

Listening script

Unit 10

15

(P = Presenter; D = Director)

P: Welcome on this lazy Saturday morning to Radio Hope. This is Charlie Carter, your host on your favourite show, *Your Chance* ... and we have a lot for you this week.

I've got Jenny Driver the Director of the Horn Art Gallery in George Street and we'll be talking about developments on the art scene this week.

D: Thank you Charlie. Well, first, there's the new Public Art Project throughout the city, which opened last weekend in conjunction with the Horn Gallery and which has caused a sensation judging by the response on Twitter. And then we have a debate about charging for entrance to museums and art galleries. But first to the Public Art Project.

There has been some criticism that the public art on display is a waste of public money, but also many people have suggested the sculptures on display could be made permanent, which could encourage more people to visit the city and its museums and art galleries. Gallery attendance has definitely been on the increase since the public art sculptures were installed. The idea of a permanent public display is a very good one. But some people have also emailed in suggesting that instead of having only international artists, the gallery could use the exhibition as an opportunity to support local sculptors who get no help from the public funds, which is a valid suggestion.

P: Do you think the Project will achieve its objectives?

D: Well, I think so. The Public Art Project had two broad objectives, which were to raise public awareness about art, especially sculpture, which I think has been achieved with the increase in museum attendances. And, secondly, through tourism in the area, we wanted to make people more aware of the city nationally and internationally. Both are difficult to gauge in the long term, but for the moment the number of people visiting the city seems to point to success.

P: What do you think about the idea of making all museums and art galleries free of charge?

D: There has been a fierce debate about this over the past year or so, because people are deterred from visiting places of a cultural nature, like the Horn Gallery, because of the cost. And while children are able to get in free, they rarely come with their parents, which is a bad thing. So, basically, I am for the change. From the survey we've had on our website, I think about 75 per cent said they were for entrance being free, only ten per cent were very definitely against and 20 per cent said they didn't know.

P: Have you any concerns about the removal of charges?

D: There is one thing I and other people working in the gallery world are worried about, and that is the level of government funding. We've always had subsidies from the government to run the galleries, but this has always been topped up by entrance fees. We're waiting to see if this will be reflected in the government's arts funding for next year.

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P: Now, as you all know, we've been wanting to do some outside broadcasting on the show for a long time, and this week for the first time we will have two reporters on the street ... because we think this is an important issue, ... mmm and we want to gauge mmm ... public reaction to the museum charge debate. We have one reporter, Angie Hunter, standing by outside the Horn Gallery. And we'll see what people really think about their art galleries being free or not. To make sure we get as wide a spectrum of people as possible we have another reporter, Alex Grey, who's standing in front of the department store in the pedestrian shopping precinct. So, if you're listening and want to make your views known, pop down to the precinct or the gallery. We'll be starting the outside broadcast in 15 minutes at 12.45, after we have got through the other items today, so ...