Student Placement Role Description 15/16: Dinosaurs: Monster Families pop up activities

Supervised by Volunteering 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 Museum regularly evaluates both the individual elements and the overall achievements of its volunteering programme, in order to keep improving what we 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, and will involve data collection about our latest temporary exhibition - Dinosaur: Monster Families. For the first time at the Horniman, Engage volunteers have been involved in developing some pop up activities to enhance the exhibition. We would like this evaluation programme to assess how successful these activities have been and how we can improve the process for the future.

Commitment:
Two days per week for 8-10 weeks (must include some weekend data capture). Additional attendance at Museum is required during school holidays (up to five days per week) to complete face-to-face evaluation with visitors. To take place July - September 2016.

Objectives:
- To understand how to develop successful family activities for use with temporary exhibitions.
- To develop a well-managed process that enables successful activity design (when some of the designers are volunteers and only able to give short amounts of time to the project).
- To support the Horniman to further understand how to support families to engage with our exhibitions more fully.
- To gain a clearer understanding of how families use and enjoy the Horniman’s collections.

Main Activities (including but not limited to):
- Developing a methodology and evaluation tools to fit the brief.
- Completing face-to-face evaluation of volunteer-led activities with family visitors and volunteers using observation, interviews and questionnaires
- Completing evaluation of the process behind developing these activities, speaking with the working party of volunteers who designed them and the staff members who supported them.
- Analysing collected data and producing a report on the findings.

The role would suit someone who:
- Enjoys communicating with family audiences (including young children) and is interested in their views.
- Is confident working with people from a range of different backgrounds across the Horniman.
- Has some understanding of evaluation methodologies, tools and their application.
- Is organised and practical.
- Pays close attention to detail.
- Is able and willing to work independently.
What we can offer participants:

- A supportive, learning environment.
- The chance to take responsibility for a piece of high quality evaluative Museum audience research.
- An insight into the working of a busy volunteering programme.
- Travel expenses within Greater London will be reimbursed.