

Volunteer Role Description: Pitt Rivers Museum Summer Art Challenge



About the activity

The [Pitt Rivers Museum](#)'s Summer Art Challenge is returning, with a selection of art materials and fun drawing 'challenges' for visitors to borrow from the *Inspiration Station* trolley. The activities are designed for families – especially those with older children – but we hope that everyone will be curious to join in and respond creatively to the Museum's spaces and collections. That's where volunteers can help: not only by facilitating the activity but also by encouraging people (especially those who claim not to be artistic!) to have a go.

The team is coordinated by Michelle Alcock from the Public Engagement Team, and she or another member of staff will check in with volunteers on the day.

Timings

Prior to joining the team, volunteers need to attend a **training session: 12 noon - 3 pm on Wednesday 8th July**. The session will help to familiarise them with the practicalities of the role and the different art challenges. They will become active volunteers by mutual agreement with staff following this session.

We then aim to offer the activity **12 noon - 3 pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays** throughout the School Summer Holidays: **22nd July - 27th August**, inclusive.

Although staff will move the Inspiration Station trolley at the beginning and end of the day, volunteers should plan to arrive early so they are ready to start on time, and stay for a few minutes afterwards to help tidy.

We are looking to recruit a team of around 10 volunteers, with two volunteers supporting each session. There will be some flexibility in the rota, and depending on the number of volunteers in the team, we anticipate each person helping 2 - 3 times during the six weeks.

About the volunteers

This role is about: greeting visitors and introducing the activity; distributing challenge cards and art materials; making sure that resources are kept topped up and tidy; and explaining that they are for borrowing rather than taking.

Our ideal volunteer would:

- be enthusiastic and playful – although not necessarily artistic... If you're confident enough to have a go yourself, then hopefully some of that confidence will rub off on others!
- enjoy engaging families but feel comfortable adapting their approach and language for other visitors, too.
- be polite and helpful. As a badged person in the gallery, you are likely to be asked a variety of questions unrelated to the activity. Some prior knowledge of the Museum would be helpful, but we will point out the important things (like toilets!) at the training, and there will always be someone from the Visitor Experience team nearby.
- enjoy the buzz of busier times but be equally happy using quieter times to tidy and check resources, look at objects nearby, and have a chat with staff and other volunteers.

Why you might enjoy this role

It's an opportunity to:

- connect with the Museum
- join a friendly and enthusiastic team of volunteers
- have fun interacting with the general public and inspiring family visitors
- gain confidence and experience in facilitating art-making activities

Other practical points

- We want volunteers to feel part of the Museum. They are welcome to use tea/coffee facilities and bring something to eat in the staff room.
- There will be chairs available for volunteers to sit down, and volunteers can give each other short breaks as required. Although the art challenges will send visitors out to all parts of the Museum, the *Inspiration Station* trolley will be located on the first-floor balcony, which has level access via the lift and is relatively well-lit and spacious compared to other parts of the galleries.
- We will actively encourage volunteers to feed back about their volunteering experience and the activities.
- Volunteers can claim reimbursement of travel expenses up to £5 per volunteering session.
- This role is open to volunteers aged 18+.

- Volunteers new to onsite GLAM volunteering will need to be registered on the Volunteer Service mailing list (MyImpactPage.com), and the Volunteer Service will need to have received two references and done an ID check before volunteers can start in this role. The role does not require any additional checks.

Next steps...

We hope to invite as many people as possible (depending on the level of interest) to an informal, group 'audition' on **Wednesday 17th June**. **Possible time slots are: 11.15 am - 11.45 am, 12.00 noon - 12.30 pm, and 12.45 pm - 1.15 pm**. This will be a chance for us to explain more about the role and for potential volunteers to ask questions and get a better sense of what the role involves. We will also set potential volunteers a task to do together. For anyone who isn't free on the 17th, we also have some time available between 11.30 am and 1.15 pm to meet on 18th June.

Please let us know you're interested by filling in [this form](#) by the end of the day on Monday 1st June. It will ask you to:

- confirm which time(s) you could attend an audition on the dates listed above
- confirm your availability to attend the training session on the afternoon of Wednesday 8th July
- confirm your availability to help on some Wednesday and/or Thursday afternoons during the summer
- explain why you are interested in the role in 150 words or less

If sending a video or voice recording would make it easier for you to apply, then you are welcome to email one to Caroline at volunteering@glam.ox.ac.uk – just make sure you include all of these points!

Information will be kept in accordance with our [Data Retention Schedule](#).