

## Sheffield Museums Trust: A New Programme of Schools Activities Consultancy Brief

### Context

There are approximately 85,000 children and young people aged between 5-17 years old living in Sheffield. 98% of those children and young people are in fulltime education. Sheffield has an important resource in its museum collections of art, human history, natural science, engineering and industry, a resource with the potential to deepen learning, set imaginations soaring and raise aspirations. These collections are owned by the people of Sheffield and are important in bringing curriculums to life, they can help to tell stories of lived experience in Sheffield, illustrate scientific theories and inspire creativity and curiosity about the world we live in.

From April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 Museums Sheffield and Sheffield Industrial Museums Trust will merge to form a new museums service for the city. Sheffield Museums Trust will operate Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet, Graves Gallery, Kelham Island Museum, Millennium Gallery, Shepherd Wheel and Weston Park Museum. As we launch Sheffield Museums Trust we also plan to launch a new and improved programme for schools.

Both Museums Sheffield and Sheffield Industrial Museums Trust have run successful schools programmes for many years. Prior to the March 2020 lockdown Museums Sheffield were attracting over 17,000 school visitors a year with over half of this number taking part in facilitated workshops and programmes, Sheffield Industrial Museums Trust were attract 9,000 school pupils with over two-thirds taking part in facilitated sessions. Both Museums attract school visits from Sheffield as well as across the region and further afield.

We are not expecting schools to return in any number before spring 2021 at the earliest. We anticipate that schools will require more flexibility in how they interact with Sheffield's museum collections. During the Covid pandemic we have noted a shift towards blended learning, an increase in requests for us to deliver session in school settings and we are aware that we are not utilising the potential that digital brings. We want to enhance and adapt our offer so that we can provide an outstanding service that meets the needs of schools, children and young people whilst making best use of our collections and spaces (real and virtual) as well as realising the potential to become an example of best practice. We want to use the time between now and schools returning to think, develop and create a new and enhanced school offer across all our sites.

We have funding from the Government's Cultural Recovery Fund to commission a specialist to stretch our thinking and support us to re-engage with schools. We plan to deliver this new schools offer from the start of the new academic year in September 2021. We would like the report to be complete by the end of April 2021 to give us time to implement the changes.

## **Our Ambition;**

Sheffield's school age children and young people feel ownership of and connection to their museum collections through inclusive, inspiring and engaging learning activities and resources.

## **We will achieve this by listening, learning and adapting. Our four priority areas will be;**

### School offer

- Developing and delivering an outstanding curriculum-linked school offer that makes best use of the collections and improves attainment through creative engagement.

### Project work

- Developing and delivering longer term projects with schools that deepen engagement and extend learning (primary, secondary and SEN schools) that build confidence and raise ambition in young people and their teachers.

### Support for teachers

- Supporting teachers to help them understand the benefit of including museum collections in their curriculum; improving place making and cultural capital, to aid whole-school planning.

### Networks with the city

- Work with subject specialist networks to share good practice as well as hold regular feedback/consultation sessions for teachers.

## **Consultancy Brief**

We want to know what schools want from us and how we can meet those needs. What do we do that is good, what can we do better and what new activity should we be doing? How can we provide an outstanding service for both school students and their teachers?

How are Sheffield Schools providing a rich and broad curriculum that builds cultural capital? How can we support them with this? How can we aid a place-based curriculum?

How do we best engage with schools so they want to work with us? What are their expectations and how can we meet or exceed them? How should we manage relationships with schools and teachers?

We wish to appoint an experienced education consultant to work with us to realise our ambition by providing insight into cultural learning in Sheffield, helping us to realise the potential through supporting us to create a framework that enhances and extends our existing school offer to become an example of best practice.

The consultant will work directly to Laura Travis, Head of Learning at Museums Sheffield.

As well as liaising with the wider team at both Museums Sheffield and Sheffield Industrial Museums Trust, you will be required to consult with a number of partners and organisations locally, regionally and nationally. The partners and organisations will include teachers, educationalists and other cultural providers.

We are also recruiting someone with previous experience of researching and creating innovative education programmes that encompass inclusivity and representation. We acknowledge that many

of Sheffield's historic collections are rooted in British colonial history and while we cannot undo the injustice inherent in our colonial past, we can speak honestly and openly about it. We would like the inclusivity and representation consultant to help us to contextualise and present Sheffield's varied and rich collections in a way that pro-actively demonstrates the contribution different communities have made to our global story in the context of our schools programme. You are welcome to apply for both briefs, see the Inclusivity and Representation Brief.

### **Skills and Experience**

The Education Consultant will be expected to have:

- Previous experience researching and creating innovative education programmes.
- Proven track record of providing education advice to the cultural sector.
- An understanding of the National Curriculum as well as local variations.
- Excellent communication skills and ability to work with a wide range of people.

### **Budget and Timeframe**

The total budget for this work is £10,000. The work will be expected to take place between January and April 2021.

### **How to Apply**

Applicants should submit a CV and proposal by noon on Monday 11 January 2021. The proposal, to be no more than 4 sides of A4, should include information on:

- Key issues and opportunities identified for the work
- Approach to the brief and outline methodology and timetable (including key milestones)
- Details of relevant experience including 2 references from recent work
- Fee proposal, including a day rate and number of days proposed

Completed proposals should be sent to [laura.travis@museums-sheffield.org.uk](mailto:laura.travis@museums-sheffield.org.uk)

Virtual interviews will be held week commencing 11 January 2021.

If you have any queries Laura Travis will be available on the 22 December 2020 and 6 January 2021. To arrange a conversation please email [laura.travis@museums-sheffield.org.uk](mailto:laura.travis@museums-sheffield.org.uk)