Case studies: How can the arts and creativity support people who are shielding or vulnerable during Covid-19?

Project: RAMM@Home
Organisation: Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM)
Region: South West England

"It made our day, thank you, we miss RAMM"

Introduction
RAMM@Home is a weekly art challenge designed to allow people to create their very own RAMM collection based on the museum’s stunning objects. With a focus on areas of the museum such as Romans, Natural History, Egyptian Mummies and World Cultures, a different challenge has been set every Friday. Drawing sessions, animated creations, origami, model making, costume designing and Lego model making are just some of the artistic ideas that have featured. Challenges have been released every Friday on the RAMM website, across their social media accounts and via e-newsletters. In order to reach people who are not able to get online RAMM sent out 500 activity packs containing three activity sheets that describe how to have a go at the first three creative challenges: How to draw Gerald the giraffe, How to make a Roman soldier and How to make a jellyfish.

Image credit: RAMM

Funders
Exeter City Council

Who is it for?
The packs were aimed at shielded, vulnerable or isolated individuals.

What outcomes were/are you aiming for?
We started this project as an online activity for people during lockdown but we quickly became aware that there were lots of people who were unable to get online so we wanted to reach out and make sure they could access the material and get creative at home anyway.

Where is it happening?
South West (Mainly in Exeter and Exmouth)

Are you working in partnership?
The project is in partnership with Exeter City Community Trust.

How many people took/are taking part?
We made up 500 packs which were all distributed.
For how long has it been happening?
The packs were sent out in May.

What were/are the main outputs?
We have been asking people to share their creations either by emailing them to the museum or by simply placing them in their windows for others to see or sending them to family and friends to show them you are thinking of them.

Evaluation & Feedback:
We have sent out feedback forms with all 500 packs. Comments from the feedback forms include:
“It made our day, thank you, we miss RAMM”
“Lovely surprise, we enjoyed. Massive thank you!”
“I enjoyed drawing Gerald the giraffe!”

What have been the challenges and successes for you?
We felt this was very successful.

Further information
RAMM at Home: https://rammuseum.org.uk/young-visitors/fun-things-to-do/rammhome/

The Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery (RAMM) is one of Exeter City Council’s flagship services. RAMM is also a National Portfolio Museum funded by Arts Council England until 2022. Following a major redevelopment project the museum re-opened in December 2011. The re-displays have gained wide critical acclaim and in June 2012 RAMM received the UK’s most significant sector award the Art Fund Prize for Museum of the Year 2012.

The museum’s stunning displays reveal Devon and Exeter’s rich history and global connections. Exotic animals, birds and insects delight children and a changing programme of exhibitions and events means there is likely to be something different to see on every visit. Free entry gives everyone the freedom to visit many times and to stay any length of time.

RAMM is a local authority organisation with 58 full and part-time staff.