

Janet Barnes

Dr. Janet Barnes was appointed director of the York Museums Trust in its founding year of 2002, spending over thirteen years as the Trust's head. Janet's work within the Trust has proved to be vast, creative and ambitious; cementing York's importance as a northern hub for the arts. During her time in York, Dr. Barnes has overseen the development and growth of the Yorkshire Museum, York Art Gallery, and particularly, The Museum Gardens.

From the time when Janet joined the York Museums Trust as its founding director, she has accomplished many ambitious developments for York's art and culture sector. One in particular goal for the Trust, was to expand the York Museum Gardens.¹ Janet recognised the potential York's Museum Gardens had as simultaneously a beautiful botanic space and how much the gardens could give back and connect with the surrounding city. As director, she proposed a delivery plan to the York City Council, highlighting multiple plans for the development of the Trust. Janet proposed to extend the Gardens to include the land occupied behind York Art Gallery, thus expanding the Museum Gardens beyond 20% of its size at the time. Beyond this, in collaboration with botanic experts, stakeholders and the Garden Manager, Janet proposed the aim for the Museum Gardens to ultimately become recognised nationally as a botanic garden.

The time that Janet has put into the Trust is unmatched, and upon retirement from the museum sector and York Museums Trust in 2015, her influence and commitment that was put into the Museum Gardens is still blossoming today. The garden's expansion behind York Art Gallery has since evolved into the Artist's Garden,² a home for contemporary art exhibitions, such as 'The Pollinarium' and 'Michael Lyons: Ancient and Modern'.

Dr. Barnes has since been nationally recognised for her exceptional work in museums, receiving a CBE for her services in museums for the 2014 New Years Honours,³ and three honorary doctorates from the University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University, and the

¹ <https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s80977/YMT%20annex%201%20SLA%2013%20to%2018.pdf>

² <https://www.yorkartgallery.org.uk/artists-garden/>

³ <https://www.yorkartgallery.org.uk/artists-garden/>

University of York, respectively. Janet currently resides in her home city of Sheffield, as a ceramicist with her own studio in the city.⁴

⁴ <https://artspace.org.uk/our-artists-makers/janet-barnes/>