Heart of the Nation
Participant Brief
8 November 2022

Overview

Do you work for the NHS (or previously did) and love to sing? The Migration Museum is looking for up to 8 people to take part in an exciting project that highlights the extraordinary role that people with migrant heritage have played in shaping and sustaining the NHS – and caring for us throughout our lives.

In 2020, at the height of the Covid pandemic, we launched our digital Heart of the Nation exhibition. Building on this, we will produce an unforgettable and moving digital installation in 2023 that brings together singing and visual storytelling. The installation will feature a filmed performance that will tour across the country to mark the 75th anniversary of the NHS.

The project will ask audiences: Who cares for us? And do we care enough.
The Brief

We’re looking for up to 8 NHS workers who are first- or second-generation migrants to participate in this project as singers and performers. We welcome people who currently work or have previously worked in the NHS in a varied range of roles (nurses, porters, cleaners, cooks, doctors, administrators, etc.)

Led by a musical director, the singers will help develop and learn an ensemble music piece inspired by their stories and experiences. This piece will be recorded in a studio session and filmed to create a video art piece for the Heart of the Nation installation.

Selected participants must be available to take part in a series of workshops between January-April 2023. These include:

- 1 workshop to meet each other and share stories and experiences of caring that will inform the lyrics of a new music piece
- 4 workshop sessions to learn ensemble music (3 hours per session)
- 2 studio sessions to rehearse and record the ensemble piece (4 hours person session)
- 1 day film shoot to record the performance (8-10 hours)

Some of the initial workshops could be held over zoom to accommodate schedules, but the rehearsal and studio sessions and filming will take place in person in a central London location.

Participants will receive a fee to cover their time and travel expenses.

The Heart of the Nation exhibition will launch in July 2023 (locations TBC but may include London, Leeds and Birmingham).

If you are interested in this opportunity, please email Aditi Anand at aditi@migrationmuseum.org by 19 December 2022. We would appreciate if you could send us a 60 second video introducing yourself and your vocal range (i.e. alto, soprano, first soprano) with a singing sample. Please let us know whether you have done some studio recording before (no prior recording experience required).
About the Migration Museum

We are a critically acclaimed museum exploring the movement of people to and from the UK, currently based in a busy shopping centre in the heart of Lewisham where we reach nearly 80,000 people year.

As an organisation we know how to get people talking about migration in constructive ways – online, you might have seen our Euros campaign imagining the England starting line up without migration which had an organic reach of over 4m on Twitter or visited our critically acclaimed exhibition Heart of the Nation: Migration and the Making of the NHS.

We’re a small organisation that punches well above its weight and our end goal is to create a permanent Migration Museum here in the UK. A moving, inspiring institution to reflect the central role that migration has always played in our national story.

We want to see a society that owns and feels connected to our shared migration story as an essential part of British history; and provide a space away from the polarising noise of the media and politics, where we can come together to reflect, explore and have more reasoned conversations about migration.

We are a registered charity funded by a number of grant-giving bodies including Arts Council England, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Oak Foundation among others.