

**SUNDERLAND CULTURE CURATORIAL INTERNSHIP**

**BASED AT: SUNDERLAND MUSEUM AND WINTER GARDENS**

**DURATION: AUGUST 2019- JUNE 2020**

**FEE: £3750 (plus exhibitions budget)**

**CONTRACT: FREELANCE CONTRACT**

**BRIEF**

Sunderland Culture is delighted to offer a Curatorial Internship to design and develop a new exhibition programme for the art gallery at Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens (SMWG).

Founded in 1846, SMWG has been at the heart of Sunderland's cultural offer for over 170 years. The collections are varied covering natural science, social history, archaeology and fine and applied art. Sunderland Museum's fine art collection includes examples of 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fine Art, which have been acquired since the museum's foundation. It houses a small but growing collection of contemporary art and a large collection of works with strong local/regional connections.

SMWG has long-established relationships with the National Portrait Gallery, the National Gallery, the V&A, the British Museum and several other national institutions, and recently partnered with the Royal Collection to bring Leonardo da Vinci drawings to Sunderland. Between 2019-2022, SMWG will become a National Partner with the Arts Council Collection. This new partnership will give us unprecedented access to this national collection and will allow SMWG to develop and deliver exciting exhibitions and programmes of engagement activity, becoming a new home for the Arts Council Collection in the North East.

In response to these exciting new opportunities and Sunderland Culture's commitment to support emerging creative talent in Sunderland, we are delighted to offer a curatorial internship to programme and curate space in the art gallery and develop exhibitions which showcase the city's emerging artists and creative practitioners.

This internship is offered as part of the Unlock strand of Sunderland Culture's Great Place programme, which seeks to develop skills in the creative sector and open up more opportunities for emerging creative professionals in the city.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

- To programme space in the art gallery with new and emerging artists/creative practitioners whose work will be enjoyed by the Museum's audience. We encourage creative use of the space, and would encourage a candidate to think about creating exhibitions across genres and media.
- To work with several individuals or groups to deliver 3-4 small scale exhibitions in the art gallery between September 2019- June 2020, working in partnership with the Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens curatorial and exhibitions team.

- To develop an identity for the gallery, making it a desirable and recognised venue for emerging artists.
- Manage a small exhibitions budget of £2000
- To promote activity in this space to the region's artistic community.
- To support individual artists/ creative practitioners in finding their own funding to support their work and exhibit it.
- Liase with Sunderland Museum and Winter Garden team and attend meetings, where appropriate.

#### **REQUIREMENTS**

- Aged 18 years or over
- Living or studying in Sunderland, and able to demonstrate a commitment to the cultural development of Sunderland
- Passion for and demonstrable experience of curating exhibitions and/ or developing and managing cultural projects
- Available to work flexibly between August 2019- June 2020, according to need

#### **CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT NETWORK**

The Curatorial Intern will be invited to join a series of networking sessions, facilitated by Sunderland Culture, with other fellowship holders, which will be a chance to feedback on progress and access further opportunities.

The intern will be supported by the Exhibitions, Archives and Collections Manager

#### **TO APPLY**

To apply for the position of Curatorial Fellow, please supply the following information:

- An up to date CV, including contact details and details of two references.
- A covering letter, which demonstrates your suitability for this role and clearly refers to the role's requirements and responsibilities (maximum of two sides of A4)
- An idea for an exhibition, why you have chosen this artist/ group and a brief description of how you would approach curating the exhibition (no more than 300 words).

#### **QUESTIONS**

Please email [laura.brewis@sunderlandculture.org.uk](mailto:laura.brewis@sunderlandculture.org.uk) if you have any questions about the Exhibitions Intern.

#### **OTHER FORMATS?**

If you would like to request this document in another language or the large print version of this document, please email [laura.brewis@sunderlandculture.org.uk](mailto:laura.brewis@sunderlandculture.org.uk).

## **DEADLINE**

The deadline for applications is 5pm on 24 June 2019.

Please send applications to [laura.brewis@sunderlandculture.org.uk](mailto:laura.brewis@sunderlandculture.org.uk).

Sunderland Culture is committed to Arts Council England's Creative Case for Diversity. We welcome applicants from diverse backgrounds.

## **INTERVIEW**

Successful applicants will be invited to an interview in Sunderland on the 10 July 2019.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

### **Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens (SMWG)**

Founded in 1846 SMWG has been at the heart of Sunderland's cultural offer for over 170 years. 374,304 people visited the museum in 2017/18. It is one of the top 5 most visited attractions in the North East. The collections are varied covering natural science, social history, archaeology and fine and applied art. The main users of the venue are families with pre-school and primary school age children, (including grandparents as carers), retired adults and older people. It attracts significant audiences amongst disabled people and people with special needs. Free and family focused events are particularly successful, including events for BME communities

Sunderland Museum's fine art collection includes examples of 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fine Art, which have been acquired since the museum's foundation in 1846. Particular strengths are the Victorian paintings, which were greatly enhanced by the John Dickinson bequest in 1908. There are also two drawings by Rossetti, given by the artist in 1879 to mark the opening of the new building. 20<sup>th</sup> Century works include pictures by Ayrton and Burra, the largest regional collection of paintings and drawings by LS Lowry outside Salford and Manchester, and a small but growing group of contemporary art. There is also a large collection of works with strong local/regional connections.

SMWG has long-established relationships with the National Portrait Gallery, the National Gallery, the V&A, the British Museum and several other national institutions. In 2018 we hosted the BP Portrait Award from NPG and in 2019 we partnered with the Royal Collection to bring Leonardo da Vinci drawings to Sunderland.

## **GREAT PLACE SCHEME**

Sunderland Culture's Great Place scheme is a key part of the city's cultural renaissance, working across the city to ensure that Sunderland's communities are at the heart of this change and that culture is effecting tangible difference to people's lives.

The Unlock strand of the Great Place scheme will develop the creative and cultural industries across the city, integrating culture into city centre spaces and providing a visible and coherent offer which makes Sunderland an attractive place to be a maker, artist or consumer of culture. It also provides support, and skills and practice development for independent creative practitioners and cultural and

heritage organisations in the city, and creates new opportunities for new and emerging artists and practitioners to continue to practice and develop in Sunderland.

## **SUNDERLAND CULTURE**

Sunderland Culture was formed in 2016 to bring together the cultural programmes of Sunderland City Council, University of Sunderland and Music, Arts and Culture (MAC) Trust into a single, independent, organisation and to realise the ambition of a city brimming with creative potential.

Sunderland Culture works in National Glass Centre, Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Arts Centre Washington and The Fire Station, and delivers programmes of cultural engagement and events across the whole city. It works across the city to ensure the power of great art, culture and creativity is harnessed for the benefit of Sunderland, its residents and visitors. Sunderland Culture's mission is to improve life for everyone in Sunderland through culture. Sunderland Culture is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation