



Arts Council England Corporate Plan 2015-18

Artform appendices:
Libraries

Our approach as the national development agency for libraries is framed by *Great art and culture for everyone* and by *Envisioning* the library of the future. The work of the recent Independent Review of Public Libraries by William Sieghart is consistent with this approach, and we will play an active role in supporting the taskforce and its work.

Goal 1: Excellence is thriving and celebrated in the arts, museums and libraries

We will:

- invest a further £6 million over three years in our Libraries Grants for the arts to stimulate high-quality artistic and cultural activity in libraries
- look for appropriate opportunities for libraries to benefit from our Strategic funds, including those for digital and creative media and children and young people
- ensure our Library development funds stimulate new practice and high-quality innovation with our partners

Goal 2: Everyone has the opportunity to experience and be inspired by the arts, museums and libraries

We will:

- manage and support programmes that provide libraries with the digital infrastructure that enable individual and community access to the full range of library services
- invest in the Society of Chief Librarians' Universal Offers to encourage a nationally coherent service, and the development of a national digital platform for libraries
- stimulate stronger partnerships between literature organisations and libraries that will reach more people and communities

Goal 3: The arts, museums and libraries are resilient and environmentally sustainable

We will:

- commission research and development projects to inform greater resilience and sustainability for libraries
- support approaches that create fresh opportunities for development as well as economies of scope and scale

Goal 4: The leadership and the workforce in the arts, museums and libraries are diverse and appropriately skilled

We will:

- work with our partners such as the Society of Chief Librarians and the Local Government Association to commission and support initiatives designed to strengthen leadership, empower a cadre of leaders and deliver improved workforce skills

Goal 5: Every child and young person has the opportunity to experience the richness of the arts, museums and libraries

We will:

- support the animation of library spaces to foster a love of reading, digital creativity and culture
- work with partners to support the development of libraries as places where children and young people create for themselves and with others. This will include opportunities to begin their own creative journey within and outside the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and maths) curriculum through coding