



JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Chief Curator
Division:	Collections
Department:	Wedgwood Museum
Salary:	£43,540 - £47,534
Location:	Barlaston, Stoke on Trent and some travel to other V&A sites
Reporting to:	Keeper, Sculpture, Metalwork, Ceramics & Glass, V&A Museum

Background

The Wedgwood Collection is one of the most important industrial collections in the world and a unique record of over 250 years of British ceramic production. Now owned by the V&A, following a successful fundraising campaign, spear-headed by The Art Fund, it is on display at the Wedgwood Museum, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, on long term loan from the V&A.

Purpose of the job

The Chief Curator, Wedgwood Museum, will lead in developing a vibrant and engaging Public Programme which will make the Wedgwood Museum accessible to the broadest public and draw audiences to Stoke-on-Trent and the Potteries. The historic Wedgwood collections, which encompass museum objects and extensive archives, are of national importance. This exciting opportunity arises at a time of significant reinvestment in the V&A's European ceramic collections. Managing the curatorial team at Wedgwood and working closely with colleagues at South Kensington, the postholder will actively build synergies between the Wedgwood collection and the other V&A sites, as well as foster partnerships with museums, centres of ceramic production, scholars and artists in Stoke-on-Trent and beyond, including the World of Wedgwood. He/she will continue to support and nurture the V&A's Design Lab projects in Stoke-on-Trent schools and develop further learning initiatives, also in collaboration with World of Wedgwood. As Chief Curator the post holder will also advise on these collections to government bodies and other public institutions. This post has significant strategic and managerial responsibilities for staff, budgets, resource planning and for identifying opportunities for promoting and developing the care of the collections and access to them.

We are seeking someone with vision, imagination and enterprise who will seize the opportunity to develop exciting programming at the Wedgwood Museum, to nurture and promote investigation of the Wedgwood collections and archives, and to conceive a lively exhibition programme at Barlaston and for touring. The candidate will have significant experience of managing similarly complex collections, with a thorough understanding of best practice in interpreting, documenting and preserving them. The post holder will have an established reputation for management at a senior level and will contribute to the development of scholarship in the subject area nationally and

internationally. In addition, he/she will have substantial experience of relevant curatorial work and demonstrable administrative skills.

Location

The Chief Curator will be based at the Wedgwood Museum, part of the World of Wedgwood in Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent. They will also be required to work occasionally at other V&A sites.

Main tasks

1. Develop a robust collections management programme focusing on the care and accessibility of the collections at the Wedgwood Museum.
2. Lead the development of a lively and imaginative Public Programme, including Learning initiatives.
3. Develop a vibrant exhibition programme for Wedgwood Museum and for touring.
4. Take an active role in the overall management of, and strategic planning for, the Wedgwood Museum, in close consultation with the World of Wedgwood and with the V&A.
5. Manage the team of Assistant Curators and Archivist.
6. Propose acquisitions to the Keeper of SMCG, including the annual transfer of examples of current Wedgwood production.
7. Produce annual plans and targets for curatorial work including research outputs, documentation, digitisation, conservation, storage and other outputs, working closely with other members of the senior management group at the V&A and at World of Wedgwood.
8. Forge links and collaborate with organisations, institutions and individuals – including artists – outside the Museum, to disseminate information about and promote access to the historic collections and archives at the Wedgwood Museum.
9. Work closely with the V&A Research Institute to develop research projects, and to seek funding opportunities and innovative partnerships.
10. Represent the V&A and the Wedgwood Museum externally at other forums and organisations, as appropriate.

Additional responsibilities

It is the responsibility of all employees to be committed to health and safety and ensure familiarity with all the museum's health and safety policies and procedures. You should always be security conscious, ensure familiarity and co-operation with all museum security procedures and you must always wear a security pass when on museum premises.

You should promote equality and diversity in all aspects of your work by developing and maintaining positive working relationships, ensuring that colleagues are treated fairly, with respect and dignity.

You should carry out any ad hoc duties as requested by appropriate managers within your department.

Person specification

Essential requirements:

1. A Post-Graduate degree in a relevant discipline or equivalent professional experience.
2. An established reputation in the history of ceramics (including significant publications), and a demonstrable interest in Wedgwood.
3. Extensive curatorial and administrative experience, including exhibition development.
4. Good writing and presentational skills, and the ability to write for a variety of audiences.
5. A strong commitment to communicate specialist knowledge to a broad public through displays, lecturing, publications and other educational activities.
6. Experience of managing staff and resources.
7. Evidence of practical and organisational skills, project and collections management experience and a keen attention to detail.
8. Evidence of ability to work under pressure, flexibility and ability to work as part of a team.
9. Excellent computer skills (Excel, Photoshop, PowerPoint, etc) and an ability to manage information in traditional and digital forms systematically and accurately.
10. Extensive experience working in museums.

Desirable requirements:

1. Experience of writing and submitting funding applications.

OTHER INFORMATION

Hours/Salary:

Net working hours (i.e. excluding meal breaks) are 36 per week.

The salary for this role will be £43,540 - £47,534 per annum. Salaries are reviewed on an annual basis.

Annual leave:

28 days plus 8 days public holidays

Pension benefits:

You will be auto enrolled into the Museum's Group Personal Pension Scheme and have the opportunity on completion of Probation to an enhanced pension provision, including an employer contribution of 10%.

Other benefits:

Non-contributory life assurance policy (to value of 4 x annual salary)

An interest free season ticket or bicycle loan is available after three months.

Free entrance to all the major museums and exhibitions in London as well as many others.

Subsidised staff restaurant

Discounts on purchases in V&A shops

Application process:

Please apply online via the V&A's website at www.vam.ac.uk/jobs

We are committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion through all our employment policies and practices. For this role, we particularly welcome applicants from those who are significantly underrepresented at the V&A such as men and individuals from black and minority ethnic communities, who meet the requirements of the person specification.

If you are having technical difficulties applying online, please use the online chat functionality which can be found on the bottom right hand side of the form. Alternatively, you can contact **Vacancy Filler** directly on **01509 236434**, and quote the role reference number and your application number (if known). Please note, Vacancy Filler are contactable, Monday – Friday between 9.00am – 5.00pm.

If you have any queries regarding the role and/or the V&A's recruitment process, you can email us – contacthr@vam.ac.uk or telephone us on 020 7942 2937 (Working hours Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm).

Closing date for receipt of applications is midday Monday 26 August 2019

Interviews will take place in September 2019

Interview expenses will not be paid unless there is a prior agreement.