

Crafts Council
Recruitment

Consultant - Crafts Council Collection
July 2022





Thursday exhibition at Collect fair. Image: Iona Wolff

About Us

We are the national charity for craft.

We inspire making, empower learning, and nurture businesses.

We believe that craft skills and knowledge enrich and uplift us as individuals and in doing so will change our world for the better.

Established by Royal Charter in 1971 we are funded by Arts Council England as well as through fund raising and earned income activities.

Society has faced unprecedented challenges in the last year and craft has shown its value; from the many volunteers making scrubs for the NHS through to the rise in craft making at home during lockdown. Yet many craft businesses have suffered a drastic loss of income and need our support.

Our goal is to be an impactful organisation that can:

- champion craft and its positive impact on society
- increase levels of craft education at all ages
- grow the market for craft

With the Crafts Council Gallery - our new public space for craft - now open and our fiftieth anniversary campaign 'Make! Craft! Live!' in full swing, this is a really exciting time to join the team.

Overview

Job Title

Consultant - Crafts Council Collection

Fee & expenses:

Up to £10,000

(£350 per day for approx 28 days over a 7-month period- inclusive of any travel)

Contract type

Freelance

Reporting to

Head of Public Programmes

Working with

Collections & Exhibitions Manager

Collections & Loans Officer

Head of Public Programmes

Location

We are based in Islington, London.

The Role

We're seeking an external collection consultant to work with the organisation to review the care conditions and management systems of Crafts Council Collection and to support the development of a strategy to increase its public engagement over the next five to ten years. This two stage process will include:

- Firstly, a research and development period comprising interviews with staff and key stakeholders and the public, and an assessment of internal working tools and systems to review the care and management conditions of the Crafts Council Collection.
- Secondly, a strategic development period where key findings and reflections will form the basis of a report that identifies opportunities for increased public engagement and access to the collection in the future.





Duties and Responsibilities

- Undertake rigorous analysis of the care conditions and management systems of the Crafts Council Collection (across its Primary Collection, Handling Collection and Archives) through a series of conversations with staff and leaders in the sector, as well as through an assessment of the tools and systems used.
- Conduct an awareness study of the collection through interviews with the public and makers in the sector to gauge perception and broader interest and appeal.
- Conduct site visits to the Crafts Council Gallery in Islington where a proportion of the Primary and Handling Collection is held, along with visits to offsite storage locations in Greater London where the remaining works are held.
- Produce a report that outlines a proposal for the future management of the Crafts Council Collection, based on the research and development work undertaken. Report should consider: resources (budget, equipment and staffing), the specific needs of a contemporary collection of this nature and scale, objectives and vision of all key stakeholders. This report will underpin operational development of the collection in the coming years.

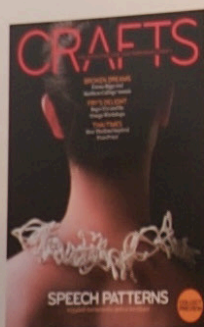
CRAFTS

THE MAGAZINE FOR CONTEMPORARY CRAFT

Council aims to make the UK the best
take, see and collect contemporary craft
website to find out about all our work

Crafts magazine scours all corners of the professional
crafts world to bring you the cream of the creative
crop. Stunning photography, maker profiles, collection
features plus the latest news and reviews. Crafts has
it covered.

www.craftsmagazine.org.uk



CRAFTS

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General

- A strong commitment to accessibility and social justice, ensuring that we are adhering to best practice.
- Assist in developing and maintaining effective teamwork across Crafts Council.
- Be flexible within the broad remit of the post.
- Continuously seek ways to improve personal, team and business performance.
- Ensure that you comply with all Health and Safety regulations and safe working practice as required by current legislation and the Company's Health and Safety Policy and practices.
- Understand the importance of equality and inclusion in the workplace.



Workshop participant. Image: Iona Wolff

Person Specification

Essential

- Extensive experience of consulting on collections development projects.
- Experience of writing reports.
- An understanding of best practice in presenting and maintaining contemporary public collections, including awareness of collections management tools and systems, documentation processes and care and conservation requirements.
- A commitment to widening access to collections and audience-centred strategic planning.
- An understanding of the Arts Council of England's funding requirements for National Portfolio Organisations in 2023-2026 and the investment principles.
- Willingness to be responsive and flexible in responding to the organisation's needs.
- Good knowledge of contemporary craft and making.
- Based in the UK.

Desireable

- Business Planning and evaluation experience for national portfolio organisations.
- An extensive network within the museum and cultural sector.
- An interest in the democratisation and decolonisation of collections.



How to Apply

If you feel that you have the qualities to make a difference and the desire to help build a stronger organisation, then we are very interested in hearing from you.

To be considered for this opportunity please send a written tender detailing:

- CV and a cover letter outlining any relevant experience
- Comparable projects delivered

Applications should be sent to:

recruitment@craftscouncil.org.uk

We also welcome video and voice note applications. To apply, please send a link to your video or voice note file to recruitment@craftscouncil.org.uk

Applications closing date: rolling deadline until position is filled.



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ENGLAND**

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www.craftscouncil.org.uk