

Why you should join us...

You will be joining CIMS at an exciting time of change and opportunity. In recent years CIMS has emerged as a sector leader in its innovative use of collections to inspire creativity and learning. It has an excellent track record of achievement including:

- The award-winning refurbishment and redisplay of Colchester Castle – the £4.3m project has transformed the Norman castle keep with high quality displays of the Designated archaeology collections. It has upgraded visitor facilities and incorporated digital interpretation including augmented reality apps on hireable tablets and a 16m x 8m *son et lumiere* projection onto the historic castle wall. The Castle re-opened in May 2014 since when it has had over 471,000 visitors and generated over £2.9m in income. In July 2019 the Castle will be opening its first major exhibition since before the redevelopment: *Adorn: Jewellery, the Human Story*.
- The service has undergone a major redesign with posts re-scoped and a new staff structure implemented. This includes pioneering a new way of working, with the Collections & Learning Curators combining previously separate roles.
- Overall the Joint Service received 283,000 visits in 2018-19 across our six venues: Colchester Castle, Natural History Museum, Hollytrees Museum, Ipswich Museum, Christchurch Mansion and Ipswich Art Gallery.

Current and Planned Activities and Projects

The Collections & Learning Curator at Colchester will play a central role in delivering CIMS' future objectives, some of these include:

At Colchester:

- In 2017 Colchester Museums moved and amalgamated collections in a newly refurbished Resource Centre as part of a £700,000 capital project. The Collections & Learning Curator will assist in the team's ambition to implement a Collections Master Plan for the Resource Centre, which will generate greater access to the collections and unlock their hidden stories.

At Ipswich:

- A major capital project is being planned for Ipswich Museum, which will see a complete redevelopment of the Museum over the next four years. The project has received a successful Round One National Heritage Lottery Fund (NLHF) pass and the proposed £8.6m re-development of the museum will make a significant contribution to the town's cultural profile and economic future.

Across CIMS:

- CIMS is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation for 2018-22. The service will receive £797,000 to support catalytic exhibitions, engaging new audiences and developing schools activity. A four-year Business Plan and detailed yearly Activity Plans provide direction to ensure service priorities are met.
- CIMS is upgrading its Collections Management System to Adlib (/Axiell Collections) as part of our major 'Collections in the Cloud' project. By using a cloud-based system, we aim to open-up our collections to a far wider audience through digital platforms. We are looking to improve the records of our collections, enabling new insights and opportunities for research.
- CIMS has been awarded £660,000 from Heritage Lottery Fund to lead on a Skills for the Future project between 2018-22. In partnership with Suffolk Museums, the Museum of East Anglian Life, the Longshop Museum and Palace House, 27 traineeships will be delivered over 3 years. CIMS Trainees will support Digital Collections, Retail and Exhibitions.
- CIMS have been awarded £87,255 from the John Ellerman Foundation, one of only six grants awarded in 2018, for our EONS (Evolving our Natural Sciences) project. This project will enable CIMS to transform our understanding of four natural science collections of national significance, utilising our in-house curatorial expertise for the benefit of new entrants, volunteers and visitors.

