

The Collection

Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire

Exhibition Invigilator Volunteer

Wampum; Stories from the Shells of Native America

Role Description

Whether you are 16 and just starting out, looking to gain experience in arts and museums or looking to try something new – you may very well be able to help us.

Art galleries and museums are a great way to engage with culture and help visitors engage with art, and here at The Collection and Usher Gallery we like to make sure everyone that comes to visit has a great time.

Whether it is looking around one of our vibrant temporary exhibitions, trying to find their house on our aerial floor map of Lincolnshire or investigating Bronze Age gold, Iron Age longboats or Early Medieval Lincoln, there is always a chance to learn something new.

About the role:

We are looking for enthusiastic Exhibition Volunteers with excellent communication skills, who are interested in developing a sound knowledge of the day-to-day running of public gallery and museum spaces and displaying fascinating collections in museum settings.

As an Exhibition Volunteer you are likely to be the first person many of our visitors will encounter when they come to spend their day with us, so we are looking for volunteers who are positive, have a sense of fun and want to make their day as special as possible.

The role will include greeting visitors to the exhibition in a warm and friendly manner, orientating them around both sites and answering general enquiries. The volunteer will also monitor and control visitor numbers in the gallery space.

About the Exhibition:

The Collection Museum and Usher Gallery are proud to host *Wampum; Stories from the Shells of Native America*. This touring exhibition unites contemporary indigenous artists and educators in the USA with museums and historic collections in Britain. Wampum belts are stories of communities and culture. This exhibition centres on a newly crafted wampum belt created by the Wampanoag people of Massachusetts alongside historic material from the British Museum. Together, they explore the history, art and culture of the Native Americans who met the passengers of the Mayflower. Wampanoag artists share their story through images, ideas and wampum – the sacred shells of Native America. *Wampum: Stories from the Shells of Native America* is presented by The Box, Plymouth and supported by Arts Council England as part of Mayflower 400.

Why volunteer with us?

There are many benefits to volunteering for the Heritage Service; you will gain experience of working in a gallery and museum environment and interpreting art for broad audience, enhance your customer care skills and have the opportunity to work in an innovative and unique contemporary art exhibition.

This may lead to further volunteer placements at The Collection in the future. The experience can be added to your CV and a reference can be provided for you by the Exhibitions and Interpretation Officer.

When will we need you?

Wampum; Stories from the Shells of Native America is open daily 10 am – 4 pm.

We are looking for volunteers to help us between Saturday 4th April – Sunday 17th May.

You can choose your hours from:

10 am to 1 pm (daily) or 1 pm to 4 pm (daily)

What will I be doing?

This role is all about the visitor experience. Many visitors will be coming to The Collection for the first time and we want to ensure we give the best customer service possible, this means smiling, making eye contact, engaging in conversation and talking about the exhibition. As ambassadors for The Collection, you'll need to be confident in promoting the facilities, future exhibitions and our other heritage attractions. You'll also be asking for visitor feedback and encouraging visitors to complete survey forms so we can learn from their experiences.

What skills and experience do I need?

You will need to demonstrate a passion for art and heritage. Previous customer service experience is desirable with a natural aspiration to provide high standards of customer care.

What support will I get?

Our friendly Visitor Experience Team will be on hand to support you during your role and provide you with all the advice and help you need. There will be plenty of time for you to see and experience the exhibition, you will be invited to a special event for Exhibition Volunteers to see behind the scenes at the install and our Exhibition's Team will provide you with useful guides to help you answer questions.

What else do I need to know?

The Collection and Usher Gallery is located in the town centre and is in easy reach of the train station, bus station and local town centre car parks. In certain circumstances, it is possible to reclaim mileage, car parking fees and bus and train fares when volunteering with us.

Whilst we will not be able to provide you with a uniform, we do encourage volunteers to wear smart casual clothing in our dress code colours of lilac/purple/black tops and plain black trousers and skirts.

How do I apply?

Complete an application form available from the museum reception or by email thecollection@lincolnshire.gov.uk or apply online www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/volunteering

We receive lots of application forms and not everyone is successful, if you are unsuccessful on this occasion we will let you know the reasons why.

The deadline for applications is 5pm on Friday 27th March, the induction event will be held at 10am on Thursday 2nd April at The Collection Museum.

Need more information?

If you have any questions or need further information about this role. Please contact The Collection via email thecollection@lincolnshire.gov.uk or telephone 01522 550965.