



St Barbe Young Curators

The St Barbe Young Curators is a unique opportunity for local young people aged 14-19 to gain vocational experience and develop transferable skills in the arts, culture and heritage sector. Exploring all aspects of museum and gallery practice, young people work towards achieving a level 2 qualification Silver Arts Award. Working with local schools, youth groups, the police and sixth form colleges across the New Forest, young people are invited to attend monthly group sessions at St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery. The focus is to develop an understanding of museum and gallery practice, building skills and knowledge to enhance employability in the arts, culture and heritage sectors. Young people explore a range of areas including programming and curating exhibitions, creating a contemporary museum collection, marketing and design, advertising and event management.

Participants gain experience in important life skills such as how to work together in small teams on projects; cooperation, confidence and resilience; meetings etiquette; presenting projects to stakeholders; developing a CV; interview techniques; and building information and experience towards a personal statement for University applications. These skills are all transferable to college, university, apprenticeships or the workplace. There are visits to exhibitions and cultural venues, opportunities to speak to curators, conservators and exhibition designers and to attend training and workshops. Meetings with Museum Studies students will give our young curators an understanding of what University courses can offer. The project will provide positive experiences, sparking curiosity, raising aspiration and building new friendships, promoting an overall sense of well-being and social cohesion. This is important because young people need opportunities outside of school to have fun with friends, to learn new skills, to make positive change in their communities and shape the place they live.

There are opportunities to work on specific group projects and to follow individual pathways depending on the young person's area of interest. Young people are encouraged to contribute their own ideas to shape the future of St Barbe, informing trustee decision-making by having a voice as a subcommittee of the Trustee Board. The St Barbe Young Curators programme takes place over 2 years and has two intakes of 12 participants, benefiting 24 young people. Following completion of the scheme volunteering opportunities will be available to all young curators in their chosen area of interest.

For more information please contact maria.ragan@stbarbe-museum.org.uk