



Scarborough
Museums and Galleries
Shaping the world around you

Culture&

Job description

Whose Heritage? 3.0

Curatorial Fellowship (Rotunda Museum)

Responsible to:	Head of Collections and Interpretation
Fee:	£8,000
Hours:	2 days per week (15 hours)
Terms:	Fixed term contract for 6 months
Location:	Hybrid: Scarborough Museums and Galleries / from home
Closing Date:	9am on Monday 10 June

The fellowship will offer a 6-month residency at Scarborough Museums and Galleries (SMG). The role would suit an early career researcher or curator, providing the opportunity to research and curate a signature display from the collection in the Rotunda Museum as well as the opportunity to develop vital curation skills such as research, audience engagement, and collections and project management.

The successful candidate must commit to spending a proportion of the residency in Scarborough.

Background and context

Culture&

Culture& is a Black-led independent arts and education charity and is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation based in London. Its main activities centre around education, research, public programming and consultancy. The charity has been working for over 30 years, in partnership with leading arts and heritage institutions and artists, to develop programmes that open up and promote diversity in the workforce and with audiences. The development of Advanced Curatorial Fellowships is an integral part of our Arts Council funded programme which centres a core Arts Council Investment principle, *inclusivity and relevance*.

Culture&'s flagship programme, the [New Museum School Advanced Programme is delivered](#) in collaboration with the University of Leicester School of Museum Studies. This programme is providing 45 fully funded studentships from 2021-2025 that will enable young or early

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career arts professionals to gain postgraduate qualifications from PgDip to MA level, with the aim of supporting their upward progression within their organisations.

In 2022, Culture& was the co-author of the Art Fund the [Curatorial Diversity Report](#) – which assessed the impact of curatorial diversity programmes over the past decade. Culture& recently launched the [Cultural Leaders Programme](#), a new partnership with Sotheby's Institute of Art that will offer three fully funded scholarships in Contemporary Art, Fine and Decorative Art and Art Business.

Public Programmes play a key role in fulfilling Culture&'s mission statement: *to open up who makes and enjoys arts and heritage*. Throughout 2023-25 Culture& will be curating major multi-site public programmes in collaboration with arts and heritage organisations in various UK cities.

The collaboration between Culture& and SMG builds on the recommendations from the Art Fund report on curatorial diversity (2022), specifically the need for stronger relationships between universities, funders, and museums.

Scarborough Museums and Galleries

SMG manages three heritage sites – Scarborough Art Gallery, Rotunda Museum and Woodend Gallery and Studios. Opened in 1829, the Rotunda Museum is one of the world's first purpose-built museums, known for its domed gallery complete with original late Georgian display cases. Click [here](#) to see the dome and cases.

With a collection that is rich in natural history, geology, social history and art, our activities focus on art exhibitions, collection displays, outreach projects with a variety of partners and an extensive schools' learning programme. We're a busy, small organisation, working with lots of partner organisations.

We want to make a positive impact on our local community and society as a whole by: connecting Scarborough to the world; supporting the health and wellbeing of our communities; ensuring everyone feels valued; supporting people to be active social citizens; and being a sector leader. As a learning organisation, we want to ensure all our activities are built around these ambitions. To help us achieve this, we have five strategic priorities:

- Access and Inclusion
- Democratising the Collection
- Decolonising the Museum
- Supporting the Creative Industries
- Environmental Responsibility

Visit www.scarboroughmuseumsandgalleries.org.uk to learn more about our vision and values. For more information about our decolonising work, visit www.fromlocaltogloball.co.uk.

Duties and Responsibilities

Programming

- Develop a new display for the Rotunda Museum dome that tells inclusive stories based on 13 objects from Scarborough's collection, one for each of the thirteen display cases in the Rotunda dome. This centrepiece display will ensure

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underrepresented voices from the past or forgotten histories are given a platform within the museum.

- Identify and select objects from Scarborough's collections for the new display.
- Apply an inclusive approach to interpretation which will offer multiple entry points for visitors from different backgrounds and access requirements.
- Work collaboratively across teams, including marketing, learning, technical, collections and [Space to Be](#) and Culture&'s creative team.
- Undertake all administrative work to deliver the new display, including a timeline with milestones, managing a budget, liaising with designers.
- Contribute to current debates on curatorial practice and wider cultural and social issues, including contributing to the NMSAP symposium in 2025.

Communications and Marketing

- Liaise with marketing and public relations team to plan effective promotion of the display to a diverse audience.

Learning and Space to Be

- Liaise with the learning team to identify how the display can support formal learning for schools.

Other

- Carry out any other duties as deemed appropriate by the Head of Collections and Interpretation.

Person Specification

Essential

- A degree or post graduate qualification preferably in a related subject or experience working in an art gallery, museum or heritage context.
- Experience of undertaking and disseminating research.
- Commitment to advancing the issues of equality, diversity and inclusion in the arts and heritage sectors.
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal.
- A commitment to increasing access for culturally diverse audiences (for example, BSL interpretation, live captioning and other resources for live events).
- Self-motivated, with the ability to work both independently and collaboratively.
- Good IT skills including Outlook, Word, Excel and databases.
- Ability to work flexibly (including evenings and weekends) and under pressure.

Desirable

- A creative approach to the display or use of objects in any context.
- Excellent administrative and project management skills, including budgeting management.
- In-depth knowledge and appreciation of current debates around heritage, as well as broader cultural and social issues.
- An understanding of the regional/rural contexts in which local museums services operate.
- An awareness of the challenges faced by local coastal communities.
- Experience of presenting complex ideas in ways that are engaging and sensitive to the needs of diverse audiences.

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Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We want curators to represent all sections of the community and expect all fellows to have a strong commitment to work with Culture& and SMG in creating an equal, diverse and inclusive cultural experiences.

Application Process

Please submit an up-to-date CV, equal opportunities form and a statement explaining why you think you are the best fit for this role, giving examples of how your experience and skills meet the brief. We would also like to know what excites you about this opportunity and how you could see this benefitting your longer-term plans.

Applications can be submitted in writing (no more than 2 sides of A4) or as an audio file.

You may apply for both opportunities, but you will need to complete a separate statement for both that responds to each brief.

Please email your application to: info@scarboroughmuseumsandgalleries.org.uk with 'Curatorial Fellowship' in the subject header and make it clear which fellowship position you are applying for.

Applications close at **9am on Monday 10 June.**

Interviews on **Friday 14 June.**

Please be aware that only those selected for interview will be contacted. If you have not heard back two weeks after the closing date, your application was unsuccessful.

If you are shortlisted for interview, we want to make sure any access requirements you may have are put in place to help you through the process. If you would like us to call you to discuss this before the interview, please let us know on your application or you can submit information about your access requirements with your application. (This does not affect your word count.)

Interviews will be held either in person in Scarborough or via Zoom.

Good luck!