

East End Women's Museum is looking for artist/s to design a creative participatory workshop

The East End Women's Museum is seeking an artist/s, with a collaborative and inclusive ethos, to create a new participatory creative workshop as part of our local audience consultation project. The workshop will help us to understand our audience's ideas and interests about our new Museum site in Barking. The workshop will be delivered independently of the artist by the museum staff and volunteers during our consultation phase. We welcome applications from artists working in any discipline, and from all backgrounds.

About the East End Women's Museum

The East End Women's Museum sets out to uncover and celebrate hidden stories of local women. We started out in 2015 as a website, and since then have delivered exhibitions, events and projects across east London, including Working for Equality, on working women's fight for fair pay and equal rights. With support from Barking and Dagenham council, we now have a permanent site in Barking town centre, set to open in 2020.

Further information about us can be found at: eastendwomensmuseum.org/about-us and more on our previous work can be found at: eastendwomensmuseum.org/projects

About the consultation

We are now embarking on a phase of consultation with our target audiences to understand what people would like to see and do in the new museum. The ideas and responses we gather during the consultation will directly inform everything about the museum; for example, what it looks like, which stories it tells, which objects it displays, which activities it runs, its facilities, opening hours and so on. We call this project 'Making the Museum'.

Two key principles of the consultation are that it is collaborative with audiences, and that it is creative in its approach. We hope this will mean it is inclusive, interesting, inspiring and thought-provoking, and will ultimately help us deliver a museum which is vibrant, sustainable and highly relevant.

There are several different elements to the consultation:

1. We are recruiting a Steering Group, made up of local residents, to feed in their ideas, reach new audiences, and support us to make relevant choices;
2. We will run a series of workshops with local schools and community groups, gathering responses in a more in-depth way;
3. We will attend a number of local events and festivals, gathering responses in a more 'light touch' way;
4. We will send out online surveys.

About the artist commission

The commission relates to element #2 (above), the workshops. We are seeking an artist/s to design a participatory creative workshop, which can be delivered to secondary schools and community groups, to gather their responses.

In terms of workshop content, the Museum and its Steering Group will advise on the questions we need to ask, based on the project's aims, but the creative approach is up to the artist/s. We will also provide access to research on East London women's history which may inform content.

Who we are looking for:

- We are open to all artists and creative practitioners; working individually or part of a collective or organisation;
- We are open to all artistic disciplines and approaches. It might be through theatre, gaming, visual arts, craft, filmmaking, storytelling, digital, a combination of several of these, or something else entirely;
- Selected artist/s will need to have an approach which aligns with our collaborative and inclusive ethos, such as experience with participatory / socially engaged ways of working;
- Selected artist/s must be able to work closely with and respond positively to feedback from the Museum's staff and Steering Group. We anticipate there will be an iterative process during production to ensure the finished workshop meets the project aims;
- Selected artist/s must be able to commit to the delivery timelines set out below.

We are especially keen to hear from artists with links to East London, particularly Barking and Dagenham. We welcome applications from artists of all backgrounds, and particularly encourage applications from those identifying as BAME, disabled, LGBTQ and/or working-class.

The workshop must:

- Appeal to our target audiences – people living locally, chiefly in Barking and Dagenham but also in the other six East London boroughs (Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Newham, Redbridge, Waltham Forest, and Havering). This includes schools, family groups, community groups, youth groups, history groups and women’s groups. Some of our target audiences may not previously have engaged with the arts or with women’s history. We understand there may be slightly tailored versions of the workshop to adapt it to different audiences;
- Be interactive, and designed in a way that asks participants for their thoughts about the new Museum;
- Be able to be delivered by other trained facilitators e.g. Museum staff. Please note that the selected artist is not required to deliver the workshops, although we are open to discuss this if you would like to;
- Be able to be delivered to at least 30 participants each time;
- Be between one to two hours long, and deliverable in different settings such as secondary schools and community centres;
- Be safe and accessible for all.

The artist/s will report to the Museum’s Volunteer and Outreach Manager, with other key stakeholders being the local residents’ Steering Group, the Museum Director, and Trustees.

Budget

- o We can offer a fee of up to £1,800;
- o There is a budget of up to £1,400 for production, to cover all costs (equipment, materials, print etc) needed to create and run the workshops. This includes any items of a consumable nature which will need to be replaced throughout the workshop run. We envision running the workshop approximately 30 times.

Timeline

- o Deadline for applications is 5pm on Sunday 24th March 2019;

- Interviews with Museum staff and our local residents' Steering Group will be on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th April 2019;
- Artist selected by Friday 3rd May;
- Production to take place over May 2019. We anticipate this will be an iterative process, with the artist/s in discussion with Museum staff and Steering Group, to ensure the workshop meet the project's aims;
- Final workshop to be delivered by Friday 31st May 2019;
- It will be delivered throughout summer 2019.

How to apply

Please submit a single Word or PDF document outlining the following:

- Your practice and the way you work (300 words max)
- Why you are interested in this project (300 words max)
- How you would approach this commission and your initial ideas (500 words max)

Please also send a CV, contact details, and any relevant weblinks.

Please email your application to Fani on fani@eastendwomensmuseum.org

Shortlisting will be made on the following criteria:

- Understanding of the brief;
- Connection with the Museum's local target audiences;
- Relevant experience in participatory projects.

If you have any queries, or have access needs that require you to submit your application in a different format, please contact Fani on fani@eastendwomensmuseum.org