

Out In the Open

Artist Opportunity 2012: Creative writing based art project working with homeless people

What is it?: Out in the Open is a dynamic, year long initiative in which Colchester & Ipswich Museums are working with local homeless people and organisations on a series of ground-breaking projects and activities which seek to explore and change attitudes towards homelessness. The initiative has been funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Renaissance.

We are seeking an artist or creative individual to lead a creative writing based project, working with individuals and groups who have experienced accommodation issues, inspired by a theme of "Maps". The sessions will be based in Colchester and will build on the work already developed by the museum service. It is expected that the project will run over 8 weeks in February and March 2012.

This client group is not homogenous, many homeless people live chaotic lives and it is important that the level of any activities can be tailored and adapted in response to the needs and abilities of participants. The focus should be on building and maintaining relationships and trust. Through creative participation and collaboration, the project should empower and encourage participants to take control of how they are represented. Please be aware that due to the nature of the group, we cannot guarantee repeat attendance at formal workshops and suggest that a drop-in, informal style of session may work best. The outcomes from the project will form part of a touring exhibition.

Who: It is preferable that applicants have relevant experience of working with vulnerable people with a variety of needs including homelessness, drug and alcohol issues, mental ill health and offending. They must have public liability insurance and up-to-date CRB clearance.

Fee: £3000 which should include 12 half day workshops, planning, exhibition installation and travel expenses.

Total materials budget: £500 for workshops, Display budget to be negotiated.

When: The project is to be completed by the end of March 2012

How to apply: Please send a CV highlighting your previous relevant experience, details of two referees, a minimum of three and a maximum of twelve photographic examples of your work and an outline of how you propose to deliver this project including a breakdown of the budget, to Ciara Canning, Curator of Community History Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service, Museum Resource Centre, 14 Ryegate Road, Colchester, Essex CO1 1YG or email ciara.canning@colchester.gov.uk **by 5pm Friday 27th January 2012.**

Additional information: For more information, please contact Ciara Canning on 01206 282935 or email ciara.canning@colchester.gov.uk