

**Arts Award in Museums: Case study**  
**Dacorum Heritage Trust**

<p><b>Arts Award programme:</b> The Arts Award Project – filming the life of Ophelia</p>
<p><b>This programme was offered by:</b> The Dacorum Heritage Trust, The Museum Store, Berkhamsted. The Museum Store is based in a converted fire station in Berkhamsted town centre and houses over 106,000+ objects related to the history of the Borough.</p>
<p><b>Who took part in the programme?</b> Four young people were involved aged 17,21,22 and 23</p>
<p><b>Description of the programme:</b> We had carried out a film making project the previous year and had one person from that project return and participate in the arts award project. One young person was volunteering at the museum store for a work placement for their undergraduate degree. This person brought their friend in. We advertised using posters in the high street and at the library, a newspaper article and on websites, this is how we recruited our final participant. Throughout the summer holiday, which meant that they were not attending school or university, we organised for them to attend the museum store two days a week. We began with an object handling session and then brainstorming session to help them generate ideas. They decided to create a film regarding Roman links to the area, each participant adopting different roles that they would like to develop. They were unable to finish their film and portfolios that summer and will be returning the following summer to complete the project for moderation in August 2012.</p>
<p><b>What was the impact of the programme?</b> They were unable to complete the film and their portfolios in the summer months and three out of the four needed to return to school and university in September. They are due to go to moderation in August 2012. We hope that they will complete their portfolios in the months leading up to the moderation.</p>
<p><b>What did you learn about offering Arts Award in a museum setting?</b> The participants were aged from 17 to 23 so were old enough to work on the project on their own at times. What I would do differently would be to give them more hand outs and worksheets to help them in completing their portfolios.</p>
<p><b>What are your plans for the future?</b> I would like to offer the Arts Award again. We would assess it each year, but due to limitations we would only be able to do the project once a year. Perhaps over the summer months, as this seems to work best as the young people are not at school or university.</p>
<p><b>What advice would you offer other museums thinking of offering Arts Award?</b> Try to make partnerships in your local community. This will help in getting participants, especially if you make contacts with schools or youth centres.</p>
<p><b>Any other comments?</b> It difficult to make any other comments as the young people have yet to complete their portfolios</p>

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