GLAM sector to take part in the Shared Island GLAM Programme Training and Workshops strand for 2026.

This suite of free training opportunities will bring together a group of practitioners from the not-for-profit collection-focused GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums) sector in Ireland and Northern Ireland for an interactive and applied online training programme on the theme of Shared Authority in Practice. While participants are encouraged to participate in all four training sessions, participation in individual sessions is also possible.

The programme's focus is to support GLAM practitioners to examine who is represented in their collections and programmes, who participates in their work, and how to ensure community participation is represented in decision-making within their organisations.

About the Shared Island GLAM Training and Workshops Programme

This training programme forms part of a wider GLAM Training and Workshops strand, delivered by the IMA in partnership with the Heritage Council under the Shared Island GLAM Programme, a programme of training, workshops and shared learning opportunities designed to support professional development, capacity building and knowledge-sharing across the GLAM sector.

The wider strand addresses a range of topics and transferable skills, including inclusive curating, conflict sensitivity, colonial legacies and community engagement, alongside other practical and professional topics relevant to the sector. Delivered through a mixture of in-person and online events across Ireland and Northern Ireland, the strand will also support the joint development of tools and resources and provides regular networking opportunities for practitioners in eligible GLAM organisations.

Who's it for

We welcome participation from colleagues working across the not-for-profit collection-focused GLAM sector in Ireland or Northern Ireland who are interested in professional development, enhancing their organisation's approach to shared authority, and exploring alternative approaches to community participation in their collections and programming.

Eligible organisations may include:

- **Galleries** or art museums with permanent or heritage collections.
- **Libraries** with special collections, local studies, rare book, photographic, manuscript, or other significant heritage collections.
- **Archives** and record-holding bodies, such as national, local authority, academic, or religious bodies; specialist repositories for subject-specific collections, digital cultural heritage, folklife, community archives, and oral histories.
- **Museums**, including national, regional, local, independent, and specialist museums, such as historic houses, that meet the Heritage Council or IMA definition of museums.

What's involved

The theme for the GLAM Programme Training Programme is **Shared Authority in Practice**, with this initial year of the programme explores **Foundations – Participation and Exclusion**, asking: What is social inclusion in our sector? Who's missing, and why? How do we know?

The programme comprises four online training sessions delivered from November to December 2026. While participation in the complete programme will give participants a wider benefit and learning in this thematic area, each of the sessions can work as a standalone training activity.

This training is provided free of charge.

Programme overview

Session 1 – Tuesday 3 November 10:00am-12:00pm

Not for the likes of you (*Thrive*)

Who is inclusion really for, and how do we know? Participants test their assumptions against the evidence, examining the everyday signals - language, buildings, collections - that tell some people an institution isn't for them.

Session 2 – Thursday 12 November 10:00am-12:00pm

Follow the power (*Thrive, with guest speaker Laura Patrick, UNTOLD Museum*)

Who really makes the decisions when community work is called co-created? Participants trace a real project from their own organisation to map where genuine decision-making power sits.

Session 3 – Thursday 26 November 10:00am-1:00pm

Facilitation & Communications (*Rhizome*)

Practical facilitation and communication skills for inclusive, participatory work. This session introduces the tools to put Sessions 1 and 2 into practice with colleagues and communities but can be useful as an independent session also.

Session 4 – Wednesday 2 December 10:00am-12:00pm

The barriers inside the building (*Thrive, with guest speaker Lisa Rea Currie, Community Heritage Facilitator*)

Beyond cost and access: funding cycles, workforce, risk culture and gaps in collections. Participants complete a barrier audit and bring the programme together into one organisational self-assessment.

Programme Outputs

On completion of this training programme, participants will have undertaken a self-assessment or audit of their institution in relation to participation and exclusion. Each participant will have created:

- A participation map, showing access points, drop-off points, and levels of participation (token involvement through to genuine decision-making power)
- An institutional barrier audit, covering physical, financial, cultural and emotional barriers, tailored to their own organisation type
- A recorded comparison of assumptions versus evidence within their organisation's community engagement
- At least one practical facilitation or communications technique applied to their own organisational context.

Programme participants will also have access to an online toolkit, developed as part of this programme, to support their community engagement and audience-building activities beyond the training sessions.

Programme Outcomes

Participants can identify who is and isn't represented in their programmes, distinguish token from genuine participation. Those who participate will also be able to separate assumption from evidence when assessing barriers within their own organisation, and will have practical facilitation and communication skills to apply in inclusive, participatory work.

Participants who engage with the complete programme will leave with a completed institutional self-assessment, including a participation map, barrier audit and assumptions-vs-evidence record and a clear, prioritised starting point for action.

Delivered by

Thrive brings a direct, evidence-led approach to audience development, inclusion and participation work in the cultural sector. They help organisations move past well-meaning language to an honest look at their audiences and consider how they can be inclusive and representative. Sessions combine practical self-assessment tools with live sector experience, including guest practitioners Laura Patrick (UNTOLD Museum) and Lisa Rea Currie.

Rhizome is a cooperative of facilitators, trainers and community organisers working across the UK and Ireland. Founded in 2010 and run on a non-hierarchical, consensus-based model, they specialise in facilitation and organisational development for the not-for-profit and community sector. Their particular strength is co-facilitation and participatory methods suited to organisations building more inclusive practice.

What's included

- Four online training sessions
- Guest contributions from Laura Patrick (UNTOLD Museum) and Lisa Rea Currie
- Access to an online toolkit developed as part of the programme.

What we ask

Participants are invited to:

- Contribute to discussions and exchange
- Complete the practical elements of the programme course work during training sessions
- Reflect on how learning can be applied in their own organisations
- Share brief feedback following the training programme via a one-page form.

While participants are encouraged to participate in all four training sessions, participation in individual sessions is also possible.

How to register

To register for this training programme, please complete the registration form for the training session(s) you would like to participate in.

Deadline: 30 October 2026.

[Register here for Session 1:](#) *Not for the likes of you – Who is inclusion really for, and how do we know?*

[Register here for Session 2:](#) *Follow the power - Power in decision-making*

[Register here for Session 3:](#) *Facilitation and communications*

[Register here for Session 4:](#) *The barriers inside the building*

Queries can be directed to:

Susan Heffernan, IMA Programme Manager: Projects at projects@irishmuseums.org