VIRTUAL LANDSCAPES PROJECT EVALUATOR

ROLE DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION

JOB

A freelance evaluator is required to gather evidence and produce evaluation information and case studies for Virtual Landscapes, a Wiltshire-wide heritage and youth arts project funded by the Heritage Lottery Young Roots programme, through a partnership between Wiltshire Council Arts Service, Wiltshire Youth Arts Partnership and the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre.

About the project

Virtual Landscapes will enable young people in Wiltshire to explore the heritage of their iconic and unique landscape in Wiltshire, including the famous chalk hill figures consisting of 8 white horses and a collection of military badges. These chalk figures are a constant presence in the landscape however the communities are often changing, especially in areas with military families. Young people will be introduced to historical investigation, archaeology skills and the Wiltshire and Swindon archives to research the history of these chalk hill figures. They will visit the historic landscape, learn about resources available at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre and work alongside heritage professionals.

With new skills and knowledge, the young people will use a variety of art forms to create digital artworks as their way of interpreting the chalk hill figures for the virtual world; these could be their own folklore digital stories, short films, animations, music and music videos or digital artworks. The young people could also explore making this new digital content ‘live’ in the style of a mediascape, iPhone app, and through their chosen websites as well as for cinema style exhibitions and screenings. For young people with families in the military, they will be able to share their work with relatives online. This year it will be especially relevant as 4,000 service men and women will be deployed. The key project outcomes will be young people’s own digital and virtual creations of what this heritage means to them now. These creative outcomes will give meaning and identity to the chalk hill figures for the transitory communities that make up a significant part of the Wiltshire population.

The project is being co-ordinated on behalf of the partners by the Ageas Salisbury International Arts Festival.

Evaluation and review will take place through steering group meetings, delivery sessions and at key planned points during and towards the end of the project. The evaluator will look at each aspect and stage of the project to enable the team to explore strengths and weaknesses and to support learning for delivery of future projects.

Terms and conditions

Fee: £1,800 total 9 days @ £200 per day including travel

Duration of freelance contract: August 2013 to January 2015

Final report due: 16 January 2015
EVALUATOR ROLE DESCRIPTION

Responsible to: Project Animator and Steering Group

The Virtual Landscapes evaluator will gather evidence and work with the team to produce evaluation information and case studies. Evaluation and review will take place through steering group meetings, delivery sessions and at key planned points during and towards the end of the project. The evaluator will look at each aspect and stage of the project to enable the team to explore strengths and weaknesses and to support learning for delivery of future projects.

Evaluation will look at how this partnership of heritage and arts has worked for the Wiltshire Council Arts Service, Wiltshire Youth Arts Partnership and the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre in using the arts to explore young people’s experiences of heritage. It will help the youth groups to see how projects such as this work within their settings, and with different elements including heritage research, site visits, and working with creative professionals and local communities.

Responsibilities of the role

- To identify and implement a framework for monitoring and evaluation of the project, based on the stated aims, objectives and outcomes of the project.
- To participate in review and planning sessions as identified in the project schedule.
- To spend a half-day each month to gather evidence for case studies and evaluation, reporting regularly to the project animator and steering group.
- To involve young people in devising ways to explore evaluation, particularly with each other and across the four different groups taking part.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Knowledge of:

- Research and evaluation methodology
- Report writing within the context of arts, culture and/or heritage
- National curriculum and youth service frameworks for developing young people
- IT systems for data analysis and reporting

Ability to:

- Plan, organize, develop and coordinate evaluation for arts and heritage projects
- Perform qualitative and quantitative analysis of data
- Design and implement evaluation in relation to specifically funded projects
- Design evaluations by applying theory and methodology to local contexts
- Communicate effectively orally and in writing, including preparation of reports

Education and experience

- Degree or advanced degree in a relevant subject
- Experience in researching and evaluating projects in the arts and/or youth sectors

HOW TO APPLY

Please send a cv, with a covering letter explaining your suitability for the role (with specific reference to the role description and person specification) and laying out how you would approach the evaluation process (with reference to the identified project milestones and objectives) to:

Gill Roberts, Virtual Landscapes Project Animator, Ageas Salisbury International Arts Festival, 87 Crane Street, Salisbury SP1 2PU
Email: gill@salisburyfestival.co.uk

Closing date for applications: 5pm Tuesday 30 July 2013
Interviews to be held on: Tuesday 6 August