University of Cambridge Museums Museum Remix
14 – 15 June 2018

Open Call

This is an open call for museums and heritage workers nationally, Cambridge graduate students, and University of Cambridge Museums and Botanic Garden staff and volunteers interested in exploring new ways of working with museum collections to take part in Museum Remix at the University of Cambridge Museums.

About the University of Cambridge Museums

The University of Cambridge Museums (UCM) is a consortium of eight University Museums and Cambridge University Botanic Garden. Our programmes focus on unlocking the University’s collections, and the research activities that underpin them, for a larger and more diverse audience.

About Museum Remix

Museum Remix is a two-day event which aims to diversity the UCM’s approach to working with its range of historic collections and the ways in which audiences experience them. Responding to ongoing conversations about decolonisation, representation and museum cultures, the Remix aims to explore new ways of presenting more diverse perspectives in museum spaces, and generate a legacy to empower our museums to do exactly that in future.

Over 14 June and the morning of 15 June, Museum Remix will open up three UCM collections to teams of contributors. Teams will be invited to explore the collections and develop a considered and even provocative response. They will have the opportunity to present their ideas and discuss them directly with UCM staff at a half-day Staff Forum on the afternoon of 15 June. The Forum, which will also include presentations from external speakers, will provide further opportunity for debate and consultation on equality, diversity and representation at the UCM as well as in the sector more broadly.

The participating museums are:

- Museum of Classical Archaeology
- Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences
- The Fitzwilliam Museum.
Teams will be led by members of Museum Detox, the BAME network for heritage and museum workers. Contributors will have the opportunity to work in dialogue with a curator from their respective museums to help develop their ideas.

Museum Remix and the Staff Forum is hosted by the UCM Change Makers Action Group, a working group made up of colleagues from across the museums and Botanic Garden, whose aim is to drive a conversation about diversity and representation in our museums and collections.

Why participate?

Museum Remix is an opportunity for you to develop your facilitation and public engagement skills, test ideas and expand your research, experience and knowledge within the museum sector. Together, we want to push the boundaries of possibilities for the types of actions that can take place within the museums.

We aim to create three teams of contributors, one for each of the museums, encompassing a broad range of experiences and perspectives.

- We welcome applications from colleagues within the Museums and Heritage sector nationally who are passionate about these issues and would value a CPD opportunity to directly engage with new thinking about interpreting museum collections.
- We also welcome applications from Cambridge graduate students who are actively engaged with questions of diversity, decolonisation, communication and scholarship within collections. Areas of specialisation may include History of Art, Classics, History, Earth Sciences, Archaeology and Museology, but we also welcome applications from students in other areas of study whose research or interests intersect with the above.
- We invite applications from UCM and Botanic Garden staff and volunteers, particularly those who engage directly with our audiences, and warmly welcome applications from Front of House staff and those who would like to share their ideas about how the museums could think about interpretation and collections differently.

How to apply

To apply to be a contributor, please send the following information:

- A brief biography or introduction, including why you are interested in taking part. Please include information on your area of work, study or expertise.
- An indication of which museum you would like to engage with (if you have a preference) – please note that, as teams will be chosen to reflect a range of experiences, it may not be possible to honour your preference.
- An indication of how participation in the Remix would help your own practice.

Contributors must be available on both 14 and 15 June. Contributors will receive a £50 voucher as a means of appreciation for their time and contribution. We will be able to reimburse £50 travel costs.

Please send your application to hp280@cam.ac.uk by Sunday 20 May 2018. We will let you know if your application has been successful by Friday 25 May.

Please address any queries to Hannah Price (hp280@cam.ac.uk).