Museum of Zoology offers traineeship

The University of Cambridge Museums is delighted to offer a 12-month traineeship as part of Cultural Co-operation’s Strengthening Our Common Life (SOCL) programme, funded by Heritage Lottery Fund’s Skills for the Future programme.

The SOCL programme aims to make the UK’s cultural heritage collections more accessible and meaningful to its increasingly cosmopolitan population. It does this by offering heritage and skills training to young people from sections of the community currently under-represented in the heritage sector, and by embedding community engagement and outreach within the training programme.

From September 2014, 17 young people will receive training and support throughout their 12-month placement from experienced heritage professionals across institutions including Historic Royal Palaces, London Transport Museum, Norfolk Museums Service and the University of Cambridge Museums. Recognised, established heritage skills in areas such as archiving; community engagement (including new audience development); conservation; exhibition design and interpretation will form the bedrock of the traineeships, whilst newer skills areas such as social media communication and digital engagement will be developed by Cultural Co-operation’s training centre team. The trainee at the University of Cambridge Museums will be based within the outreach team at the Museum of Zoology; currently closed to the public for redevelopment, this opportunity will give the trainee a real insight into how a University Museum works, how it keeps its profile high while closed and the important outreach and education events that the team continues to carry out.

The traineeships will enable young people in sections of the population historically under-represented at decision-making levels in the UK heritage sector – particularly those of BAMER (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic & Faith and Refugee) origins – to receive bursary-supported, QCF-accredited work-based training in heritage skills.

Cultural Co-operation has established a strong track record in delivering accredited, work-based learning in partnership with arts and heritage institutions. To date, 26 young people have been trained through previous iterations of the programme (SOCL1 and 2: 2010 – 2014), of which approximately 90% were from BAMER backgrounds. The University of Cambridge Museums has developed its Opening Doors project through support from Arts Council England as a Major Partner Museum and offers opportunities to volunteer, apprenticeships, internships and work experience across all eight University of Cambridge Museums and the Botanic Garden.

Amanda Lightstone, Opening Doors Project Coordinator said, “The University of Cambridge Museums (UCM) is delighted to join the SOCL3 Traineeship programme and looks forward to welcoming one trainee to support the outreach work of our museums. Developing opportunities for young people to engage with and support
museums has been a priority for the UCM and this traineeship adds a new, dynamic layer to our offerings. We appreciate the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and Cultural Co-operation in making this position possible.”

Applications for the traineeship at the University of Cambridge Museums are now being accepted (closing date midday 4 August), more information is available on the website: www.cam.ac.uk/museums/socl

For more information on the project please visit www.culturralco-operation.org

For further press enquiries please contact Verity Sanderson, Marketing and Press Coordinator, University of Cambridge Museums on 07872 410663 or vcs25@cam.ac.uk

Notes to Editors
Launched in July 2009, Skills for the Future is an HLF programme supporting heritage organisations across the UK to create training opportunities in important or endangered heritage skills areas. HLF has awarded grants totalling £26.8m under this programme to date.

About CC:
CC was set up in London in 1987 as an independent educational charity with a mission to unite people through high quality engagement with the world’s cultural heritage. In 2009/10 it brought several major heritage organisations together into a nationwide consortium that it continues to lead, in order to develop and deliver a pilot edition of SOCL.

About the Heritage Lottery Fund:
Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) aims to make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities across the UK and help build a resilient heritage economy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported almost 35,000 projects with £5.4bn across the UK. www.hlf.org.uk

University of Cambridge Museums
University of Cambridge Museums is a consortium of the eight University Museums, which works in partnership with the Cambridge University Botanic Garden and other Cambridge University collections.

The University’s collections are a world-class resource for researchers, students and members of the public representing the country’s highest concentration of internationally important collections, all within walking distance of the City Centre.

In April 2012 the University of Cambridge Museums were awarded Major Partnership Funding from Arts Council England to support its ambitious three-year Connecting Collections programme. The programme focuses on unlocking the University’s collections, and the research activities which underpin them, for a larger and more diverse audience.

Arts Council England recently announced its continuing support for the University of Cambridge Museums as a Major Partner Museum, with indicative funding of nearly £4.5 million for the period 2015-18.