

## Volunteer Role Description: Pitt Rivers Museum Inspiration Station



### About the activity

The [Pitt Rivers Museum](https://www.pitt-rivers-museum.ox.ac.uk/)'s Inspiration Station trolley is returning this summer, with a selection of art materials and fun drawing 'challenges'. Each challenge will encourage visitors to respond creatively to the Museum's space and collection. The activity is designed for families – especially those with older children – but we hope that other visitors will also be curious to join in. And that's where volunteers can help: not only by facilitating the activity but also by encouraging people (especially those who claim not to be artistic!) to have a go.

The team will be coordinated by Michelle Alcock from the Public Engagement Team.

### Timings

Prior to joining the team, volunteers need to attend a training session: **1 - 4 pm on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July**. The session will help to familiarise them with the practicalities of the role, as well as the different art challenges. They will then become active volunteers by mutual agreement with staff.

We would like to offer Inspiration Station activities to our visitors **1 - 4 pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays** throughout the School Summer Holidays: **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July - Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August**, inclusive.

Although staff will move the Station (it's on wheels!) at the beginning and end of the day, volunteers should plan to arrive early so they are ready to start on time, and stay for a few minutes afterwards to help tidy.

We are looking to recruit a team of around 10 volunteers, with two volunteers supporting each session. There will be some flexibility in the rota, and depending on the number of volunteers in the team, we anticipate each person helping 2 - 3 times during the six weeks.

## About the volunteers

This role is about: greeting visitors and introducing the activity; distributing challenges and materials and explaining that they are for borrowing rather than taking; making sure that resources are kept topped up and tidy.

Our ideal volunteer would:

- be enthusiastic and playful – although not necessarily artistic... If you're confident enough to have a go yourself, then hopefully some of that confidence will rub off on others!
- enjoy engaging with families, but would also feel comfortable adapting their approach and language for other visitors.
- be polite and helpful. As a badged person in the gallery, you are likely to be asked a variety of questions unrelated to the activity. Some prior knowledge of the Museum would be helpful, although we will point out all of the important things (like toilets!) at the training, and there will always be someone from the Visitor Experience team nearby.
- enjoy the buzz of busier times, but be equally happy to use quieter times to tidy and check resources, look at objects nearby, and have a chat with staff and other volunteers.

## Why you might enjoy this role

It's an opportunity to:

- connect with the Museum
- join a friendly and enthusiastic team of volunteers
- have fun interacting with the general public and inspiring family visitors
- gain confidence and experience in facilitating art-making activities

## Other practical points

- We want volunteers to feel part of the Museum. They are welcome to make use of tea/coffee facilities and bring something to eat in the staff room.
- There will be chairs available for volunteers to sit down and volunteers can give each other a short break, as required. Although the art challenges will send visitors out to all parts of the Museum, the Inspiration Station will be located on the first-floor balcony, which has level access via the lift, is relatively spacious, and is relatively well-lit.
- We will actively encourage volunteers to feed back about their volunteering experience and the activities.
- Volunteers can claim reimbursement of travel expenses up to £5 per volunteering session.
- This role is open to volunteers aged 18+.
- Volunteers new to onsite GLAM volunteering will need to be registered on the Volunteer Service mailing list ([MyImpactPage.com](http://MyImpactPage.com)), and the Volunteer

Service will need to have received two references and done an ID check before volunteers can start in this role. The role does not require any additional checks.

### **Next steps...**

We would like to meet everyone who is interested for a short, informal 'audition' during the week of **17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> June**.

Please let us know you're interested by emailing Caroline at [volunteering@glam.ox.ac.uk](mailto:volunteering@glam.ox.ac.uk) by **the end of the day on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June**. When you email, please:

- confirm your availability to meet us during the week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> June; if you aren't available that week, then please still get in touch, and we will accommodate other times if we can
- confirm your availability to attend the training session on the afternoon of Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July
- confirm your availability to help on some Wednesday and/or Thursday afternoons during the summer
- explain why you are interested in the role in 100 words or less

For more information about the Pitt Rivers Museum, see the [Museum's website](#).