

Gender Action Plan 2006/7

Introduction

Manchester City Galleries manages the City's flagship visual arts venue, Manchester Art Gallery, which re-opened in May 2002 following a four-year period of closure and a £35M expansion programme. The project was funded by Manchester City Council, the Heritage Lottery Fund, and the European Regional Development Fund and with the support of individuals, charitable trusts and the business community.

In addition to Manchester Art Gallery, the Galleries department manages Heaton Hall in Heaton Park, Wythenshawe Hall in Wythenshawe Park, the Gallery of Costume housed within Platt Hall and a conservation studio located at Queens Park, Harpurhey.

The collections of fine art, decorative art and costume, the exhibitions and education programmes which complement them, together with the buildings which house them, have a huge potential to delight and inspire Manchester's residents and visitors alike.

Gender Action Plan

Manchester City Galleries is committed to improving access to the City's collections. The Gender Action Plan describes the methods by which Manchester City Galleries aims to address gender issues in its service delivery. The achievement of these aims will improve the quality of visitor experience at our venues.

Improving the visitor experience in its widest sense was a key element in the redevelopment of Manchester Art Gallery and new services, including baby change facilities in male toilets, have been introduced.

The exhibitions, collection displays and acquisitions programme strive to redress the past concentration on work by male artists, both in acquisitions and exhibition policies. In 2005/6 we organised *Black Victorians*, a highly-successful major exhibition that featured forgotten 19thc black women performers, celebrities and reformers, including Miss La La and Mary Seacole. Other highlights have been the display in partnership with Tate Britain of a textile hanging by controversial artist Tracey Emin paired with Epstein's *Rock Drill*, which through very innovative digital interactive interpretation, got visitors thinking about how we define masculinity and femininity. We also launched Button World, a long term display that opened up the traditionally female world of buttons, and continues to provide lots of hands-on fun for small children and their parents.

For 06-07 we are launching *Happy Birthday Miffy!* in April 06 celebrating 50 years of Dick Bruna's girl rabbit and her friends, which will be of particular appeal to small children with their parents, playgroups, surestart groups and

nurseries. We are also holding one-person exhibitions of work by women: artist Pae White and textile and fashion designer, Georgina von Etzdorf.

Aims

1. To regularly raise gender issues around service delivery at the Departmental Equality Group and monitor progress through audits, action plans and impact assessments.
2. To review, revise and develop policies and projects to reflect gender issues and improve service delivery in these areas.

Aim 1.

To raise gender issues around service delivery regularly at the Departmental Equality Group and Departmental Management Team, and monitor progress through audits, action plans and impact assessments.

Action 1:1

Minutes from Equality Group meetings to be circulated to Departmental Management Team (DMT) and gender issues raised at DMT meetings.

Contact officer

Sara Holdsworth

Telephone 0161 235 8840

What will this action achieve? Discussion on current issues and agreement on plans for participation in IWW and Men's Health Week.

Aim 2.

To review, revise and develop policies and projects to reflect gender issues and improve service delivery in these areas.

Action 2:1

Review Exhibitions policy, to reflect gender issues as a specific criteria to be discussed in the selection and review process.

Commissioning Group to consider gender issues both in terms of exhibition content and the educational programmes developed to support each exhibition (eg. family activities focused to attract male children)

Contact Officer

[Tim Wilcox](#)

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Timescale

Exhibition Proposal forms have been revised and are in use.

What will this action achieve?

All exhibitions (and supporting education programmes) will be considered with reference to gender criteria.

Action 2:2

Education planning matrix set up to record all activities that relate to equality groups, including gender.

Contact officer

Lee Avison

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Timescale

Matrix delivered Sept 06

What will this action achieve?

Better information on gender-related activities

Action 2:3

"Family Friendly" activities devised to meet gender differences, eg fathers' day family architecture trail. Activities appropriately programmed at school holiday times and weekends.

Contact officer

Zoe Renilson

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Timescale

Ongoing activity, continually monitored.

What will this action achieve?

Family visiting experience is improved and gender issues addressed

Action 2:4

New 'Sound Pictures' Early Years session for nurseries and surestart groups now running in collaboration with RNCM. New training course Creative Learning Experiences for Foundation Stage Practitioners planned for June 06

Contact officer

Jas Sohel

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Timescale

On -going sessions and June training day to be monitored, including their gender relevance.

What will this action achieve?

Increased activities for early years groups

Action 2:5

New KS2 and 3 school session 'Who's that Girl?' to be developed on how historic and contemporary artists portray women.

Contact officer

Joanne Davies 0161 235 8854

Timescale

From Sept 06

What will this action achieve?

Increased understanding of history of gender roles by participating school groups

Action 2:6

Men's Health Week and International Women's Week activities

Contact officer

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Timescale

June 06 and March 07

What will this action achieve?

Increased awareness of gender issues among visitors

More information

We welcome comments on our Equality Action Plans. If you would like to make a comment about this Plan, or if you would like more information about the Plan, please contact:

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