



Historic Royal Palaces is the charity that looks after:

- Tower of London**
- Hampton Court Palace**
- Banqueting House**
- Kensington Palace**
- Kew Palace**
- Hillsborough Castle**

We help everyone explore the story of how monarchs and people have shaped society, in some of the greatest palaces ever built.

We raise all our own funds and depend on the support of our visitors, members, donors, sponsors and volunteers.

Sensory Palaces

'Sensory Palaces' is a health and wellbeing programme for adults with dementia, mental health issues and learning disabilities.

This multi-sensory learning programme will enable participants to explore the stories of some of the greatest palaces ever built.



About Historic Royal Palaces

Our challenge is to help everyone explore the story of how monarchs and people have shaped society in some of the greatest palaces ever built.

Established as an independent charity in 1998, Historic Royal Palaces cares for the **Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace, the Banqueting House** in Whitehall, **Kensington Palace, Kew Palace and Hillsborough Castle in Northern Ireland**. We receive no taxpayer funding and rely on the support of our visitors, members, donors, sponsors and volunteers to help ensure that the palaces have a future as valuable as their past. Over 3.5 million people visit each year, and we aim to help them to discover links between historic stories and spaces and their own lives.

Learning is at the heart of everything we do in Historic Royal Palaces.

About Sensory Palaces

Sensory Palaces is a new programme for adults living with **dementia, mental health issues and learning disabilities**.

Historic Royal Palaces wants to develop and deliver a distinctive and immersive offer of sensory based learning opportunities for these audiences in our palaces. This will be a flagship programme for the Learning & Engagement team, highlighting our commitment to working with audiences who face barriers to engagement with our palaces.

The Sensory Palaces programme will use a range of formats to help people discover our sites and stories: longer term, deeper engagement projects, one-off workshops or drop-in sessions, and training programmes and resources for carers. All activities will put stimulating the senses at their heart: taste, touch, smell, sight and hearing.

In June 2014 we completed the first phase of our Sensory Palaces pilot. This included consultation with local and national organisations which specialise in working with people who live with dementia, mental health issues and learning disabilities, as well as consultants and artists who have expertise in these areas and people living with these health issues. We also developed, delivered and evaluated a series of pilot workshops to trial content, engagement techniques and formats. Additionally, we have recruited and trained specially skilled volunteers and delivered a series of audience awareness workshops for our colleagues across the palaces.

We will run Sensory Palaces pilot phase 2 July -November 2014. This phase will be informed by our progress thus far, with the view to include opportunities for trying new sensory activities and evaluating



the longer-term impact of the programme on participants' wellbeing. This is with the view of launching a core, regular offer in 2015/16.

Invitation for expressions of interest

We are inviting expressions of interest from freelance artists, creative facilitators, or creative companies who are experienced in developing and delivering sensory-based therapeutic activities for our Sensory Palaces audience. We are particularly interested in individuals who are able to engage multiple senses through activities and individuals who work with sound or music.

Interested parties must have a successful track record of working creatively with people with dementia, mental health issues or learning disabilities in sensory based projects cultural or care settings.

The programme will eventually be delivered in a multitude of formats but for the initial pilot period, we envision the format to be **90 minute sessions**.

The session needs to be tailored to the needs of the specific audience group and take into consideration specific sensory opportunities of our palaces. Whilst sessions may initially be designed for one audience group (adults living with dementia, mental health issues or learning disabilities), facilitators need to factor in how the session would be adapted for the other two audience groups.

Timeline

- Deadline to submit expressions of interest: **30 June 2014**
- Successful candidates will meet with Sensory Palaces team to discuss opportunities: **early-mid July 2014**
- Freelancers develop pilot programmes: **end-late July 2014** Workshop delivery: **1-2 workshops delivered between August-November 2014**

The Fee

Successful Freelancers will be paid accordingly:

- £125.00 per day for development, including writing 'toolkit' for delivery, session outline
- £250.00 per day for delivery

HRP will cover reasonable costs for resources and materials, to be agreed before purchases.

Freelancers may be invited to develop more than one session.

