

Coming into Focus



VOCAL EYES

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Introduction to VocalEyes

- Making the arts accessible to blind and partially sighted people through the medium of audio description
 - live description
 - recorded description
 - training courses and workshops
 - consultation and advice

Some recent VocalEyes' projects

- **Tate Britain:** update to the historic tour
- **V & A:** description script for objects in the Sacred Silver and Stained Glass Galleries
- **Stephenson Railway Museum:** description of eight historic railway engines and their tactile models
- **British Museum Compass Website:** description of twenty items written and recorded in a pilot project, including work with a focus group of visually impaired people

VocalEyes' projects

- **Royal College of Surgeons:** writing and recording audio description of exhibition on slavery
- **The Science Museum:** writing and recording descriptions for 10 key objects for inclusion on their website
- **The National Maritime Museum:** writing and recording an access audio guide
- **Royal College of Surgeons:** Hunterian Museum Audio tour



Research Participants

- Manchester Art Gallery
- Guildhall Gallery
- Kettles Yard
- Bristol Museums and Galleries
- Wales Museums and Galleries
- Royal Academy of Arts
- Whitechapel Gallery
- Birmingham Museums and Galleries
- Norfolk Museum and Galleries
- Peterborough Museums and Galleries
- North Lanarkshire Museums and Galleries
- Fitzwilliam Museum



Research Participants

- Museum of London
- Hampton Court Palace
- Osterley House
- National Trust
- Eden Project
- Kew Gardens
- Historic Scotland
- English Heritage
- Geffrye Museum



Audiences – key themes

- Confidence
- Transport
- Companionship
- Accessible information about what is available for visually impaired people
- Understanding the space
- Collaboration and feedback which meets with a positive response
- Staff who are confident, knowledgeable and enthusiastic
- Considered resources
- Making the most out of the time in the venue
- Non-segregation/inclusion
- Personal attention



The VI visitor's opinion

1. Clear access information about how to get to a venue
2. Clear information about what is available for the audience and how to access those resources
3. Tactiles *with good quality description*
4. Resources that will enable time in the gallery to be used most efficiently - e.g. online description
5. An understanding of the space through live or recorded description or with 3D object and supporting description.

The VI visitor's opinion

5. Description without too much interpretation
6. Layered information
7. A range of resources
8. Flexibility of offer: support for planned and spontaneous visits
9. Confident and knowledgeable staff