

BAFM Young Museum Professional Award 2025

We invite entries to this new biennial award, which is open exclusively to museums with BAFM member Friends' groups.

BAFM aims to help young museum professionals realize their curatorial ambitions and further the aims of their institution by offering an annual award for new collections-based research and curatorial training and development opportunities.

BAFM is committed to delivering public benefit in museums, and aims to achieve this through supporting the development, conservation, and dissemination of museum collections to enhance their public presentation and accessibility. BAFM therefore wants to hear from you how our award will help further this aim. However, we also accept that training and research can and should be creative and exploratory.

We therefore welcome ambitious applications and will not always expect material outcomes (for example in the form of acquisitions, exhibitions, or publications) to be an immediate consequence of the award. However, while the award aims to help support curatorial development and collections-based research, it is not intended to replace statutory funding for equipment and resources. BAFM hopes the award will demonstrate the importance and benefits of continued investment in curatorial expertise and encourage funding from other sources.

BAFM welcomes applications for the award from young UK museum professionals to undertake training, travel and accommodation for research trips and conferences including the funding of publications and subscriptions to add to a museum's research resources or library.

The award might also support other kinds of activity, provided you are able to make a strong case for its contribution to the development of curatorial skill and collections-based research projects.

The applications will be judged by a panel Chaired by Tim Craven, a trustee of BAFM with a wealth of experience in the museums sector. Heather Stracey, winner of the 2023 BAFM 'Museum Professional of the Year Award' will be joined by Sarah Newman, Director of the Russell-Cotes Museum Bournemouth will join Tim on the panel.

Our Judges will consider the following:

- Quality of learning and development potential
- Quality of ambition and innovation
- Relevance of the project to the museum's policies and programs

The Winning Prize

The winner of the award will receive £1,000 prize and will be invited to present a report on the project at the next national conference (and to BAFM's Journal).

The Runners Up

Those submissions which are considered excellent will receive a Certificate of Merit.

Young Museum Professional Award Application Form

Please complete this submission form and email it to Tim Craven: timcraven1066@gmail.com

Closing date 1st July 2025

Name of applicant:

Age (must be 35 or under):

Post held:

Professional qualifications:

Employment history with dates:

Name and address of museum:

Name of Museum's Director/Curator:

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Project description (how you would employ the £1,000 award fund - 250 words maximum)

Additional information (timescale, costs/quotations, references - 250 words maximum):

Friends' group name:

Friends' group contact (name and email address):

