



LOTTERY FUNDED

PORTLAND PATHWAYS Brief for Research Coordinator

Fee: £2000 + £760 for travel and accommodation

Timescale: March – October 2018

Deadline for applications: 19 February 2018

Summary: To work with residents of Portland, Dorset to research and gather information about footpaths on the island, exploring their origins and relationship to the landscapes they pass through and places they connect. This work is offered on a freelance basis.

Introduction

Portland Pathways is a project that will explore the historic origins of public rights of way on the Isle of Portland, Dorset.

The project will work with residents of Portland to explore Portland's paths and find out more about their original purpose and relationship to the landscapes they pass through and places they connect. Some of this is already known, some new information may be discovered – the aim being to research and gather this knowledge. This community research will involve walks, visits to sites on route and the use of records, archives, and include people's experiences and memories. The information and understanding gathered will be collated, recorded and archived and used to inspire and inform a publication (a map based guide) and further events and activities to share the learning with visitors to Portland. The aim is to inspire and encourage residents and visitors to explore Portland on foot, in the process learning more about the significance of the paths and their relationship to the landscapes and heritage sites they connect.

The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and will be managed by b-side, an arts organisation based on Portland. b-side's ethos is to develop projects that sustain or enhance the distinctive geographical character of a place - its environment, heritage, aesthetics, culture, and well being of residents. b-side commissions artists from all disciplines to make site specific artworks for the Isle of Portland and holds a biennial festival to showcase the work – the next being September 2018. Our artists often work closely with local residents and communities of interest and uncover histories and hidden narratives, which are shared widely across physical and digital platforms. www.b-side.org.uk

Brief

We would like to commission someone with experience in heritage research, using archives and working with the community to undertake a short piece of work over the period of March to October 2018. The work is offered on a freelance basis.

This work will involve taking a lead on the community research aspect of the project, and include developing a programme for investigating and gathering knowledge about the historic origins of public rights of way on Portland and managing the collation and recording of research material. The Research Coordinator will work closely with the Project Manager who will oversee the delivery of the whole project.

The project will operate in 2 phases. The main tasks for the Research Coordinator will be during phase 1 (March – June 2018)

Phase 1 will work with residents in researching the paths.

The Research Coordinator will work with a team of participants made up from members of the community and lead a series of workshops involving walking and exploration of paths, visits to sites on route, using archives, libraries and opportunities for people to share, knowledge, memories and stories. This will include a session offered by Dorset History Centre on using archives. The Research Coordinator will guide and help interpret the research, collate all information and provide written summaries for use in phase 2 and depositing with appropriate archive organisation, they will also contribute to evaluation of the project.

Phase 2 will share the learning of phase 1 with visitors to Portland.

Research material collated by the Research Coordinator in phase 1 will be made available to inform the design and publication of a map based guide to footpaths - available free to residents and visitors. The map will give routes and additional information about historic origins and connections of the paths. Mapping data will be provided by Dorset County Councils GIS Department for use by the project.

The research material will also be shared with an artist commissioned to develop a temporary interpretive artwork that will animate footpaths and engage visitors during the b-side festival 8-16 September 2018.

Documentation of project, outputs and research material will be collated and deposited with an appropriate archive organisation i.e. Dorset History Centre or the Historic Environment Record for future access and use by others.

Summary of Research Coordinator tasks:

- Devise, manage and lead a programme of research and knowledge gathering involving residents of Portland
- Write short updates of progress that can be shared publically and are suitable for use in promotion
- Collate and record all research material and provide written summaries of knowledge gathered
- Facilitate access to research material for commissioned artist and map designer
- Provide project notes and research in a format suitable for deposition at local archive centre
- Contribute to evaluation of project
- Ensure best practice in working with community groups
- Liaise with Project Manager and commissioned Artist on all aspects of project

This is a freelance piece of work offered on a fee based short term contract. Research and workshop expenses are covered by the project. Use of office space on Portland available. Essential to the work are good written skills and experience of research using archives, libraries, museums and other sources plus experience of working with mixed community groups. Experience of using basic photography, video or audio recording technology for documentation would be desirable. Knowledge relating to public rights of way is not essential but would be a bonus.

Fee: £2000 for delivery of project objectives. An additional allowance for travel and accommodation of up to £760 is available.

When: March – October 2018, with main project activity between March – June. Days/hours to be determined by the project plan developed by the Research Coordinator and Project Manager.

TO APPLY:

Please email amanda@b-side.org.uk to arrive no later than 9am Monday 19 February

- An expression of interest outlining your interest in this work and the skills and experience you will bring to the project.
- A summary plan of action covering your approach to this project and potential workshop plan
- A CV

If you have any questions or want to discuss this opportunity please contact Amanda Wallwork : amanda@b-side.org.uk 07816 224015