

Curator: Schools and Teachers

Background

For over a century the Whitechapel Gallery has premiered world-class artists from modern masters such as Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and Frida Kahlo to contemporaries such as Sophie Calle, Lucian Freud, Gilbert & George and Michael Rakowitz.

With beautiful galleries, exhibitions, artist commissions, collection displays, historic archives, education resources, inspiring art courses, dining room and bookshop, the Gallery is open all year round, so there is always something free to see.

The Gallery is a touchstone for contemporary art internationally, plays a central role in London's cultural landscape and is pivotal to the continued growth of the world's most vibrant contemporary art quarter.

The Education Department

The Education Department plays a key role in fulfilling the Whitechapel Gallery's mission statement: To bring modern and contemporary art and ideas to local, national and international audiences by providing a place for free-thinking, creativity and learning.

The Schools Programme enables teachers, children and young people to experience and make art, enriching classroom practice and improving confidence and creative potential. The Curator: Schools and Teachers will develop a core strand of the programme within the Education department working alongside the Head of Education and Public Programmes and three Curators: Community and Youth Programmes, Families, and Public Programmes.

Role

The Curator: Schools and Teachers (maternity cover) will further develop links with local primary and secondary schools. S/he will initiate projects and generate resources, expand collaborations with Schools and contribute to the development of a creative and ambitious programme that stretches through all levels of learning and critical engagement.

Accountability

The Curator: Schools and Teachers will report directly to the Daskalopoulos Head of Education and Public Programmes.

Job description

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Duties and Responsibilities

Programming

Devise an appropriate programme of activities and projects that broaden the access of primary and secondary schools to the Gallery and online.

Develop, manage and deliver the Schools programme ensuring that the stated aims and objectives are met within the agreed budgets and timeframes.

Keep abreast of government initiatives and policies as they relate to schools, with special attention paid to issues of cultural diversity and access.

Select artists and contributors to the Schools programme, and act as primary contact, agreeing aims and evaluating outcomes.

Develop digital resources and CPD for teachers.

Contribute to discussions about a broad range of contemporary art practices and work collaboratively across departments in the shaping of the programme.

Research ideas and artists relating to future programming.

Management

Handle all administrative responsibilities attached to the programme, including ensuring adequate documentation of projects.

Manage all freelance contributors to the programme.

Manage and monitor project budgets.

Provide and monitor content and images for the website, liaising with the Communications team.

Ensure the contacts database is maintained and developed.

Identify potential funders for specific schools projects, contributing to applications and final reporting.

Establish and implement suitable evaluation methodologies, ensuring that funders and sponsors are updated with reports and documentation.

Ensure that proper statistics are kept and that the programme is adequately represented in the archive.

Networking

Foster a growing and positive relationship with primary and secondary schools, and other organisations working with children, families and young people, making direct contact with teaching staff to encourage involvement in the Gallery's programming.

Develop and maintain active relationships and networks with key contacts in local authority services, and with other educational professionals.

Maintain relationships with current funding bodies and service users, keeping them updated about current Gallery programme and initiating new contacts.

Represent the Whitechapel Gallery in conferences, talks and other initiatives related to Schools Programming, both locally, nationally and internationally.

Other

Carry out any other duties as deemed appropriate by the Daskalopoulos Head of Education and Public Programmes.

Person Specification

Essential

- An in-depth knowledge of contemporary art, critical discourse and interest in the ideas relating to participation and education.
- A broad knowledge of current education policy and practice relating to schools, with a minimum of three years experience working in a gallery context.
- Excellent administrative and project management skills.
- Familiarity with the school environment, National Curriculum and Key Stage levels.
- Experience developing and implementing on-line projects
- An enjoyment of and ability to speak to and motivate young people.
- Experience of budget management and some financial acumen.
- Self-motivated, with the ability to work collaboratively as part of a busy team supporting colleagues and working to deadlines.
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal.
- Keyboard skills and P.C. competence.
- Empathy for the Whitechapel Gallery's philosophy and diverse audiences, and the ability to work with a broad range of people.

Desirable

- A degree or higher qualification in a related subject (art studio or art historical practice).
- An up to date knowledge of the arts funding system.
- Experience in delivering Arts Award.

Conditions of Work

- Fixed term – 12 months maternity over (starting from October 2020)
- Hours of work: 4 days per week. 9.30am – 5.45pm, plus some occasional weekend and evening work, which will be compensated by time off in lieu
- Starting salary: £21,216pa, actual £26,520pa
- The period of notice is 2 months in writing on either side.
- Probation period: 3 months.

In addition, the benefits you are eligible to receive are, subject to availability:

- 25 days annual holiday (pro rata for part time staff)
- Eligibility to participate in the group personal pension scheme with the Gallery contributing an equivalent of 5% of gross annual salary 6 months after your start date or when probation has been successfully completed, whichever is later.
- Discount from the Gallery bookshop
- Discount from the Whitechapel Café/Bar
- Discounts on editions (one per edition) and publications
- Training opportunities
- £200 annual travel/research grant (pro rata equivalent for part time staff)
- Option to participate in the Busy Bees Childcare Voucher scheme.