

Hackney Heritage & the East End Women's Museum

Volunteer Researcher

About the project

Hackney Heritage (Hackney Museum and Archives) and the East End Women's Museum are joining forces to tell the story of women who have led political and social change in Hackney, from suffragettes to squatters, Mary Wollstonecraft to the Hackney Flashers.

We need your help to create a brand new exhibition which will go on display at Hackney Museum in 2018, marking 100 years since British women first won the right to vote.

Through diaries, letters, newspapers, posters, photographs, local and national records, we are tracing the stories of women and girls who lived or worked in Hackney and helped to bring about political or social change. They might have been activists, politicians, artists, or community organisers, either working inside the system or outside it.

About the Volunteer Researcher role

We are looking to recruit volunteer researchers to uncover women's stories and help us weave them together. The role will include identifying material held in Hackney Archives and other collections on a particular subjects or about a specific person or group, guided by members of exhibition's advisory group.

The role will include a range of different activities, such as looking through historical newspapers and council records, transcribing original documents, undertaking background research on particular collections.

This role can also offer the chance to gain experience assisting in the creation of exhibition content and other public outputs such as writing research blogs.

Research can be based from home or at Hackney Archives but may involve travel to archives elsewhere in London.

Volunteers should be able to commit to a minimum of one day per month October – February 2017 for research at Hackney Archives, and should be prepared to commit additional time to support further research, up to six hours a month.

Timeline

- 9 September 2016: Deadline for applications
- Early October 2016: Induction to Hackney Archives and introduction on how to use historical resources
- October 2016 - February 2017: Research
- February 2018: Exhibition opens

Essential skills or knowledge for this role

- Strong communication skills
- A methodical approach and a good eye for detail

- Ability to work independently and as part of a team contributing to a larger project
- Ability to carry out tasks using email and Microsoft Office programmes, Word, and Excel

Desirable skills or knowledge for this role

- An interest in women's history or Hackney history
- Live, work, or have some other connection to Hackney

Skills or knowledge that can be developed through this role

- Training on how to use archive collections for research
- Interpreting historical materials and creating exhibitions
- Inspiring others with stories from history

Expenses

- Up to £7.50 expenses per day to cover travel and lunch, on the basis of receipts, on days which you are required to travel to archives.

How to apply

To apply as a Volunteer Researcher, please email eastendwomensmuseum@gmail.com with the subject line 'Hackney 2018 – Research'. Please detail how you fit the above essential and desirable skills and knowledge, as well as confirming your availability between October 2016 – February 2017.

If you would like to find out more about the project and meet representatives from the East End Women's Museum and Hackney Museum, please come to our community forum will be held at Hackney Museum Thursday 21 July 6 – 7.30pm.