

Accentuate History of Place Brief for Liverpool Sound Artist

Purpose of the Role

Screen South is looking to recruit a freelance Sound Artist to create a soundscape to accompany a sensory story that is being created by pupils at the Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool. The sensory story and soundscape will bring to life the stories of the pupils who attended the Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool and reflect its relevance through the years from its founding in 1791 to today. Alongside the soundscape we will be delivering a series of creative workshops with current students exploring the history of the school using sounds, scents, objects and materials based around four themes that have been emerging through archive research. These creative responses will then be housed in a barrel to reflect the founding of the school and to provide an easy to handle yet aesthetically pleasing storage method.

The Sound Artist will deliver a high quality soundscape, likely to be four tracks based on four different themes, based on the factual archives and the pupils' engagement and responses to them. They will create an audio journey to accompany the physical sensory story in the barrel – ensuring we get a beautiful soundscape and the story is coherent and accessible. Although the Sound Artist will not be expected to work alongside the pupils, they will be required to attend one creative workshop in Liverpool on Tuesday 20th September 2016 to observe pupils producing their creative responses. We anticipate the creative responses will include sounds, sensory objects, smells and stories. We welcome applications from Sound Artists who define themselves as disabled.

Background to the Project

Screen South is a not for profit Creative Development company operating in the wider creative and cultural community. We deliver and lead 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.

As part of 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 of Place is a nationally significant social history programme charting deaf and disabled people's lives from the middle ages until the late 20th Century in relation to built heritage. Accentuate History of Place will highlight eight sites of importance, across England, from 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 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/>

History of Place is working with local communities bringing to life archive material as well as providing training to develop the skills of heritage events organisers, volunteers and heritage staff, in order to make heritage sites and events more accessible to disabled visitors. 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, M Shed Bristol and The V&A London. We intend for the soundscape to be played as part of the exhibition at the Museum of Liverpool therefore it is essential that it is of the highest quality.

Role Description

The Sound Artist will work closely with the History of Place Project Coordinator in Liverpool and a freelance Artist who will deliver the creative workshops within the school to ensure all audio content is historically accurate. They will ensure the soundscape is delivered to the History of Place Project Coordinator according to schedule and budgets.

- The Sound Artist will understand and comply with the social model of disability
- The Sound Artist will have lived experience of disability

- The Sound Artist will have experience in creating soundscapes or audio intended for public engagement and to the standards appropriate to be exhibited in national museums. Ideally they will have experience working in the community and youth sector.
- They will be expected to have created notable audio projects and evidence this in their application.
- The Sound Artist will have responsibility for the overall content quality of the soundscape.
- The Sound Artist must have a recent enhanced DBS/CRB check

They will undertake the following specific tasks

- Work with the History of Place Project Coordinator and freelance Artist to develop ideas for the soundscape
- Undertake some archive research guided by the History of Place Project Coordinator and freelance Artist to inform the soundscape
- Advise the History of Place Project Coordinator and freelance Artist on the best approach with working with the archival material and creative responses available in order to produce the best quality soundscape
- Create a script for the soundscape
- Work with the History of Place Project Coordinator and freelance Artist to ensure the soundscape is prepared within schedule
- Provide a first cut of the soundscape by 18th October 2016 to be shared with the pupils for feedback.
- Produce a final soundscape that reflects the feedback received on the first cut
- Provide the final soundscape in a number of formats, suitable for playing in a variety of situations and fitted within the sensory story barrel

Access

The very nature of the sensory story is to enable it to be fully accessible therefore the soundscape will be accompanied by a text description. The History of Place Project Coordinator and freelance Artist will help support in creating this text in partnership with the Sound Artist.

Soundscape Brief

The soundscape should reflect the themes of the history of the Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool and bring to life the experiences of those who inhabited the space through time, exploring the nature of the site:

- At sea, Port City, seaside (For example, the founder of the School, Edward Rushton, was anti-slavery and found himself shipwrecked and his life was saved by a slave, the school was relocated to Rhyl during the Second World War, Liverpool as a Port City)
- Crossing the road at different periods in history (For example, the school has existed on three sites, in one location a tunnel was created to enable an easier route for blind pupils to attend the chapel, another was a main road with horses and carriages passing and at the third site students kept a diary with drawings of them crossing the road)
- People (staff and pupils from the past – one story describes a duel between teachers, another of a daughter shaming her father by running off with a coachman and so the gates of the site were sealed forever-the ‘forbidden gates’, and there have been numerous royal visits)
- School activities (high quality craft, daily activities within the school, students first-hand accounts of school life)

It is likely the soundscape will be four different tracks to suit the above mentioned themes.

Fee and Timescale

The fee for the role is £1000.00 inclusive of VAT plus a further £500.00 inclusive of VAT for digital materials to deliver the soundscape within the sensory story and in a variety of formats. Travel and expenses for attending the creative workshop in September will be met subject to approval.

The soundscape will be created during September and October 2016 with notable dates; 20th September 2016, Sound Artist to attend a creative workshop at the school with the HOP Project Coordinator and freelance Artist, 18th October 2016, first edit of soundscape submitted so that it can be used in the final creative session at the school and in an external workshop with young people, final version of the soundscape submitted by Friday 25th November 2016.

Application Process

Applicants are required to send a CV with covering letter in which you outline how you would address the brief and provide links to examples of your previous soundscape work. Please



ensure that you have read and understood the Accentuate History of Place Programme. You can find out more about Accentuate and History of Place at www.accentuateuk.org and <http://historyof.place/>

Applications should be made electronically, and sent to:

Email: info@accentuateuk.org

Tel: 01303 259777

If you'd like any further information or help with your application please telephone or email us.

The deadline for applications is Monday 5th September at 12pm

Interviews will take place on Monday 12th September in Liverpool or via Skype