



The Ropewalk (Barton) Ltd Access Policy

Policy prepared by: Liz Bennet

Signed:

Date:

Name:

Ann Wallis

Position:

Chair

Minuted and approved by the board on: **Thursday 2nd September 2021**

This policy is subject to a review every three years

Next review date is scheduled for: January 2024

The Ropewalk's statement of purpose

These are key operating principles vital to the success of The Ropewalk, which capture the mentality and behaviours required for us to secure our creative vision. This is by necessity a work in progress that will adapt and evolve as the organisation strives to deliver its ambitions.

- Welcoming and open to everybody
- Placing participation and learning at the core of our activity
- Encouraging and supporting diversity in everything we do
- Imaginative in the way we use our building
- Valuing the skills, craft and creativity of our staff and volunteers
- Seeking strong partnerships with local organisations and the wider creative community
- Aspiring to be environmentally sustainable
- Active in the public sphere, triggering and hosting artistic debate
- Enable and support community projects
- Valued by Barton

Access Aims

Our aim is to achieve the optimum level of access to the building to enable the widest possible range of people from all sections of the community to enjoy independent use of the Ropewalk's public facilities which includes galleries, the Ropery Coffee Shop and Ropery Hall and use of the building and its facilities by community organisations, businesses and

private hirers. This also includes access to the Studios and Business Units which are subject to individual licence agreements.

Accessibility is central to everything that we do to develop and improve The Ropewalk's facilities. We undertake specific projects to eliminate barriers to access which we identify in our building.

We comply with the requirements of the Equality Act (2010) and will continue to make reasonable adjustments for maximum access, within the constraints of the Grade II Listed Building dating back in parts to the late 18th century.

Removal of Barriers to Access

We recognise access as something which is made possible when physical, cultural, social, financial, intellectual, psychological and emotional barriers to enjoyment of The Ropewalk are removed, reduced, or overcome. Ropery Hall Box Office Essential Carer Scheme exists to enable all patrons to equally attend Ropery Hall events. The purpose of the scheme is to ensure accessibility, safety and enjoyment for the Scheme Member and offers a discount on ticket price for registered users.

Physical accessibility – the ability of people with physical disabilities to reach and appreciate as much as possible of the The Ropewalk. The needs of the elderly and of people caring for young children are considered as physical access issues.

Sensory accessibility – whether those with impaired vision or hearing can enjoy and appreciate The Ropewalk building, exhibitions and events.

Intellectual access – whether people with learning disabilities can engage with and enjoy The Ropewalk building, exhibitions and events.

Cultural access – the needs of people for whom English is not a first language, or whose background knowledge of English history and culture may be limited.

Emotional and attitudinal access – whether The Ropewalk environment is welcoming to visitors from all sections of the community.

Affordability - In order to encourage maximum access for the people of Barton upon Humber especially our policy is for admission to the galleries and Museum be free, and to encourage visitors' financial contributions by donation. The Craft Gallery stocks a small range of low-cost souvenirs relating to the Museum and building. The admission price to ticketed events is held as low as possible.

Opening Times

Opening times for the public areas of The Ropewalk is Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm and on Sundays and Bank Holidays from 10am to 4pm. The Ropewalk is closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Pre-arranged visits by schools and groups are most welcome and we are able to support guided tours of the building. There is a self-guided tour of the museum available for younger visitors.

Digital Access

We will continue to develop The Ropewalk's digital presence to provide access and to consider its use by disabled people including those who may be using it with the help of special equipment.

Evaluation and review

We aim to improve access continuously and incrementally as our resources permit and regularly review our achievements and make plans for further progress.

Education

The Ropewalk and its exhibitions and facilities are accessible for educational purposes by:

- displays and exhibitions
- special events and activities
- publications
- guided tours
- facilitating learning sessions for schools
- outreach talks
- promotional and community events
- website/online access

The Ropewalk depends on paid staff to run its learning activities for school visits. The fee charged for school visits reflects these costs and the local/regional school visits market. These fees are reviewed annually by the Co-operative.

We welcome organised group tours which are low-cost, and staff are available to give outreach talks again for no charge although a donation is welcomed.