

Exhibition Engagement Volunteer

Main purpose

A new exhibition at the Horniman, *From Birth till Death: Scrolled Life Stories*, features papyrus tapestries hanging floating within a soundscape. This immersive exhibition is the result of a workshop led by a creative artist where members of the public were invited to tell their own life story on papyrus, using symbols rather than words. The participants are all members of the South London community whose stories are underrepresented in museum exhibitions and in visitor demographics - residents of an immigration hostel, adults with learning disabilities, people with severe and enduring mental health issues and hospice patients.

An important and central aim of the exhibition is for visitors to take time to reflect on their own lives; the role of the volunteers is to encourage them to do this and then take part in an activity to design their own life story with symbols.

Tasks include:

- Greeting visitors and inviting them to participate
- Handing out the exhibition booklet
- Explaining the process of drawing life events through symbols
- Sharing clues and ideas from the many life stories around the room
- Encouraging individuals to draw without using words

Level of commitment

This is a regular volunteering opportunity for the period of the exhibition, from early January to mid-March 2021. Volunteering shifts are weekly for 3 hours, either morning 10.00 – 1.00, or afternoon 1.00 – 4.00. Training will be provided.

This role would suit someone who:

- Has a confident and friendly manner and ability to make people feel welcome
- Is able to engage, one to one, with a wide range of people
- Is interested in running a structured activity
- Enjoys creativity

Volunteers would also be asked to follow these guidelines:

- Being sensitive about personal information arising from visitors' stories
- Not asking what drawn symbols may mean, unless offered
- Celebrating and encouraging all visitors' drawings without judgement

The museum offers volunteers:

- A supportive, learning environment
- Reimbursement of travel expenses within Greater London up to £12 per day
- Free entry to paid areas of the Horniman museum

To apply

Please complete the attached form and email to volunteering@horniman.ac.uk to express an interest in the role.

NB. Please write 'Scrolled Life Stories' in the subject line of your email.