



# Play Works Exhibition Volunteer

Richmond Arts Service and Orleans House Gallery

*Can you help us build community through creativity?*

**Orleans House Gallery**

Orleans House Gallery will be exhibiting [Play Works](#), an exciting new exhibition by [Assemble](#) and [Assemble Play](#), from November 2023. Our *Play Works* Exhibition Volunteers will support the exhibition through encouraging child-led play and ensuring a great visitor experience.

*Play Works* will be an interactive exhibition that explores the world of play with settings, props and loose parts at Orleans House Gallery. It is an invitation for children to play more and grown-ups to find out more about play. We will be welcoming both children and family visitors and school groups over the course of the exhibition.

Play is the way that children begin to understand the world and themselves, discovering what their bodies and minds can achieve. Play is a biological imperative and a human right, under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, from which children assimilate cognitive, physical, social and emotional skills and well-being, in addition to so much more.

## Tasks and Responsibilities

- To gain an understanding of play and how to support it
- Enable visitors to have a high quality, child-led play experience at the gallery
- Welcoming and encouraging children and parents/carers/teachers and adults, providing information and answering queries
- Support children and families develop a love of the arts, whether visiting with a school or as part of a family group
- Signposting visitors to other children and family activities
- Adhere to the Arts Service Safeguarding Policy
- Observing good health and safety
- Representing the Gallery and Richmond Arts Service

## What we hope you will get from the role

- Experience of children's play, which will support those working/looking to work with children, in addition to personal life
- The opportunity to work with artists and playworkers, and support them in their exhibition
- The opportunity to engage with families, schools, and other community audiences
- Valuable experience at a contemporary art gallery, crossing the arts, cultural and heritage sectors
- Improved and demonstrable communication skills
- An understanding of the breadth of arts activities offered by Richmond Arts Service

## Training and Support

We will provide training and an induction which covers all aspects of the role. 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

- Enthusiasm for children's play, and for learning and development, education and childcare
- Interest in working with children, young people and families
- Self-motivated and proactive
- Confident and effective communication
- Willingness to learn
- Sensitivity and understanding
- Ability to complete tasks independently, as well as working with others

This role could provide suitable experience for courses such as:

- Level 2 Award in Outdoor Play and Learning
- Level 2 Certificate for the Children and Young People's Workforce
- Level 3 Diploma in Children's Play, Learning and Development
- T Level in Education and Childcare
- Playworker Level 2 Intermediate Apprenticeship

## Availability

The gallery is open to the public Tuesday to Sunday, 10am – 5pm. We ask for a minimum commitment of one shift every fortnight, although there is flexibility over scheduling.

Play Works Volunteers are welcome to support other children and families' activities that we offer, through our Arts Activity Volunteer role.

## Location

This role will be based at Orleans House Gallery, primarily in the Main Gallery and across the site.

## Expenses

We will cover travel expenses up to £14 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

Orleans House Gallery is a contemporary art gallery set in grounds overlooking the River Thames in Twickenham. It is managed by Richmond Arts Service, which is part of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. You can find out more about us here: <https://www.orleanshousegallery.org/>

Richmond Arts Service's mission is to build community through creativity. 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.