



Case Study

Lillie Art Gallery, East Dunbartonshire Council, Scotland

WHY TAKE PART ?

The gallery had heard about Takeover Day and wanted to be involved. It was unable to do Takeover Day in November so ran the day in February in response to an individual request to find out more about how an art gallery is run.

WHO TOOK PART ?

One 15 year old student. The gallery runs an Art Club and one participant wanted to know more about the gallery. The museum approached her family to discuss the project. The student's school was not involved.

WHAT DID THEY DO ?

The student took over the role of curator for Takeover Day. She selected a painting for a forthcoming exhibition planned for autumn 2014, researched the artist and wrote the text label for the exhibition.

HOW DID THEY SPEND THEIR TIME ON THE DAY ?

The student took over the role of curator. Gallery staff gave the student a tour and information about the collection. She learned about conservation of paintings and also health and safety considerations involved in mounting and dismantling an exhibition. In addition, she took on various front of house roles and discussed ways in which the museum might further develop its audience.

She visited the stores and selected a painting for a forthcoming exhibition on portraiture. She researched the artist for the text label and included her personal reasons for choosing the painting.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT ?

The student felt the day was beneficial as she hopes to pursue a career in Art. Once the exhibition opens, the gallery will request feedback on her interpretation label.

The student's choice of painting and creation of the label will add a new dimension to the exhibition. The gallery intend to use the student's label as a pilot to encourage other visitors to choose their favourite portrait in the exhibition and explain their responses to it.

Gallery staff felt that the project went extremely well and are looking to expand this model with visitors of various ages and groups of students. Staff felt this was a good way to try out a project on a small scale, responding to visitor's requests and interests.

Having participated in Takeover Day with one student has given them the confidence to plan a similar project for a larger number of children next year.