

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Pope Exhibition Creative Producer

Opportunity to tender

Introduction

This summer Orleans House Gallery is programming a season of activity around the theme of grottos, focusing on spaces and places: real and imagined, historical and created. Activity will include an interactive sensory show in the Stables Gallery, a programme of engagement activity for adults and children and an outdoor installation.

We are seeking an experienced Creative Producer to curate and deliver an exhibition at Orleans House Gallery exploring Alexander Pope and his creative influence. The exhibition will include a small introductory section of historical works from the Richmond Borough Art Collection, alongside a contemporary response. We are open to creative suggestions in terms of the content of the exhibition. The exhibition will form a key part of the Grottos season.

Background

2019 marks the 300th anniversary of the poet Alexander Pope (1688-1744) moving from Chiswick to Twickenham. Pope was the most famous poet of the 18th century – a radical, disabled, working class, Catholic ‘outsider’ who managed, against all odds, to find fame, success and a lasting legacy. His pioneering ideas on gardening shaped the landscape both nationally and later internationally and his poems are still the second most quoted today after Shakespeare!

Pope, with a handful of like-minded (primarily aristocratic) allies, shaped the Age of Enlightenment. Pope’s Grotto is the last remaining part of his villa, which he built in 1720 on the banks of the Thames at Twickenham. In its time, the Grotto (a museum of mineralogy and mining) was an object both of admiration and envy, inspiring imitation throughout England. Even today, in its current condition, it draws students and enthusiasts from all over the world.

We are looking for a Creative Producer to research Pope using the Richmond Borough Art Collection as a starting point, identifying works to tell his story, as well as suggesting a creative contemporary response to sit alongside the historic works. The exhibition will take place in the Main Gallery at Orleans House Gallery from 4 July to 6 October.

Exploration of historic work and inspiration for contemporary work might include: Pope’s poetry and other writings; Pope’s wider creative and cultural circle; 18th century Enlightenment theories and philosophies; 18th century British views on religion, class, disability, identity and sexuality; Pope’s Grotto.

We invite proposals which suggest a creative use of the Richmond Borough Art Collection, imaginative interpretation methods and suggestions for public participation. Traditionally we have used an 'open submission' model for exhibitions that include contemporary responses to our collection; we are interested in exploring alternative ways of involving the community and contemporary artists and representing multiple voices.

Orleans House Gallery is managed by Richmond Arts Service which is part of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Council. The Arts Service and Orleans House Gallery provide art for everyone, facilitating a range of high quality accessible arts provisions for residents of and visitors to the borough.

Objectives

- Tell the story of Pope and his connection to Richmond, and his wider influence
- Encourage visitors to reimagine this history and see Pope and his influence through a new lens
- Complement activity across the site that makes up the Grottos season
- To be relevant to the Richmond upon Thames and surrounding area and to the Arts Service vision (attached with this brief)

Scope of work – Outputs

The Creative Producer will be responsible for the following outputs:

- Creative direction, curation and production of the exhibition
- Managing the project budget
- Research historic works to be included in the exhibition
- Commission a contemporary response to the historic works
- Write and produce all interpretation
- Deliver a marketing strategy creatively engaging with audiences in the run up and throughout the show
- Manage installation
- Deliver a tour of the exhibition for staff and volunteers within the first week of the exhibition opening
- Deinstallation of exhibition, and responsible disposal or re-use of materials
- The exhibition is compliant with Health and Safety regulations
- The exhibition is sensitive to the conservation needs of the Richmond Borough Art Collection, ensuring collection care is maintained throughout installation, exhibition, and deinstallation
- Suggestions of a creative way to collect feedback from visitors
- Produce a report at the end of the project outlining key learning

Candidates will be expected to outline their ideas for the above outputs in their proposal.

Other duties will include, but are not limited to:

- Working in partnership with and reporting to council officers
- Undertaking all duties with employees, partner providers and customers fairly, without unlawful discrimination and with due regard to the Council's Equality and Diversity policy, Health and Safety policy, and Child Protection policy

Timeline

21 March	Deadline for proposals
w/c 25 March	Invite to interview / selection
April – June	Development of exhibition including marketing
1–4 July	Installation
Thurs 4 July	Exhibitions open and private view
7 October	Exhibition deinstallation
21 October	Final report delivered

Essential Criteria: Knowledge and Experience

The successful candidate will have:

- Experience developing and curating exhibitions for a wide range of audiences
- Ability to interpret information and present it in a creative, engaging way, accessible to all
- Strong project management and organisation skills and experience of leading similar creative projects
- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written and good interpersonal skills
- Knowledge and understanding of the history and impact of Alexander Pope, or the ability to develop this, and a passion for communicating this history to engage new and diverse audiences

Budget

- Total project budget: £7,000 to include project coordination and all project deliverables. Please submit a proposed budget which itemises all project costs as part of your submission.

Proposals

We welcome proposals from people who meet the essential criteria. We are open to receiving proposals from individuals, artists, and organisations.

Your proposal should include the following:

- A methodology which outlines your approach to the project and gives a clear indication of project outcomes
- Project budget – how you would use the project budget to achieve your proposed ideas, including an indication of fees
- A summary of previous experience and/or a CV
- Any relevant visual material
- Two references

Deadline for proposals: 21 March 5pm

Proposals should be submitted to: Beatrice.McDermott@RichmondandWandsworth.gov.uk

How to find out more

If you would like further information about the project or have any questions, please contact Beatrice McDermott.

Beatrice.McDermott@RichmondandWandsworth.gov.uk

Arts Service Vision

Vision:

We make an accessible place where people feel empowered to be creative - they share, do, see, make and create as part of their normal lives. What they produce is relevant for Richmond and west London and contributes something new to London and UK culture.

What our services do:

People meet and connect through culture (virtual as well as real space) - and across current barriers.

High-quality art and new revelations happen because of our services.

We will create a bigger and more effective creative sector, increasing the number and range of users engaging with arts and culture over the next 5 years - but not necessarily by delivering services directly.

What our services feel like:

The experiences and opportunities we create are personal, intimate and collaborative.

Our offer connects back to the green spaces, history, the landscape and openness of the area. Not necessarily by showing it, but by giving the feeling of 'a good view' after a 'good walk'.

Everything we do creates moments of 'astonishment' 'reflection' 'discovery' and 'surprise' - we're fun.

How we do it:

We influence, lead, partner, facilitate, and deliver. Most of our impact is through things we don't directly deliver or do alone. We produce the mechanisms that result in new art and creativity that could only come from here.

We provide things you can't replicate by finding facts on the internet or through a book.

Our projects focus on the impacts we aspire to, and apply new ideas and solutions.

We are innovative and prepared to take creative risks, and we bring people together in unexpected groups and ways - we set them creative challenges and provide the space for them to be creative.

If we can't do it well - then we don't.