

Migration projects at Leeds City Museum, 2019



What are we doing?

In 2019 we are undertaking a number of projects under the overarching theme of telling stories of migration about and in Leeds.

These projects will showcase the stories and experiences of those who have made a home in Leeds in the past 250 years, and will discuss the impact that migration has had on Leeds.

Why are we doing it?

This is a story that we haven't really ever told at Leeds City Museum. Our job is to share the history of Leeds, and migration is an important part of that. It's also the first time that all of our temporary display spaces will look at the same theme.

We recognise that migration is a highly-emotive subject. Many people who have their own migration story may have had to make difficult, painful journeys not of their choosing. For others the issue can be a source of worry, fear or even hostility. We recognise that at a national level public attitudes to migration are complicated.

While recognising that the picture is complicated, we do have a clear belief – we believe that migration has had, and continues to have, a positive impact on the city of Leeds. There is a long history of migration to the city and wider region, and our projects will seek to showcase and celebrate the ways in which that has shaped the city we all know today.

What are the exhibitions/displays?

1. Community Corridor (part of the Leeds Story gallery)

18 March-17 June 2019

A display curated by the Preservative Party (the museum youth group) looking at notable individuals who have migrated to Leeds.

17 June-16 September 2019

My Bright Kite, an organisation who empower young refugees through bespoke youth projects.

16 September-December 2019

Irish Arts Foundation, who celebrate the contribution of Irish people to life in Leeds.

2. Community Cases (part of the Leeds Story gallery)

24 May – December 2019

Films and 5x case displays exploring contemporary stories of migration in Leeds. We would love to use objects borrowed from people in these displays.

3. Special Exhibitions Gallery (third floor of the museum)

12 July 2019-5 January 2020

An exhibition exploring the history of migration to Leeds, using our collection and stories that we have collected as part of the project.

4. Window Bays (by the main entrance)

We have a couple of art-based projects lined up for display in these spaces, but would love to hear from artists or groups who have work linked to the theme of migration that they would like to display.

How can I get involved?

- We can come and talk to you/your group and bring objects to help facilitate discussions.
- Suggest an idea for an event.
- Visit the museum during the exhibitions!

- Tell us your story (see some questions below to help). If you're interested in appearing in a film of migration stories, let us know.
- Lend us an object or objects that help to tell your story. Take a look at the objects we have and tell us what's missing.
- Have your portrait taken with us for use in the main exhibition.

And probably lots of other ways too! Email us city.museum@leeds.gov.uk if there's something else that you'd like to talk to us about.

Questions

Why did you choose to come to Leeds?

What did you think of Leeds when you arrived here (compared to where you came from)?

How were you treated when you first arrived?

Do you keep any belongings to remind you of where you have come from? If so why?

How do you think migrants contribute/have contributed to Leeds as a city?

If you're happy to answer any/all of these questions please email city.museum@leeds.gov.uk. If you work with groups that could use these questions then we can provide you with forms, or come and see you to talk to people.