

# Families in the Forest Volunteer Guide

Richmond Arts Service and Orleans House Gallery

*Can you help us build community through creativity?*



Our Families in the Forest experience offers an opportunity for families to explore the Orleans House grounds through a series of encounters with inhabitants past and present.

Walking through the grounds we encounter ancient trees, flowers, bats, moles, squirrels, even an antelope. Each plant and creature offer an invitation to us to consider their experience in the space by changing our own. Young bats seeing for the first time invite us to close our eyes and feel the surroundings with our hands, our fingers, our palms, to tread the ground, to summon colours into our imaginations, and when we open our eyes imagine we are emerging from a cave to encounter colour for the first time in our lives.

Each inhabitant guides the interactions with the space and help us to reconsider our own role in the natural world by better understanding theirs. This interactive tour lasts approximately 45 minutes and focuses on sound, movement and our shared connections to the natural world.

## Tasks and Responsibilities

- Welcoming and engaging with visitors
- Delivering the Family Tour to booked groups
- Collecting visitor feedback about the tours
- Representing Richmond Arts Service and the gallery

## What we hope you will get from the role

- Experience of tour facilitation with a family audience
- Development of training and coaching skills through supporting other guide volunteers
- Improved and demonstrable communication skills
- Valuable experience at a contemporary art gallery, crossing the arts, cultural and heritage sectors
- An understanding of the breadth of arts activity offered by Richmond Arts Service
- The opportunity to meet new people and engage with the local community

## Training and Support

We will provide training and an induction which covers all aspects of the role. There will be specific training on how to facilitate the tour and deliver the content effectively. On-going support and supervision will be provided by staff throughout your time with us. Additionally, there are regular training sessions to supplement and further your initial training, as well as a varied programme of volunteer events and activities to join in, meet people and learn something new!

### **Desirable qualities and experience**

- A confident communicator who can share information in an engaging way
- Experience of or eagerness for dealing with members of the public
- Experience of or eagerness for engaging with and/or facilitation of activities with children and families
- Enthusiasm for storytelling, drama and/or art
- Willingness to learn
- Good time keeping

### **Availability**

The tour currently runs on Sundays at 11:15am throughout the year, and on Tuesdays and Sundays throughout school holidays.

### **Location**

This role is based outdoors at Orleans House Gallery, primarily in the woodlands and throughout the site.

### **Expenses**

We will cover travel expenses up to £12 per day.

### **How to Apply**

Please complete our application form through our website, which is available at

<https://www.orleanshousegallery.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

Our Volunteers Co-ordinator will then contact you for an introductory chat, to learn more about your interest in volunteering and discuss the role further.

### **Background**

Richmond Arts Service is based at Orleans House Gallery on the Riverside in Twickenham, promoting arts and culture through a programme of contemporary art exhibitions, festivals, events and activities for everyone in the community.

We foster creativity and enjoyment of the arts, enable people to reflect on their lives and develop new ways of seeing the world. We bring thought-provoking art to the Borough and cultivate a network of individuals, organisations and programmes that nourishes the arts, local organisations and communities.

Home to the Richmond Borough Art Collection, comprising of over 4,400 artworks, at a site with a rich 300+ year history, Orleans House Gallery works with local, national and international artists and community partners to engage with the community, as we have done since 1972.

