

Conservator Brief Shared Collective Heritage

Contents

1. Background
2. Vision & Context
3. Conservator role
4. Funding & Contractual
5. Application Procedure
6. Project Contact

1. Background

Shared Collective Heritage aims to engage with the people of the North East to preserve and celebrate the artistic heritage held in the Grampian Hospitals Art Trust (GHAT) collection. The GHAT collection holds significant work which illustrates the development of artistic talent in the North East of Scotland during a specific period immediately prior to the changes brought by the energy industry. This project will not only ensure that the work is kept in good order for generations to come, but also capture the voices of the artists by recording their working processes for posterity.

The work of GHAT

GHAT's Core values are CREATIVE, INCLUSIVE, CHALLENGING, ETHICAL, SUSTAINABLE.

Our purpose is: to enhance the experience and wellbeing of all who spend time in NHS Grampian premises, whether patients, staff or visitors by promoting enjoyment of, and when possible participation in, high quality artistic activity and the provision of a sympathetic and pleasing visual environment.

On a daily basis GHAT works with our primary community and stakeholders i.e. staff, visitors and patients to display our 4300 artworks in venues across 120 facilities and within 200 individual venues. The GHAT Collection Coordinator has day to day contact with our stakeholders, who are introduced to the breadth of the art produced in this region. The Collection Coordinator invites the stakeholders to view the work in the art collection store and discuss the provenance of each work and its connection to GHAT and the North East. The key factors when selecting artwork for display across NHS Grampian are the artworks portrayal of the geographical heritage of the North East of Scotland and connection to a period of time. These two criteria continually shape the direction in which we organise exhibitions and events, and are vital considerations within this project.

Over the last four years GHAT has undertaken a full audit of these works; condition checked 40% and researched audience engagement methodologies with our stakeholders.

Alongside the work to care for and curate the 4300 framed artworks GHAT also delivers three other main strands of work which are interlinked with our original role of collecting and displaying locally sourced artworks across the area. These main strands are:

- Project managing large site specific arts projects in new builds and refurbished areas.
- Programming three exhibition venues one being the Suttie Arts Space, the only bespoke arts venue in an acute hospital setting
- Patient-centred arts sessions (Artroom) bringing the joy of creativity into the wards of the regions hospitals delivered by professional artists.

2. Vision & Context

The conservator will be involved in the conservation of the artworks and advising GHAT on the heritage priorities of the project. The main objectives of the project involve:

- The conservation and digitisation of selected works from the GHAT Art Collection, and creation of an online archive of the digitised works.
- A film commissioned to encapsulate the project and preserve invaluable insight from key individuals which records the heritage of the collection for the future.
- A heritage ambassador project working with hospital porters to map/communicate artistic heritage on a daily basis.
- Published outputs to enable long-term learning and engagement.
- A final exhibition and showcase.
- Training opportunities for three undergraduates in heritage, arts and media studies.

Aim one – Conservation and interpretation of key artworks to clearly identify, interpret and communicate their artistic heritage

This brief is for a conservator to assist GHAT assess which items are in most need of conservation and protection. The artworks will be assessed against agreed criteria developed between the conservator, the GHAT Collection Coordinator and the project advisors. The first assessment of the GHAT collection will be paper based with the Collection Coordinator working with the conservator to assess the provenance and artistic significance of each work. From this initial paper based exercise the conservator will access the store room and display venues to begin to separate out the works into two categories:

- Artworks in most need of conservation and or protection
- Artworks representative of particular artists for including in the digital recording of the collection.

A photographer will be engaged to create a digital resource which will then be available on our web site for our audience to access 'at will' using digital access portals. Some of the oil paintings within the GHAT collection are part of the Public Catalogue Foundation archive. This project only archived oil work which only forms a very small part of our collection; by including the paper and print works as well we will ensure a broad range of the North East artist's heritage is preserved.

Outcome: Heritage will be in better condition

Aim 3. Develop audience/community engagement to promote enjoyable, meaningful skills and recording of knowledge through participation

The conservator will design and deliver four public conservation learning sessions for the public illustrating conservator techniques and showcasing key works in the collection.

Outcome: Heritage will be better identified and explained

3. Conservator Role

GHAT is looking for an experienced conservator or conservation company to lead on the conservation of the GHAT Collection. This person will be supported by the GHAT Collection Coordinator and report to the Director and project steering group. Their role will be to develop and deliver the conservation elements of project in order to achieve the aims and outcomes expressed above.

The conservator will need a track record in heritage conservation projects. The conservator will need some experience of working with the public or be able to indicate how they will deliver outward facing public awareness sessions and conservation techniques. The conservator will be available for planning meetings, the evaluation of the project where appropriate, and be available for the presentation of all the programmes which form part of the project.

4. Funding and Contractual Details

A fee of £5000 has been allocated for a conservator to carry out this brief. This sum includes all fees, travel, accommodation and all costs associated with this brief. There is an additional budget for delivery of conservation workshops.

The conservator will report to the GHAT Collection Coordinator on a regular basis and be expected to attend agreed planning meetings. The project structure and framework, methodology with key milestones for the delivery of the project and format of a final report will be agreed between the conservator and GHAT.

The fee will be structured as follows;

- 10% on commissioning,
- 10% on outline proposal with key milestones, dates and action plan
- 20% on delivery of the first agreed key stage
- 30% on delivery of the second agreed key stage
- 30% on delivery of the final stage of project and submission of report

5. Application Procedure

Applications can be accepted **by post or email**

Conservators are invited to submit:

- Documentation of previous, relevant work which will be returned as soon as possible after the deadline date. Please indicate with your application if you are happy for us to retain your information.
- A CV demonstrating skills and evidence of commitment to working as a conservator. The ability to relate to different groups and people with varying skill levels and ages will be required. Please supply an electronic copy of your CV if at all possible.
- A proposal of no more than 1000 words which outlines how the applicant will deliver the project with key milestones, fee allocation and methodology and time management.

All visual and written material will be returned, but please note that GHAT cannot accept responsibility for damage or loss of submitted material supporting your application. If you would like us to keep your details on file please indicate this on your image list.

GHAT cannot accept responsibility for non-delivery and advise applicants to use a recorded delivery system and add a read receipt to any email.

Applicants should ensure that their applications arrive by the deadline date.

Applications that arrive after the deadline date will not be considered.

Up to four conservators will be invited for an initial orientation and interview. The panel reserves the right not to appoint any applicant. Applications will be assessed by a panel comprising of representatives from the GHAT Board of Trustees, GHAT and NHS Grampian staff.

Short listed conservators will be informed by 21st October with interviews held on

28th October at a venue to be confirmed.

The deadline for submissions is 12 noon 4th October 2019

6. Project Contact

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