



27 January 2026

William Morris Gallery announces the Genesis Pathways Programme, in partnership with the Genesis Foundation

William Morris Gallery is pleased to announce the launch of the **Genesis Pathways Programme**, an innovative initiative aimed at fostering more inclusive pathways into the museum and heritage sector, presented in partnership with the Genesis Foundation.

This two-year programme will connect an emerging local curator with a newly recruited mentee from the Gallery's local community in Waltham Forest. It will establish a structured mentorship and buddy system that promotes professional growth, confidence-building, and sustained engagement within the sector.

Addressing the longstanding under-representation in museum workforces, the initiative offers a valuable paid traineeship for individuals who may lack the financial means to pursue postgraduate curatorial training. In addition to acquiring practical curatorial skills through immersive work with William Morris Gallery's collection, the trainee will gain access to professional networks and relationships with leading institutions such as the Courtauld, Royal Academy, National Gallery, and V&A.

Structured around a peer-to-peer learning model, the programme will encourage progressive skill-sharing within the heritage sector. Over time, participants will be supported to become mentors themselves, fostering a sustainable cycle of opportunity, growth, and empowerment.

Hadrian Garrard, Director of William Morris Gallery, remarked:

"This generous support from the Genesis Foundation enables us to instil a more sustainable, peer-led approach to talent development. By creating supported pathways into museum careers for individuals from our local community, we are investing not only in their individual potential but also in the future relevance and diversity of the heritage sector."

John Studzinski CBE, Founder and Chairman of the Genesis Foundation, said:

"The Genesis Foundation has been investing for over 25 years in the careers of exceptional creative professionals, enabling them to develop their skills, networks and resilience. We are proud to launch the Genesis Pathways Programme with William Morris Gallery, our first new initiative in this important anniversary year for the Foundation. Hadrian Garrard, a previous recipient of the Genesis Foundation Prize is a mentoring role model in this industry. The mentor-mentee relationship is at the core of the Genesis Foundation model; this new programme will play a part in addressing the crucial need for curatorial positions to be open to all, regardless of their economic circumstances."

Cllr Rosalind Doré, Cabinet Member for Culture, Libraries and Sport & Leisure, London Borough of Waltham Forest, said:

"This programme represents a meaningful step in widening access to cultural careers for residents in Waltham Forest. By investing in emerging talent and creating structured pathways into the heritage sector, we're helping ensure that our cultural institutions reflect the diversity, creativity and potential of our community."

Applications will open at the end of February 2026 – More details to be announced soon.

About the Genesis Foundation

The Genesis Foundation was established by John Studzinski and has supported thousands of artists in their career development since 2001 principally in theatre and music. The Foundation's focus is on partnerships with leading arts organisations including the Almeida Theatre, National Theatre and The Sixteen, and on training initiatives – the Genesis Theatre Design programme, and the Genesis Future Curators programme at the Royal Academy of Arts – that equip emerging artists for life as a creative professional.

About William Morris Gallery

William Morris Gallery houses the world's largest collection of Morris's works alongside contemporary exhibitions and an active programme of events and educational activities. In 2025, the Gallery welcomed over 180,000 visitors. The Gallery is owned and operated by London Borough of Waltham Forest'

Notes to Editors:

Applications will open in February 2026 (date TBC)

Further details on the Genesis Pathways Programme will be available soon.

Please direct enquiries to:

William Morris Gallery - wmg.enquiries@walthamforest.gov.uk