New volunteering opportunity
Listening to London

Role title
Volunteer researcher (oral histories)

Background

The Museum of London is here to tell the story of London and all its people – past, present and future. We are preparing to move to a new site in 2024 at West Smithfield.

One way we will tell London's story in our New Museum will be through display of Oral Histories (recorded life story interviews of Londoners). We have been recording these since the 1980s, and now have 5,000+ hours of interviews recorded, covering topics from refugees to taxi drivers' tales.

Within our 'London's Story' gallery, we will focus on themes of migration, protest, and London's communities. We are yet to choose exactly which Oral History recordings will be displayed.

We are looking to recruit a team of volunteer researchers to support us with researching our Oral History collection for this permanent display, helping to create a gallery which resonates with all our audiences. This exciting opportunity forms part of a programme called 'Listening to London' – **https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/collections/about-our-collections/enhancing-our-collections/listening-london**

Role Description

As part of this unique role, you will receive training and support from our partners Eastside Community Heritage to carry out research into our collection. This will involve listening to audio recordings, searching transcripts, recording your interpretations and discussing these with other volunteers and staff. You will be encouraged to listen to interviews from our collection that connect to your own life experiences, as well as those from a wide range of different Londoners.

Volunteers will play an important role in shaping this gallery, through listening to Oral Histories and adding their own interpretations. The outcomes of this research will be used to inform how Oral Histories are displayed.

Role

Reports to: Hannah Davis, Community Research Manager

Where: This is a flexible remote opportunity with volunteers able to listen to the collection and carry out the majority of research from home.

There will also be some opportunities for in-person meetings and activities at the Museum of London at London Wall, which will be organised with consideration of the preferences of volunteers.

When: Volunteers will be invited to attend 4 x training modules in September and October. These will be a combination of online and in-person at the Museum of London. There will be a choice between Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. These training sessions are an integral part of the volunteer role and successful applicants will need to attend.

Between October 2021 – February 2022, volunteers will meet for 1 hour each week with the project team – plus ideally contributing 2 hours of independent research each week.

The project will run for 6 months, ending February 2022

About you

We especially welcome applications from volunteers from the following backgrounds which will be a focus
of the new gallery:

• People with African, Caribbean, South Asian, South East Asian, East Asian, Irish or Jewish heritage

• People who were born outside the UK

• Activists/people who have been involved in campaigns in London (in particular Women's Rights, LGBTQ+, Disability rights, Anti-racism, Climate, Anti-Nuclear, Anti-War, Workers Rights)

We are looking for volunteers who

• Have an interest in listening to other people's stories – especially 'hidden histories' - which might normally be overlooked by museums.

• Have computer and internet access, and feel comfortable learning to use different online platforms for volunteering remotely (e.g. Zoom for video calls, and Box for searching transcripts and audio files)

• Can ideally contribute 3 hours per week

• No previous knowledge or experience in research is required for this role. Volunteers do not need any experience working with museums or any qualifications

Commitment to you: You will receive full training and support throughout, and valuable experience conducting Oral History collections research.

This is an opportunity for you to shape how our New Museum tells the stories of Londoners.

▶ How to Apply

Any questions? Speak to Hannah
**hdavis@museumoflondon.org.uk
07814 111938**

**Deadline for applications is
9am on 31 August.**

**To apply for this role, please click:
https://tinyurl.com/2y6ph72y**