

Mail Rail Science Show Communicator brief

The British Postal Museum & Archive, delivering The Postal Museum

..delivering The Postal Museum



Project Background

The British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) is seeking to appoint a science communicator to develop a new Mail Rail Science Show for Outreach in London schools, pre and post visit classroom activities, and the content outline for a new Mail Rail touring exhibition.

Mail Rail Science Show and Mail Rail touring exhibition

In Autumn 2015 the BPMA will launch a new Mail Rail Science Show to be piloted in ten London primary and secondary schools. The Mail Rail Science Show will support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) teaching and link to the History curriculum by taking inspiration from the story of engineering and technological ingenuity beneath London's streets.

The Mail Rail Science Show will be accompanied by a touring Mail Rail exhibition to be developed by the BPMA. The Mail Rail exhibition will use previously unseen photographs and archival material to explore the STEM and curriculum links in the Science Show. This, along with downloadable pre and post visit activities, will enable teachers to deliver an extended Mail Rail project with pupils. The Mail Rail exhibition will also tour Science Festivals throughout the UK in 2015/16, reaching a wide community audience.

The Mail Rail Science Show and touring exhibition are endorsed by the British Science Association (BSA). The appointed consultant will be supported by the BPMA and the BSA to develop activities that meet the vision of both organisations and BSA CREST criteria.*¹

The Postal Museum and Mail Rail www.postalmuseum.org

Established in 2004, the BPMA is an independent educational charity that works to ensure the widest possible access to the designated Royal Mail Archive and our Museum Collection, which together tell the story of the postal service and the industrial and social advances it pioneered over 500 years.

In 2016 the BPMA will open The Postal Museum: a new, national museum showcasing its world-class collections that chart communication and social history. The Postal Museum will provide dedicated conservation, display and education facilities for 180,000 visitors per year. The museum

¹ Read about CREST here: <http://www.britishsociety.org/crest-intro>

will also allow access to the Post Office underground railway, known as Mail Rail, for the first time in its 100 year history.

Mail Rail ran beneath the London streets between 1927 and 2003. Shut down a decade ago, the world's first driverless, electrified railway has been frozen in time – until now. The BPMA will open this forgotten masterpiece of innovation and industry to the general public for the first time.

Scope of work

The Mail Rail Science Show and touring exhibition will tell the story of Mail Rail from the early designs and trials of the pneumatic railway to the peak of its operation, running for 22 hours a day under the streets of London from Whitechapel to Paddington. The two key themes:

- *Science*: the mechanics, engineering, and innovation behind the Mail Rail network.
- *People*: the pioneers of the Mail Rail network and the individuals who kept the network running for nearly 80 years.

Aims of the Mail Rail Science Show and touring exhibition

- Provide fun, engaging and inspiring STEM learning experiences for KS2 and KS3 students
- Use live experiments to explain the science and engineering behind Mail Rail
- Provide CREST activities to encourage pupils to apply their new knowledge to a real life STEM challenge and present their solutions
- Support teachers to facilitate cross-curricular learning in the new KS2 and KS3 STEM National Curriculum
- Inspire future generations of engineers to opt to study STEM subjects in Higher and Further education
- Offer an exciting glimpse at the Mail Rail ride and exhibition opening in 2016

Deliverables

Mail Rail Science Show

- Develop and write the script and outline for an interactive, participatory Science Show for Upper KS2 and KS3 pupils to last 45 - 60 minutes
- Develop the content for an interactive PowerPoint presentation for the Science Show
- Research and write the content for pre and post visit BSA CREST resources that can be differentiated for a KS2 and KS3 audience
- Create a Mail Rail Science Show equipment list within a given budget to be purchased by the BPMA
- Write a Risk Assessment for the Science Show

Mail Rail Exhibition

- Develop a list of exhibition themes that link to the Science Show and CREST activities
- In discussion with BPMA staff, select images and assets to fit thematically within the touring exhibition

Approach and tone

This is an open brief and creativity is encouraged. Ideas will be developed in discussion with BPMA staff. Content should be scientific but accessible, factual but fun, with a light tone and humour.

Available resources

A research pack with identified key themes will be provided by the BPMA for the consultant to base their content development. This will provide full details of the history of the Mail Rail network, and the engineering and scientific innovation, and the individuals involved.

The following support will be provided:

- Introductory meeting with BPMA and BSA
- Potential visit (access allowing) to Mail Rail
- Access to BPMA image database and high res images of archival material
- Introduction to the BPMA archive and supported initial research visit
- Regular correspondence with BPMA Learning Officer
- Feedback from the BSA on CREST suitability
- Feedback from BPMA-led teacher focus group

Copyright

The copyright of any materials, or assets created during this project in consultation with the BPMA will remain the copyright of BPMA. The producer may ask BPMA for permission to use, and this will usually be given. Any assets generated during this project will remain the property of BPMA and must be handed over to BPMA on completion.

Budget not more than £5000k exc. VAT

- To include research visit, content development, initial briefing, additional meetings and attendance of teacher focus group.

Exact dates TBC

Friday 10 July	Deadline. Review of applications and candidates shortlisted
w/c 13 July TBC	Interviews (this may be possible by telephone) Successful candidate appointed
July 2015	Teacher focus group (date TBC)
August 2015	Initial content ideas
	Draft content outline and script
September 2015	Final content

How to apply

Please email applications to learning@postalheritage.org.uk for the attention of Sally Sculthorpe, Learning Officer by **Friday 10 July**

Please include:

1. A covering letter outlining your approach to this project with examples of relevant experience for example web links to existing science focused shows or projects and examples of learning resources
2. Your CV with references
3. Your fee proposal
4. Your availability to attend an initial briefing meeting at the BPMA w/c 13 July
5. Your availability to attend a teacher focus group at the BPMA in July. This would be a weekday evening between 5.30-7pm.

For an informal chat about this project please email learning@postalheritage.org.uk or call Sally Sculthorpe, Learning Officer, 020 7354 7284



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& ARCHIVE

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