

Creative Engagement Workshop Brief

3 artist commission opportunities to create a public workshop inspired by the Museum's collections, deliverable by facilitators/volunteers into the future

Commission Fee: £1000 each, submit proposals by Wednesday 16th June 2021

The Museum of Royal Worcester (MoRW) is an independent museum and charitable trust looking after and making accessible the largest collection of Worcester porcelain in the world and the important factory archive in the place where it was made. It cares for and engages people with more than 250 years of porcelain skill, design and innovation that has travelled all over the globe. The Museum is located in historic premises adjacent to the regenerated Royal Porcelain Works complex and minutes from the centre of Worcester and the River Severn.

In 2020-21 the Museum has successfully achieved Culture Recovery Grant emergency funding to support recovery from Covid-19 and deliver new engagement and income generation projects for future resilience. We are also supported by the Postcode Community Trust to deliver a Pop-up Museum outreach project June to December 2021 that can engage people beyond the Museum through creative activities inspired by our collections.

We are offering:

- **3 artist commission opportunities** to create a hands-on workshop for our Pop-up Museum using creative approaches to explore themes contained within our collection and archive, enabling broad audiences beyond the venue to engage with us in surprising and meaningful ways
- **Time to engage with our collections and archives** to inspire and inform your ideas and the resulting session
- **Engagement with our staff, volunteers and ex-factory workers** – it is critical that the successful commissioned workshops are not one-time events but evergreen creative activities that can be delivered confidently and successfully by staff and volunteers into the future. This could mean delivering the workshop to the public whilst staff shadow and observe, or it could be training staff directly in how to deliver the planned workshop.

This is an exciting opportunity to work with a unique and important heritage venue and collection on a flagship engagement project that will transform how the Museum engages with audiences. The MoRW has a small passionate team and suits individuals with energy, enthusiasm and a collaborative approach.

What:

We want you to create a workshop session that will surprise and engage broad audiences – ideally suitable for children and adults, including older people; options to adapt a core concept to specific groups/ages would be attractive. The Museum's current in-person audiences are heavily over-55s and we want to continue to support rich cultural experiences for seniors while also reaching a family and younger adult audience.

The concept should draw on the rich heritage of the Museum's collection and archive, using artistic practice to intrigue and offer people deeper and new ways of understanding Worcester's porcelain heritage through creative/sensory experiences.

The session should be one that Museum staff and volunteers can confidently deliver into the future and training a group of staff and volunteers on delivery will be part of the commission. Any ongoing materials required should be straightforward to source and affordable. Please include any ideas for creating specific unique resources as part of the commission to support a session as part of your proposal including costing.

You should bear in mind that this activity is for a Pop-up gazebo that will go to public festivals and spaces where a drop-in model is more appropriate AS WELL as group and organisational settings where a longer more in-depth session can be delivered. We are keen to consider proposals for both in-depth and a selection of more drop-in/taster activities as both styles of engagement will be delivered via the Pop-up.

Whilst it is not a requirement, if you have an idea that could be tailored to particular groups (eg. any participants with specific needs) then please also highlight this in your application.

Who:

We have no preconception around artform or process, and we do not expect you to be an expert in ceramics or Royal Worcester Porcelain. You could be a textile artist, illustrator, sculptor, bookbinder – or something else entirely!

We are looking for a strong artistic practice and demonstrable experience/understanding of public engagement/community arts practice. Experience of working with communities and/or volunteers will be valued.

Whilst you do not need to be local to Worcester, we do expect you to visit the Museum to explore the collections and archive, with some in-person delivery with the team at the Museum or within Worcestershire.

We will work with you to determine the exact delivery details if you are successful.

When:

We are keen to get the sessions developed and deliverable by September/October 2021 at the latest so that they are part of our Pop-up outreach project. We expect to be flexible around our commitments and yours – aligning activity with our programme of events and outreach.

Fee:

Each commission is £1000 inclusive of any VAT. We expect this to cover:

- Your time and expenses to visit us and explore our collection and archive
- Time and materials to create your workshop plan and create/source resources
- Time delivering the workshop and training for staff and volunteers
- Reflections from you after delivery for reporting back to our funders

These are freelance commissions, and you must be registered self-employed, and will be responsible for your own tax and National Insurance.

How to apply:

Your application should include:

- A brief summary of no more than 500 words describing your creative practice, with links to previous projects that support your proposal
- A proposal of no more than 500 words outlining your response to the brief – what approaches you might take, and what you find inspiring about our collections. Please indicate a materials/resource development budget for your workshop to be delivered.
- *Please note – we are not expecting a detailed workshop breakdown at this stage, but an insight into what type of activity you might be interested in delivering, and what types of approaches you think might engage broad audiences successfully.*
- Your CV and contact details

Museum of Royal Worcester

Artist Commission Opportunity June 2021



Submission Process:

Submissions will be viewed by a panel of staff from the Museum of Royal Worcester, and will be scored against the following criteria:

- Quality of ideas and inventiveness
- Context and connection to the collections and archive
- Demonstrable public engagement potential and accessibility for broad audiences

If you have any questions please contact adrienne@museumofroyalworchester.org for an informal chat.

Please email your proposal to adrienne@museumofroyalworchester.org by 5pm on Wednesday 16th June 2021

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