

Condition Checking the Region's Collections Care: A Survey

The SHARE/UCM Collections Care programme 2018-22

Briefing for quotations, March 2020

Deadline for completing project: September 18th 2020

Introduction

Excellence in collections remains one of the strategic goals set out by ACE in its 10-year strategy 'Great Art and Culture for Everyone' (2013) and as such is reflected in SHARE Museums East's 2018-22 Museum Development Activity Plan. We are now beginning to plan for the next ACE funded programme. Building on the success of our ongoing partnership work with University Cambridge Museums, we are requesting quotations from those experienced in collections care to deliver a report on the state of the region's collections management to inform our planning for the next 4 years of work. We want to know, what are the most significant challenges in collections care that are being experienced by organisations across our region? And how we can develop a regional approach to best support museums to tackle them.

About us

SHARE Museums East's mission is to support excellence, resilience and cooperative working in museums in the East of England. Our programme has been developed in consultation and collaboration with the sector. It is flexible, responds to need and is designed for museums of all sizes. We have been supporting the East of England museum sector since 2012 through funding by the Arts Council England. Our collaborative approach ensures we can respond to the regions' needs as well as building an awareness of its excellence on a national level

The wider context

Museums are facing huge challenges in maintaining services and buildings during continuous financial uncertainty and cutbacks. In addition to this, there are increasing pressures put on those with responsibility for collections care to contribute towards income generation and to look outwards for development opportunities. **It is essential that we help our regional museums to become more confident in looking after the cultural heritage in their care for the long-term benefit of their communities.**

Project Aims

- Provide an overview of the state of the region's collection care and provision and how this may have changed (covering the period 2015-2019)
- Provide a clear indication of the key challenges for museums of different types in the East of England in caring for their collections
- Summarise existing data alongside feedback on the development needs of museum workers in the region
- Make some recommendations of what a sustainable regional approach to safeguarding collections could look like 2022-2026, catering for both relationship building and basic support but also access to specialist knowledge and care of specific collection types

Project structure and delivery

The deadline for completing the project is September 18th 2020

We anticipate the project will comprise the following elements:

- Analysis of existing data and feedback from regional museums (provided by SHARE)
- Survey/s of selected representative museums
- Interviews with existing staff providing collections care support and advice
- Report and recommendations

GDPR compliance

Successful candidates will be expected to work within our [Privacy Policy](#).

Submitting a quote

The maximum budget available is £1500. Please submit a written statement (maximum 1000 words) of how you will meet this brief, including proposals for variance from it which may have merit, and your fee including all travel and incidental costs.

All tendered quotes will be assessed and scored on the following criteria:

- How well the quote fits the project brief (10 points)
- Value for money (10 points)
- Proven relevant experience of the facilitator(s) (10 points)
- Any added value that the facilitator can bring to the programme (5 points)

Tendering process

Please submit your written statement to Ruth Burwood (see contact details below) no later than **midday 24th April 2020**

Successful candidate notified by Friday 8th May 2020

Unsuccessful candidates notified by Friday 8th May 2020

Contract agreed by Friday 22nd May 2020

Contact at SHARE

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