Student Placement Role Description 15/16: Summer Programme and Gardens Evaluation

Supervised by the Community Learning Team

The Horniman Museum and Gardens has been open since Victorian times, when Frederick Horniman first opened his house and extraordinary collection of objects to the local community. Our collection includes internationally important collections of anthropology and musical instruments, an acclaimed aquarium and a natural history gallery – all surrounded by 16 acres of beautiful Gardens offering breath-taking views across London.

Main purpose:
The Horniman would like to evaluate its family learning summer programme activities in order to improve our offer. This role is an opportunity to play an important part in this evaluation while learning more about our aims, audiences and processes. It will be based at the main museum site, though working from home will also be possible on occasion. The student will be supported in developing the evaluation with the Gardens Learning and Interpretation Officer and Community Learning manager.

Commitment:
- Three days per week for around 10-12 weeks (Monday-Friday). Occasional weekend and evening working may be required. We can be flexible on this in terms of days needed for university project and availability of potential volunteers during the week.
- To capture a good overview of our visitors over the summer ideally we would like to complete the project between May-August
- The role is primarily based at the Horniman Museum and Gardens in Forest Hill, South London, though some home-working is possible

Objectives:
The main output will be to create a report about the strengths and areas for improvement in relation to family learning opportunities and programming at the Horniman.

Main Activities (including but not limited to):
Developing evaluation methods and techniques to evaluate family and visitor engagement in the gardens over the summer period which could include:
- Developing and conducting questionnaires
- Tracking family visits
- Developing and assisting with a focus group
- Trialling creative evaluation techniques

The role would suit someone who:
- Excels at communicating with family and general audiences and is interested in their views
- Is confident working with people from a range of different backgrounds and ages
- Is organised and practical
- Pays close attention to detail
- Is happy to work outdoors
- Is able and willing to work independently but ask for support when needed
- Has an interest and enthusiasm for museums, heritage or the cultural sector
- Is interested in audiences, visitors and museum learning

What we can offer participants:
- A supportive, learning environment
- The chance to take responsibility for a piece of evaluative Museum audience research which will impact on programming and interpretation at the Horniman Museum
• An insight into the workings of a busy and well-regarded family learning programme and the process of interpreting outdoor spaces.
• Travel expenses within Greater London will be reimbursed.