

Storytelling at Orleans House Gallery – artist opportunity

Richmond Arts Service is seeking a freelance artist with experience and/or an interest in working with communities to evaluate and develop our public facing storytelling programme at Orleans House Gallery.

At present our stories are shared with audiences via a mixture of informal conversations with volunteers and front of house staff, volunteer-led heritage tours, our digital platforms, and physical interpretation on site. Many of the stories were developed as part of a project to update and restore the historic buildings in 2017 and focus on the history of the house and its famous residents. We would like to update our stories to include voices not previously heard including but not exclusively; our artists, our communities, wider ecosystem (non-humans), our volunteers and lesser-known residents of Orleans House.

Artist Brief

We are looking for an experienced artist to advise us on and create simple, playful, and experimental options for how we tell the stories of Orleans House Gallery. For this piece of work, we are focusing on the stories shared by our volunteers and Front of House staff.

The successful artist will work with our audiences to consult on and evaluate our already existing storytelling programme and advise on changes to delivery.

The artist will use the results of this consultation, as well as their own research to develop a new light touch storytelling programme to be delivered by our volunteers or as standalone installations. The artist will also design and provide training to staff and volunteers to ensure continued high quality public facing delivery.

The work must be completed by March 2023 with a view to piloting the new storytelling programme from April 2023.

Outputs include:

- Carry out consultation with audiences and volunteers, non-users, staff and other organisations to evaluate our current offer and inform new programmes
- Design and develop simple, playful, and experimental options for how we tell the stories of Orleans House Gallery
- Design and deliver training for staff and volunteers on new programme delivery
- Ensure that training can be redelivered by internal Front of House staff members for new volunteers recruited to deliver the programme

Audiences

Our storytelling tours and experiences should be suitable for everyone to engage with. Our main audience focus for the programme is children and families, creating opportunities to share learning between generations. We are also keen to ensure that our programmes are fully inclusive and accessible, welcoming to people with sensory sensitivities, neurodivergence, or who may be D/deaf, hearing impaired, blind, or partially sighted. All our programmes must be accessible to wheelchair users.

About You

This opportunity would suit an artist, facilitator, or educator with experience in storytelling, theatre, spoken word, and/or working with heritage sites on their interpretation.

You will have:

- Experience of designing public facing storytelling experiences (e.g. through developing tours, trails or activities, making theatre, spoken word performances, script writing etc)
- Experience of facilitating and consulting with different community groups and audiences
- Confidence or experience in developing training sessions for staff to introduce and deliver best practice storytelling tips
- Experience or an interest in ensuring sessions are inclusive and accessible
- The ability to work in a collaborative manner with all members of staff and volunteers at Orleans House Gallery

We are keen to work with artists from a variety of backgrounds with different skills, stories, and experiences. Applications are encouraged regardless of age, caring responsibilities, disability, sex, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation.

Fee

There is a project budget available of £4000, which includes the artist fee, as well as any consultation and evaluation activity.

Artists are responsible for their own tax and National Insurance.

Application process

If you are interested in putting yourself forward for this piece of work, we would like to invite you to provide the following:

- A brief outline either written, audio or video (500 words or 2 minutes max) of why you are interested in this project and how you would creatively approach achieving the outputs, including a timeline of activity
- How you would use the budget to achieve your ideas, including details of your fees
- A link to your website, relevant social media platforms and/or a copy of your CV (max 2 pages) which demonstrates previous examples of relevant experiences

Any artist(s), collective or group invited to an interview to share their ideas will receive a fee of £250.

Please do not send Dropbox, Google Folders, or WeTransfer links. If you need to transfer any larger files (such as a video file) please get in touch first.

We encourage artists to answer our Equal Opportunities Monitoring form [here](#) when completing their application. The form is anonymous. Please make sure to select the project name "Storytelling at Orleans House Gallery" from the drop-down box.

If you have access requirements and would prefer to apply in a different format, or would like us to make reasonable adjustments to the interview process, please let us know. If required, please submit an access document that includes an outline of your disability access needs. See www.accessdocsforartists.com for more information.

If you would like an informal chat or to visit Orleans House Gallery while you are putting together your submission, please let us know.

Send all questions, access requirements and applications to chris.burton@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk titling your email OHG STORYTELLING

Deadline for applications is 9am, Monday 28 November 2022.

Selection Process

We will be shortlisting artists on the following criteria:

- How you meet the criteria for the role using the information provided in the “About You” section.
- How closely your approach to the brief aligns with our vision, aims and outputs of the Storytelling programme and of Richmond Arts Service

We will respond to all applications no later than Monday 5 December.

We will invite a selection of applicants to have an informal interview via Microsoft Teams with the Orleans House Gallery Team prior to making a decision. These conversations will be scheduled for w/c Monday 5 December. They are intended as a way for both parties to meet one another, discuss your ideas further, and ask questions.

About us

Our mission is to foster creativity and enjoyment of the arts, enable people to reflect on their lives, and develop new ways of seeing the world. We bring thought-provoking art to the Borough and cultivate a network of individuals, organisations and programmes that nourishes the arts, local organisations, and communities. We nurture wellbeing and a lifelong love of the arts, focussing our work on children and young people, creating opportunities to share learning between generations.

The Richmond Arts Service vision has the following values, and we are particularly interested in working with artists that interrogate or support this direction:

- Collaborative – we work with people in innovative and inspiring ways, we invite artists, communities and individuals to create the public programme with us and help develop the arts service.
- Socially engaged – we respond to the needs and wishes of local people, widen participation in the arts and connect people from different backgrounds, enabling them to have a say over issues that affect them, and promoting opportunity particularly for underrepresented groups.
- Experimental – through the arts we test new ideas and approaches and share our learning to support the work of the borough. This might involve being playful, adventurous and taking risks.
- Enterprising – we will always be open to new ways of working, sustain and develop productive partnerships and seek to find ways to make our work financially sustainable and develop inward investment for the arts