

Southampton Cultural Services Volunteer Role Profile

SeaCity Object Handling Volunteer

Role: To conduct object handling sessions, and to facilitate visitors in engaging with the objects through interaction and sharing knowledge

Impact of the Role: Volunteers carrying out this role will be enabling visitors to interact with objects that would normally be behind glass. The objects form a social history collection which spans a timeframe of approximately 4000 years. By handling these objects, visitors can deepen their understanding of the past and improve their ability to connect with the past citizens of Southampton through a shared experience. Object interaction is proven to provide a more memorable experience for visitors.

Responsible to: Customer Service Assistants, Duty Managers, Volunteer Coordinator

Location: *Southampton Stories* exhibition on the ground floor of SeaCity Museum

Hours: To be agreed in advance with the Volunteer Coordinator. Available shifts will be weekends 11.30 – 1.30 or 1.30 – 3.30 and select weekdays during school holidays.

Timescale: Available slots for this role will be recruited for during monthly recruitment cycles according to capacity.

Support: Volunteers will be trained to run this role independently, with a potential for three volunteers at a time. There will always be a member of staff around if needed for support, as well as relevant Health & Safety training. Volunteers will be provided with an identifying name badge.

Health & safety and accessibility: SeaCity is fully accessible during opening hours and there is a large lift to the first-floor exhibition spaces. This role does involve a level of manual handling, including moving a heavy box containing the objects, as well as table and chairs. Handling of the objects themselves must be carried out with care. Please discuss with us in advance if you have any concerns.

Specific tasks: Volunteers will conduct Object Handling sessions within the Southampton Stories exhibition at SeaCity. The collection contains upwards of 15 objects relating to the social history of Southampton and spans a timeframe of c.4000 years. Volunteers will actively engage visitors, encouraging them to interact with the objects and sharing knowledge of them. Volunteers will take ownership of this role during their shifts and will ensure that the collection is cared for and ready for the next session. Full training will be provided.

Skills and Experience

You would need to be:

- A good communicator and able to talk confidently to large groups of people of various ages and backgrounds
- Enthusiastic and reliable
- Interested in history
- Passionate about sharing knowledge and learning
- Able to understand and adhere to important instructions on packing and handling

No experience is necessary, though it is useful if you have had:

- Experience working with the public
- Experience of public speaking

We ask our volunteers to ensure that they:

- Remember that they are a representative of Southampton Cultural Services
- Adhere to the behaviours and training set out in the Volunteer Handbook and Volunteer Agreement
- Have an enjoyable time and let us know if you need any further training or information to complete your role

DBS Check: This role is not subject to a DBS check