



## ORAL HISTORY VOLUNTEER ROLE DESCRIPTION

### ROLE PURPOSE

We are looking for volunteers to record the oral testimonies of Thames mudlarkers for an exciting new heritage project. Mudlarking is the practice of searching for objects on the Thames foreshore. From historic treasure to intriguing every-day items, we will meet the people who have dedicated their lives to finding these objects and ask them about their collections.

*Foragers on the Foreshore* is a history of London through items recovered from the Thames. It is also a history of mudlarking, which has been practiced since the Victorian era and is growing in popularity today. And, it is a history of the mudlarkers themselves, and the collections that have shaped their lives. Our project will culminate in an online gallery of 3D scanned objects accompanied by the oral history testimonies of mudlarkers, and two public exhibitions featuring mudlark finds, photographic portraits of mudlarkers, and work by artists who use these finds in unusual ways, alongside a program of walks, talks, guided mudlarking and an engagement programme for young people.

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This is the first large-scale project to document the tradition of mudlarking on the Thames. Your role will help to capture this unique heritage, and contribute to a dynamic new project. You will be a key part of *Foragers on the Foreshore* and your recorded oral histories will feed into the creation of the project webpage, exhibitions, schools resources and talks.

### ROLE DESCRIPTIONS

Oral history volunteers will be involved in interviewing and recording oral testimonies of people involved with mudlarking on the Thames foreshore.

Volunteers will be given oral history training by Project Manager, Eva Tausig. This will include guidance on how to use the recording equipment, how to prepare for an oral history interview, an opportunity to practice interview technique, and information on the consent documentation that interviewees need to complete. Following this, volunteers will be given the opportunity to record at least two oral histories. These will be conducted in pairs, with opportunity to both lead and record the interview.

Volunteers will be giving introductions to each mudlarker by the Project Manager, who will organise, coordinate and be on hand at all interviews.

**All volunteers will be required to attend a half-day introduction and training on the 14<sup>th</sup> June.**

## ROLE SUPERVISION

Volunteers will report and be supported by the Project Manager, Eva Tausig, at Thames Festival Trust.

## WHERE

Oral history training and interviewing activities will take place across London.

## WHEN

- **Introduction and training day:** All volunteers must attend a training day on the 14<sup>th</sup> June
- Oral history interview sessions (each volunteer to commit to two sessions) – between June and September, 2019
- Volunteer Thank You event and Evaluation session - October

## REQUIREMENTS

Volunteers must be over 18 years old. Previous experience conducting oral history recordings could be helpful, but is not necessary as training will be given. All volunteers will be required to attend the training session and be able to travel across London for the recordings themselves. Availability on weekdays (between 10am and 4pm) is important to this role. We expect volunteers to give around 3 days of their time between recruitment and September.

## OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

- We will offer training for all oral history volunteers, and co-ordinate all interviews, equipment and events
- We will provide support throughout the project and keep you informed of project progress
- We will provide opportunities for you to share your work with other volunteers
- We will reimburse you for expenses for travel and lunch (up to £12 per day). If extra travel costs are incurred, this should be negotiated in advance with the Project Manager.

## YOUR COMMITMENT TO US

We expect volunteers to be able to do at least two oral history recordings and attend the training sessions on the 14<sup>th</sup> June as part of the project.

Through participating, volunteers will:

- Learn new skills in oral history interviewing and best practice
- Meet other volunteers and work as part of a team
- Play an important role in the development of a dynamic new heritage project
- Have a chance to meet and interview people who have fascinating stories and collections
- Contribute to the permanent documenting of this unique heritage

**Deadline to apply: Wednesday 5 June**