

MUSEUM OF THE HOME

Job description

Job title:	Senior Curator: Collections, Research & Galleries
Department:	Programmes and Partnerships
Salary:	£44,000 per year, plus generous holiday and pension
Reporting line:	Director of Programmes & Partnerships
Reports:	Collections Manager & Curatorial Officer
Works closely with:	Learning, Exhibitions, Communications, Development, Visitor Experience
Role type:	Full-time, i.e. 35 hours per week

Job purpose

The Senior Curator plays a key role in developing and delivering the Museum's work across collections, research and galleries.

This role will lead the delivery of research and curatorial content for galleries, gardens, exhibitions, and programmes ensuring that the Museum's collections are interpreted, cared for and activated for audiences. They will manage the collections team day-to-day and support sector-standard practice in collections care, documentation, access and engagement.

The postholder will contribute to developing research areas connected to the home, supporting partnerships and projects, and ensuring insights feed into exhibitions, programming and interpretation. They will champion community-centred curatorial work, embedding ethical, equitable and environmentally responsible practice.

The role requires a familiarity with, or a willingness to develop expertise in, the creation and interpretation of period room sets to bring the Museum's spaces to life for diverse audiences.

This is a delivery-focused role for an experienced curator looking to develop leadership skills, helping to shape how the Museum shares research, stories and collections with diverse audiences.

Our values, and how they are represented in this role, you must be:

Bold brave in trying new things, taking action and fighting for change on issues affecting the ways we live.

Eco-active embed climate action in all decision-making and encourage visitors to make eco-minded choices at home.

Equitable act transparently, ethically and inclusively - and allocate resources, time and care equitably

Main responsibilities

Research & content development

- Support the development of research themes relating to the Museum's mission and audiences.
- Manage the Museum's CDP scheme "Hidden Histories of Home" and support 9 PhD students in collaboration with the internal and external supervisors (including acting as a supervisor)
- Deliver research projects that feed directly into gallery interpretation, exhibitions and collections use.
- Contribute to national and international research partnerships with universities, community groups and sector organisations.
- Disseminate and publicise the Museum's research, practice and learnings across sectors, communicating via submitting papers to publications, convening conferences, presenting at conferences and sector events.
- Serve as a recognised subject specialist on the theme of home, acting as a spokesperson for the Museum, contributing to press engagement, delivering public talks, and ensuring all curatorial content and interpretation is accurate, rigorous and accessible.
- Champion the Museum's practices of decolonisation, nature-positive and trauma-informed working, fostering a team culture that translates these principles into meaningful curatorial practice and organisational learning.

Collections

- Support the planning and delivery of collections rationalisation and documentation projects.
- Coordinate community-centred collecting and cataloguing activities.
- Ensure the collections are accessible for research, exhibitions and programming needs.
- Champion decolonisation, trauma-informed, nature-positive and inclusive collecting methodologies.

Galleries & programming

- Lead the curation of capital redevelopment projects, working with the Director of Programmes and Partnerships to shape long-term plans for gallery development, including the future redisplay of the Museum's period rooms and gardens.
- Contributing to business cases, supporting fundraising efforts, and managing relationships with internal and external stakeholders to ensure projects are delivered to the highest professional and interpretive standards.
- Coordinate updates and content refreshes for permanent galleries, including Gardens Through Time, in collaboration with teams across the Museum.
- Work with internal teams and guest curators to shape narratives, object selection and interpretation for temporary exhibitions.
- Deliver gallery projects on time and within budget, ensuring smooth cross-departmental working.
- Work with Visitor Experience colleagues to ensure interpretation supports public engagement and accessibility.
- Support the team in a rolling programme of temporary exhibitions and events.

- Develop and deliver a dynamic, coherent and audience-focused public programme at the Museum that increases engagement and visitor numbers, drawing on curatorial expertise to create high-quality experiences and content that also support income generation.

General responsibilities

- Line-manage members of the curatorial/collections team, supporting development, wellbeing and performance.
- Monitor team budgets and contribute to project planning and reporting.
- Support fundraising applications, research contributions and evaluation work where required.
- Build relationships with sector peers, communities and partners.
- Contribute to institutional reporting, KPIs and data collection.
- Participate in one public gallery shift per month as part of Visitor First scheme.
- Undertake other duties reasonably required to support Museum activity.

The above list is not exclusive or exhaustive and the job holder may be required to undertake such other duties as may reasonably be required.

Key performance indicators (KPIs)

The following are key measures which show that the jobholder is delivering effectively in their role:

- Timely delivery of gallery and collections projects.
- Quality, accuracy and accessibility of research and interpretation.
- Effective team management and positive collaborative working.
- Increased use of collections across exhibitions, programming and digital.
- Contribution to audience engagement and reach.
- Support towards Museum's net zero by 2040 commitment.

Skills/Knowledge/Experience/Personal Attributes:

Type of technical, specialised skills or personal attributes that are required to deliver 'main responsibilities' above.

Essential

- Curatorial experience working with museum collections.
- Specialist knowledge of topics related to the Museum's collections and galleries.
- Experience with co-creation and collaborative collecting.
- Good working knowledge of collections care, documentation and interpretation.
- Experience developing exhibitions, displays or research-led content.
- Commitment to decolonising practice and inclusive community engagement.
- Experience line-managing staff, volunteers or project teams.
- Excellent organisational and project delivery skills.
- Strong communication skills, confident in writing, interpretation and public speaking.
- Ability to build relationships internally and externally, particularly with higher education and research organisations.
- Experience managing budgets or project resources.

Desirable

- Experience contributing to or delivering research partnerships.
- Evaluation or impact measurement experience.
- Experience contributing to fundraising or grant-funded projects.
- Experience with touring exhibitions or loans.

We welcome applications from all sections of the community and are committed to maintaining an inclusive working environment, with a diverse workforce. We value individuality, equality and representation and appoint on merit.

As a Disability Confident Committed employer, our recruitment is inclusive and accessible. If you would like to request an alternative application format on disability grounds, please contact us on jobs@museumofthehome.org.uk

All back of house roles on a minimum 4 days per week will work approximately one shift per month in the galleries as part of our Visitor First scheme.

This role will require flexibility to work evenings and weekends.

Working to make Museum of the Home an amazing place to work.

Benefits

We aim to provide a stimulating working environment for everyone in the team. You'll be working alongside great colleagues and in a beautiful Grade I listed building.

You are also entitled to other employment benefits when you join us:

- 25 days paid holiday per year (increasing by one day per year, up to 30 days), plus bank holidays (FTE)
- Membership to one of two pension schemes
- Staff discount in our shop
- Free access to many exhibitions, museums and art galleries in London
- Enhanced sick pay and family leave
- Cycle to work scheme
- Season Ticket Loan
- A confidential Employee Assistance Programme
- Free tea and coffee

We also have various groups for staff to join:

- Wellbeing forum
- Climate Action Group
- Equity Action Group