

Freelance Community Historian

A new exciting and unique opportunity is being offered at the British Motor Museum. With the support of Arts Council England funding it is looking to appoint a community historian to enable people to discover fascinating stories about the motor industry and its communities, especially in the West Midlands. The Community Historian will work with archive and museum collections and help local people engage with the history of an industry that has dominated the lives of communities in the region for more than a century.

Have you worked on local community history projects? Do you have a track record in producing publications and web-based content? If you are interested in bringing our collections to life and have experience in working with a wide range of people then we'd be interested in hearing from you.



Background

The British Motor Museum at Gaydon in Warwickshire is home to the collections of the British Motor Industry Industry Heritage Trust (BMIT), an educational charity with a mission to collect, conserve, research and display motor vehicles, archives and other material telling the story of the people, places and products of the motor industry in Great Britain. The collections include over 300 British cars and an internationally significant archive of film, photographs, personal papers, business and technical documents.

The Trust is committed to making its unique and historic collections available to the widest possible audience and the wealth of material it has provides a unique opportunity to chronicle British social and economic history and the role the car and the motor industry has played within it. It does this through displays and exhibitions, schools and lifelong learning programmes, and community engagement work inside and outside the museum.

In 2018 the British Motor Museum became part of the Arts Council's National Portfolio and over the period 2018 - 2022 is committed to developing and broadening its audiences, particularly those locally and regionally and building links with people and communities closely associated with the British motor industry. It will do this through its exhibitions and lifelong learning programme supported by Arts Council funding; one of the ways it will deliver this objective will be through the recruitment of a freelance Community Historian.



Community Historian Brief

Inspired by Trust collections and by also working with local people and communities, the Community Historian will record, share and reflect the diverse stories linked to the motor industry in the West Midlands, particularly the lives of car workers and their families.

The Community Historian will work collaboratively with Trust staff to develop initiatives and plans but the role of the historian will include:

- Development of links with local community and local history groups
- Providing content for an online exhibition
- Completion of a monthly blog for the British Motor Museum web site
- Delivery of lectures, tours and other interpretation at the Museum and at other locations where appropriate
- Working with the archive, curatorial and community engagement teams to develop content for exhibitions and other activities where appropriate, particularly early research for its 2021 special exhibition which will focus on the West Midlands motor industry and its people.
- Working with the BMM volunteer team where required to deliver talks
- Attendance at external events such as local history fairs where required

Skills & Experience Required

- Proven experience of local community history projects
- Track record in researching and producing written and web-based local or social history material
- Experience of working with archive, museum and oral history collections
- Excellent presentation skills and experience of public speaking
- Good organisational skills and ability to manage deadlines
- Experience of working with diverse audiences and communities
- Experience of working with volunteers

Remuneration

The work will be done on a freelance basis and the Community Historian will be responsible for all tax and NI payments.

Funded by Arts Council England as part of the Museum's National Portfolio programme, the Historian will be expected to provide 3 days input per week for a maximum of 25 weeks per year in a 24-month period. The total sum allowed for the contract is £10,000 per annum - no additional costs will be included.

The contract will be for 24 months – a payment schedule will be agreed on appointment

Application Process

Closing date for expressions of interest: 12 April 2019

More details about the Museum and Archive and its collections can be found at britishmotormuseum.co.uk

For further information about the project please contact:

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To apply, please submit a CV and expression of interest form, with examples of previous work to:

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