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# COMMUNITY CURATOR – ‘OUR HERITAGE’ PROJECT

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If you care about communities and want to be part of a thriving artistic and cultural movement in the East Midlands, we want to hear from you!

We're looking for an experienced freelance curator with a background in participatory practice and community co-curation, to develop and deliver a series of touring events and activities across Newark and Sherwood which will connect people with their heritage, increase access to our collections and improve cultural engagement by breaking down barriers.

## Who We Are

We are Heritage and Culture - Newark and Sherwood District Council. We're delighted to have been awarded funding from Arts Council England to become a National Portfolio Organisation from April of this year. Through our three-year



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programme, Open Doors, we aim to develop our understanding of the needs and interests of our communities, increase creative opportunities for young people and under-served groups and become a focal point for culture across Newark and Sherwood.

We believe in the transformative power of culture.

Our mission is to enable people to enhance their lives through heritage, culture and the arts.

Our core values ensure that everything we do is Relevant, Ethical, Welcoming, Inspirational and Creative. We achieve this by asking our communities what they want and need and responding creatively.

NSDC Heritage and Culture runs the Palace Theatre, National Civil War Centre - Newark Museum and Newark Castle and Gardens:

The NCWC is an accredited museum which tells the story of the British Civil Wars and their relevance today.

Newark Museum looks after 95,000 objects including the internationally significant Newark Torc and an art collection that includes works by Edmund de Waal, Bridget Riley and Vanessa Bell, and connects people with their heritage through object storytelling and archive materials.

The Palace has been centre stage in Newark for over 100 years, entertaining thousands of people every year with a lively and varied programme, such as Benjamin Zephaniah, Opera North and the Kanneh-Masons.

Newark Castle, a scheduled ancient monument, has stood on the banks of the River Trent for nearly 900 years and is a key part of Newark's history. Its Gardens offer welcome green space and an accessible and unique historic setting for activities and events.

## **The Brief**

We are looking for a freelance Community Curator with a broad range of curatorial and participatory skills and experience, who is passionate about sharing the Centre's outstanding collections with a range of targeted groups including: socio-economically deprived families, young people, diaspora communities and disabled people.

You will be based at the National Civil War Centre - Newark Museum, The Resource Centre and at various selected venues across Newark and Sherwood district, for example in libraries and community centres. You must be able to travel to rural venues. You will work closely with the Community Engagement and Partnership Development Officer and the Collections and Exhibitions team to develop and



deliver 'Our Heritage' - a programme of 'pop-up museum' events across the district, drawing on the story-telling potential of our collection to engage a wide range of people with their heritage, and to encourage people to share their own objects, treasures, collections and stories that are important to them and their communities.

This project must be delivered within the period of June 2023 and March 2024, with workshops taking place throughout this period. However the programme can be flexible to fit both our schedule and the successful candidate's other work.

### **The aims of the 'Our Heritage' project are:**

- to build trusted relationships in community settings and increase our understanding of the stories and experiences that are relevant to those communities. This will lay the foundation for a co-curated touring pop-up exhibition in year 2 (between April 2024 - March 2025).
- to remove barriers to access by taking our museum collection out to rural, isolated or socio-economically deprived areas and engaging with under-represented groups.
- to inspire conversations and storytelling with new and diverse audiences across the district, using both our collections and their own personal items and experiences, and encouraging a sense of place and local pride.

### **Outputs:**

- Identify a suitable handling and display collection in line with museum best practice, ethics, Accreditation, object conservation needs and Spectrum that can be used for touring, pop-up museum sessions. Oversee the conservation and preservation of these objects when in transit and in use.
- Develop an accessible, participatory touring programme with the Community Engagement and Partnership Development Officer in locations that support increased engagement with identified target audiences.
- Design, deliver and evaluate 24 workshops or drop-in sessions for approximately 30 participants each time, using evaluation methods as required by the funding body. These sessions should be flexible to meet the needs of identified target audiences, but we do not expect each session to



be unique, for example you might deliver one session in several community centres across the district.

- Design, deliver and evaluate associated online resources to increase digital participation in the project, reaching an additional 300 people.
- Build a database and/or archive of the key, important stories and objects identified by participants that can form the basis of a community co-curated touring exhibition in year 2.
- Participate in our end of year celebration festival (March 2024). This might be by showcasing the achievements from the project via images, video or personal testimony, or by delivering the workshop session during the festival.

Our funded activity has been developed to create opportunities for increased social and cultural value in Newark and Sherwood and is shaped to support the Arts Council England's strategy - Let's Create. The project will contribute to the 'Cultural Communities' outcome - find out more at: <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/lets-create/strategy-2020-2030>

You must also be able to demonstrate a shared commitment to inclusivity and environmental responsibility.

## Budget

£12,000 plus VAT.

There is a separate budget of £2,500 plus VAT for materials, and a further budget for venue hire.

## How to Apply

### Your application should include:

- your response: tell us how you would deliver the aims and outputs of this brief, and your previous experience of working with collections, exhibitions and targeted community groups.
- examples of previous community co-curated work you have undertaken with people with diverse backgrounds, needs and communication styles.
- examples of your experience and skills in working with a handling collection.



- your CV.
- a fixed fee proposal detailing a costed breakdown of the number of days you will commit to working on the project in preparation and in delivery of workshops across the district. Travel expenses must be included within the costings. You do not need to include a costed breakdown of the materials you will use, but the successful candidate will need to work within the pre-set budgets.
- the contact details of two referees. One should be someone you have worked with in the last two years.

Your application format can be written or can be an MP4 video or MP3 audio file. Video or audio content should not exceed 3 minutes (CVs can be sent as written documents). Written proposals should be up to 3 sides of A4 (no smaller than 12 point) plus your CV. Please express yourself in whatever way feels right for you. However your application must include a clear fee proposal.

Please send your proposal to [visitorinformationcentre@nsdc.info](mailto:visitorinformationcentre@nsdc.info). If submitting MP3 or MP4 files, please send these via a file-sharing service such as WeTransfer or Dropbox.

### **Timescale**

The closing date for this position is 5pm Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

Those shortlisted will be invited to attend an interview (in person or via Teams) with the team before final selection during the week commencing Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

The decision to award the contract will be based on our assessment of the best value for money to deliver the desired outputs and outcomes. The successful applicant may be required to provide details of insurance, DBS certificate or other documentation if applicable and will assign the copyright of agreed outputs to Newark and Sherwood District Council.

### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

At NSDC, we are sensitive to the different needs and circumstances of others. We seek to empower everyone to fulfil their potential whether they live in the communities we serve or are part of our team.

We welcome applications from people with diverse backgrounds and hope to increase representation within our teams.

