

THE HOLBURNE FUTURE COLLECTIVE: FOR YOUNG PEOPLE BY YOUNG PEOPLE

By Emma Brown



We all have busy lives with work, uni, and adulting in general, so it might be hard to find time to do the things we actually want to. The Holburne Museum, works with a young person's busy schedule with free monthly after-hours events, called Up Late.

WHAT IS AN UP LATE?

Up Late is a project sponsored by The Holburne Museum that's hosted by various organisations with an interest in the arts. Up Late showcases the

museum's relationship with the new generation and celebrates their involvement in the arts. Guests are invited to explore the permanent collections for free, receive discounted entry into temporary exhibits, such as Alberta Whittle's *Dipping Below A Waxing Moon*, *The Dance Claims Us For Release*, and enjoy music and drinks in the Garden café and Terrace.

WHO CAN RUN AN UP LATE?



Young people from different organisations such as Holburne Future Collective, Make it New, Bath Spa University and University of Bath.

Up Lates run on the last Friday of the month all year round apart from December.

WHEN IS THE NEXT UP LATE?

The next Up Late will be hosted by [Bath Spa University Textile Design for Fashion and Interior](#) on **March 31 at 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm**. Check the Holburne website to see all upcoming Up Lates.

WHAT IS THE FUTURE COLLECTIVE?



We are a group of young people between 15 and 25. Members can gain a wealth of experience to help with confidence, enhance their CVs and gain work experience essential to securing work in the museum and heritage sector. The Holburne Future Collective meet once a month and write blog posts for our website as well as creating social media content. Most recently, members of the collective had the opportunity to conduct, film, and edit a video interview with Alberta Whittle about her exhibition at the museum.

We launched the Future Collective through running an Up Late at the end of February and it was a roaring success.

Our guests had access to the café, [multiple viewings of our exclusive interview with artist, Alberta Whittle](#), and a craft station where they could make a collage and put it on display. By the end of the night, collectively, our guests made a beautiful piece of art in the shape of the Future Collective logo! During the event, we had our Future Collective members taking and handing out free polaroid pictures to anyone who wanted one! Throughout the museum, we also had three questions that the guests were encouraged to answer.



When guests entered the lobby of the museum, they were greeted by the question: “What barriers are there for young people in the arts?”. To create an open dialogue, we invited our guests to write their answers on sticky notes and place them on the question board. We really wanted to get everyone thinking about the relationship between museums, art and the involvement future generations. Most people responded to our first

question saying that art preserves our culture and allows us to express our individuality.

On the first floor, museum goers were faced with another question: “How and why should the next generation get involved in the arts?”. Once again, we received many wonderful answers with several people seeming to agree that the future of art is dependent on the actions of the younger population.

On the top floor, we posed one last question to our guests: “What does the future of museums look like to you?”. It was arguably the hardest question to answer, but our guests blew me away with some of their fantastic replies! My favourite answer was that museums will be more collaborative with the broader community and truthful with their collections’ origins. Truly, I couldn’t hope for a better future than one where museums thrive on inclusivity and honesty.

Our goal in asking these questions was simple: we want young people to feel like they can get involved in the art world without fear of judgement or pressure! As proven by several of the answers we received throughout the night, it’s clear that us young people don’t always feel like we’re free to engage in the arts. Reasons why include unclear funding, being told there’s a lack of jobs in the art and museum sector, we don’t have enough experience, or the stigma that is associated with learning Art History.

THE FUTURE OF MUSEUMS AND YOUNG PEOPLE



As a member of the Future Collective, I find myself facing the same problems that our guests voiced when trying to become involved in art and museum sectors. However, organisations such as the Future Collective help with getting a foot in the door and providing the experience I need for a future career in the arts. To me, if more museums take the step to reach out to young people, like the Holburne is doing, then I think the future for young people in the arts will be bright.

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