



Harris Your Place Project Curator August – December 2022

Deadline for applications: Sunday 24th July 2022 by 5pm

The Brief

The Harris Museum, Art Gallery & Library in Preston is looking for an experienced and knowledgeable curator to work with our exhibition content development team and community participants to help shape the narrative for our ambitious Harris Your Place project.

The Background

Since 1893, the Harris Museum, Art Gallery & Library (the Harris), Preston's city centre landmark, has welcomed and inspired visitors. The Harris is a Grade I listed Greek Revival building, the centrepiece of Preston's Market Square Conservation Area.

We began to deliver our project in May 2021. Alongside major repair and improvement works, we will enhance visitor facilities and transform gallery spaces throughout the building. Harris Your Place will create new activity-led spaces, embedding our core library function, and embedding new approaches to interpretation through co-produced displays. Due to further fundraising success, we are also able to develop new displays spaces on the second floor of the Harris, where we want to re-interpret collections and explore narratives previously untold.

What we're looking for:

- We are looking for a skilled Curator who will work with our community partners and Harris staff to develop and create content and stories. The Harris team have developed some display ideas, but we want to work with someone who has knowledge of the history of museums and collecting in British colonial and imperial contexts, to ensure that our interpretation embraces complex histories and encourages progressive debate.
- You will be a confident communicator with experience of co-producing public displays with community partners.
- You will have excellent knowledge of British colonial and imperial history as a context for museum/gallery/library collecting.
- You will have experience of curating museum/gallery/library displays, and of producing interpretive approaches for diverse audiences.
- You will understand how museum collections can be re-interpreted to support diverse narratives, and be relevant to a wide range of audiences.
- You will be effective in providing external challenge to the Harris team to encourage different ways of thinking, and of applying curatorial skills and knowledge to best benefit our audiences.
- You will work with the Harris team to produce content that is relevant to our audiences, and which reflects the ethos of the Harris as a civic space for the people of Preston and Lancashire.
- You will have knowledge of the current sector-side debates about decolonising museums.

Delivery:

This is a freelance/consultancy opportunity.

The work will begin August 2022 and will need to be completed by 31 December 2022. A detailed timetable of work will be agreed on appointment to make sure we meet our project deadlines.

Fee: The fee for this work will be a maximum of £4000 ex VAT.

You must have a bank account and be able to provide a UTR (Unique Tax Reference) number. **This opportunity will be IR35 assessed.**

Expressing your interest:

Please submit the following to harrisadmin@preston.gov.uk by Sunday **24th July 2022 by 5pm**

A brief proposal including

- Examples of previous work (interpretive text samples written for a public audience);
- Relevant experience; business details; including 2 testimonies for similar work; CVs of you/your team who will deliver the work.
- A delivery plan including a timetable and approach to the work; number of days for each person; and day rates.

If you would like any further information about this opportunity or the project please contact: c.jackman@preston.gov.uk

