



## **Call for Papers 'The Curator of the Future' One day free conference at the British Museum**

**The British Museum works in collaboration with an extensive range of UK organisations to develop exhibitions, loans and skills sharing programmes to enable collections to be shared with the broadest possible audience and to create sustainable and mutually beneficial partnerships. Through these partnerships, and delivery of the HLF skills for the Future programme: Future Curators, we have been developing and responding to a changing sector landscape. These changes are also felt by other UK Museums, and perhaps nowhere more greatly than in the role of the curator.**

**In response to this the National Programmes team, with the generous support of the Vivmar Foundation, are hosting a free one day conference on Monday 13 April 2015 at the British Museum to explore the Curator of the Future.**

*" new museology has played an important role in deconstructing many of the long-held assumptions underlying curatorship and museum practices by interrogating the museum's purpose, functions, power structures and relationships to audiences,"* Lisa Chandler, *Museum and society journal.*

The conference will therefore ask, What is a Curator of the Future?

It will be shaped by your contributions and we approach it with an openness to suggestions, presentations and discussions. By bringing together a range of speakers and opinions the conference will aim to highlight best practice, encourage new ideas, showcase creative strategies and practices, and provide networking opportunities.

**The conference will focus on three key themes:**

**1. The Curatorial Survival Kit- what should be in the 'curatorial survival kit' to survive and thrive in the changing professional landscape?**

Topic suggestions, though not exclusive could be:

- nurturing and preserving expertise / collaboration and partnerships / public engagement/ coping with change / adapting to limited resources/ cross museum skills vs expertise

**2. A Brave New World- what are the impacts and opportunities for curatorial practice?**

Topic suggestions, though not exclusive could be:

- income generation and commercial activity/digital technology and online data/ 3D printing/social media/ new creative collaboration

**3. The Next Generation- how can we help support the current and future curatorial work force?**

Topic suggestions, though not exclusive could be:-

-traineeships and development programmes / academic partnerships / nurturing expertise / Monument Fellowships/ Diversity / cross-sector sharing / subject specialist networks

## **Submitting a proposal:**

We welcome submissions from museum professionals; sector bodies representatives; academics; early career scholars; people working in the creative and digital industries with a relevance to the museum sector; and other specialists working in these fields. If selected as a speaker your travel costs will be covered.

Built around the proposals submitted will be a mix of presentations, panel discussions and workshops. We are also exploring the possibility of running a series of parallel sessions to complement the main conference programme during part of the day and/or lunch/breaks.

Please indicate which format you are submitting a proposal to and under what theme:

### **Presentations (10 minutes)**

- Title
- Author/s (\*indicate author for correspondence)
- Institution/s
- Position/s
- City
- E-mail address/es
- Main body of presentation synopsis (300 words)

### **Workshops**

- Title
- Author/s (\*indicate author for correspondence)
- Institution/s
- Position/s
- City
- E-mail address/es
- Main body of text synopsis (300 words)- please highlight the focus of the activity and how it would be delivered and how long you envisage the activity needing

### **Complementary session content**

There is the opportunity for more informal and/or creative responses to the themes and agenda of the day, these could include conversations, films, performance, interviews etc. This activity will run in parallel to the main conference lecture programme, making use of the variety of spaces available in the Clore Centre for Education. Please submit a proposal for your ideas no longer than 300 words, indicating any AV or practical requirements.

## **Please send proposals not later than 6pm Friday 6 March 2015**

to Katy Swift, National Programmes Coordinator, [UKPartnerships@britishmuseum.org](mailto:UKPartnerships@britishmuseum.org)

For any other enquiries please contact Katy Swift [kswift@britishmuseum.org](mailto:kswift@britishmuseum.org).