



**HISTORY  
OF PLACE**



## **Exhibition Curator Brief**

### **Purpose of the Role**

Screen South is looking to recruit an experienced Exhibition Curator to devise and deliver a ground-breaking disability history exhibition across three sites, as part of the National project - History of Place. The Curator will work with the History of Place team, our Museum Partners and Record Offices to research and source original artefacts and material for three separate exhibitions drawing this material together to tell compelling stories about the lives of deaf and disabled people in relation to built heritage. The Curator will also be responsible for devising different methods of interpretation, including finding the most innovative and appropriate ways to feature oral histories film and digital assets alongside original artefacts. The exhibitions will be of the highest quality and pioneering in their approach, ensuring they are representative of and accessible to, deaf and disabled people and they must be vibrant and engaging for a range of audiences, many of whom will know nothing about deaf and disability history. The Curator will be supported by a Curatorial and Design Advisory Panel with representatives from our partner Museums: the V&A, The Museum of Liverpool and Bristol Culture, as well as the project Archivist and Digital Content Editor. Screen South will also be recruiting an Exhibition Designer who will work closely with the Exhibition Curator.

### **Background to the Project**

Screen South is a not-for-profit Creative Development company operating in the wider creative and cultural community. Screen South delivers and leads innovative projects across screen-based media and the wider heritage, cultural and creative industries.

The Accentuate Programme is part of Screen South's portfolio of work. Accentuate is a specialist programme which challenges perceptions of disability by providing life changing opportunities for deaf and disabled people to participate and lead within the cultural sector. The History of Place project is part of a series of projects delivered through the Accentuate Programme.

We have recently been awarded £878,500 from Heritage Lottery Fund, for a three-year, ground-breaking national disability heritage programme called **History of Place**. History



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of Place will be a nationally significant social history programme charting deaf and disabled peoples' lives from the middle ages until the present day in relation to built heritage.

History of Place will highlight eight sites of historic importance, across England, chosen to reflect early provision for disabled people through to the first purpose-built architecture.

The richly diverse, experiential stories generated by those who inhabited or designed these buildings will provide new insights into their own lives and the prevailing social attitudes and institutional processes which controlled them. There will be a range of local hands-on participatory activities, a national touring exhibition which will have a different iteration at each venue, specifically tailored to the location and a strand engaging young deaf and disabled people using digital game-making workshops and filmmaking. The project will link to the English Heritage disability online resource, Disability In Time and Place.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/discover/people-and-places/disability-history/>

This is the first project of its kind, and is designed to bring this relatively hidden heritage to national notice. We are working with some key national museums including, The Museum of Liverpool, Bristol Culture and the V&A.

### **Role Description**

The Exhibition Curator will create the content for three nationally significant exhibitions at The Museum of Liverpool, M Shed Bristol and the V&A London, exploring deaf and disability history from the Medieval Period to present day in relation to built heritage. Although they will have a separate local focus, or (in the case of the V&A display) a specific focus on the influence disabled people have had in building design, there will be an overarching narrative that will feature across all three exhibitions. The total budget for the exhibition production will be in the region of £70,000. In particular the Exhibition Curator will:

- Work with the Head of the Accentuate Programme, the Partner Museums and the Curatorial and Design Advisory Panel to draw out the key themes for each exhibition.
- Work with the History of Place staff team and partner Museums to research and source original artefacts and archive material that will help to illustrate the key themes of the exhibition.
- Produce an interpretation strategy.



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- Undertake primary and secondary research into the sites in order to generate content for the exhibition.
- Create and/or produce original content and interpretation to tell a compelling story that engages diverse audiences and the wider public who may not have previously expressed interest in disability history.
- Work with the Exhibition Designer to ensure the “look and feel” of the exhibition reflects the key themes of the exhibition and is innovative in the way oral histories, films and participant-generated content is included.
- Work with the Project Manager and Project Co-ordinators to identify and use the best material that has emerged through work with volunteers and other participants.
- Work with the Curatorial and Design Advisory Panel to ensure a cohesive exhibition across all three venues.
- Work with individual partner Museums’ staff team to create an exhibition in all three sites that reflects the national project but is tailored to location-specific themes.
- Work with each partner Museums’ staff to comply with museum standards, for example in relation to conservation and environmental controls.
- Work with the Exhibition Designer to create a budget plan that includes costs for loans and insurance, mounting and display requirements, packing and any transportation costs.
- Work with the Curatorial and Design Advisory Panel and the Head of the Accentuate Programme to ensure the highest quality and most creative approaches to accessibility are implemented.
- Work with a range of deaf and disabled people who have been integrally involved in the project to ensure the exhibition reflects their perspectives as well as tells the historic story.
- Work with the Digital Content Editor to ensure successful integration of digital elements within the exhibition as well as producing some content to be used on the website.
- Co-ordinate loan agreements and insurance for all objects / archival material whether loaned by individuals or organisations.
- Ensure any necessary items are cleared for copyright or licensing.



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- Contribute to the Evaluation and Report sharing best practice and guidance in producing accessible heritage exhibitions.

The Exhibition Curator will be experienced in creating exhibitions of historic and contemporary material which engage diverse audiences in high-profile venues and in working with multiple-partner projects. They should also have experience of working with archival and historic material and with sourcing original artefacts as well as experience of multi-media interpretation.

They will be a professional curator, and a skilled communicator with a flexible and self-motivated approach to the role.

### **Fee and Timescale**

The total fee for the role is £11,000 + VAT to cover all costs, including travel to partner museums in Bristol, Liverpool and London. It should be assumed that you will travel to each of these locations at least twice. The Curator will also be expected to attend Curatorial and Design Advisory Panel meetings – approximately six in total.

The role will run from June/July 2016 through to delivery of the Exhibition ending summer 2018. There will be ongoing support from the Curatorial and Design Advisory Panel and the Head of the Accentuate Programme throughout the design and delivery of the exhibition. It is anticipated that the fee will be broken down into four payments, based upon the following annual allocations:

2016/17: £7,000 + VAT

2017/18: £3,000 + VAT

On completion of final exhibition £1000 + VAT

A full timetable of work will be developed with the successful applicant and final agreement of a payment schedule will be based upon this.

### **Application Process**



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Applicants are required to send a CV with covering letter in which you outline how you would address the brief. Please provide evidence of experience, methodology and a full costing of your time.

Applications should be made both as a hard copy and electronically, and sent to:

Accentuate

Screen South

The Wedge

75 - 81 Tontine Street

Folkestone CT20 1JR

Email: [info@accentuateuk.org](mailto:info@accentuateuk.org)

Tel: 01303 259777

Alternatively you can telephone or email to request application materials in other formats.

We welcome applications from deaf or disabled people.

**Deadline for applications: 9am Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**Interviews Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May venue and location TBC**