

COMMUNITY CURATORS PROGRAMME

RECRUITMENT PACK

MIGRATION MUSEUM

x

HASTINGS MUSEUM
& ART GALLERY

(EAST SUSSEX)



SUMMARY

Since 2013, the Migration Museum has been an emerging museum, delivering a cultural programme of award-winning exhibitions and lively events across a range of venues across the UK.

As the Migration Museum prepares to open a permanent home in the City of London in 2028, our vision is to build a national museum that is shaped by and speaks to people and communities across the UK.

Our Community Curators Programme is a vital step in making this vision a reality. The project is designed to bring diverse voices, lived experiences, and regional perspectives into the creation of the Migration Museum's future exhibitions.

We are delighted to be partnering with Hastings Museum & Art Gallery to recruit 2 local Community Curators to deliver a project exploring migration and the natural and built environment.

Community Curators will undertake a training programme, starting on 22nd September 2026 and produce a display at Hastings Museum & Art Gallery in 2027. This exhibition content will then inform the Migration Museum's displays in London.

Community Curators must be available every Tuesday, 11am-1pm for an online session with the Migration Museum team.

Community Curators will be engaged on a freelance basis (4 hours per week, at £20 per hour), until at least the end of April 2027.

Previous curatorial and/or museum experience is not required.

To apply, please complete [this application form](#) by 23:59 on 23rd August 2026.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an informal online interview between 1st – 11th September 2026.

ABOUT HASTINGS MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

Hastings Museum & Art Gallery is an award-winning, vibrant, community-focused museum. We bring together local stories and global perspectives through our collections of art, natural history, archaeology, and world cultures, creating opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to explore the past, understand the present and imagine the future together.

Founded in 1890 by the Hastings & St Leonards Museum Association and transferred into public ownership in 1905, the museum has grown into an Arts Council England National Portfolio Museum and a much-loved cultural space for the local community and visitors from around the world. Today, we are part of Hastings Borough Council, working with the support of the Museum Committee, the Hastings & St Leonards Museum Association, and our own Community Panel.

From the remarkable Durbar Hall, a rare example of an Indian palace interior outside the Indian subcontinent, to collections that reveal the stories of Hastings' people, places and landscapes, the museum connects local experiences with global histories. We are committed to making Hastings Museum & Art Gallery more open, inclusive, and collaborative. Our approach is rooted in participation and co-production, working alongside communities to share diverse voices and ensure that the stories we share reflect the people and places that make Hastings unique. Through exhibitions, events, learning programmes and community-led projects, we create spaces for curiosity, conversation, and creativity.



ABOUT HASTINGS MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

“We are delighted to partner with the Migration Museum and two Community Curators to explore migration stories through the lens of the natural and built environment. Hastings Museum & Art Gallery is dedicated to fostering meaningful participative curatorial practice, and we welcome the opportunity for our community to creatively contribute to the national narrative that will anchor the Migration Museum’s new permanent site. By sharing and activating stories that highlight the diverse, complex, and deeply human realities of movement, we hope to ensure that future generations who make Hastings their home find their lived experiences honoured and visible as part of our shared heritage. We look forward to welcoming our Community Curators and embarking on this work together.”

– Cllr Julia Hilton, deputy leader of Hastings Borough Council and lead councillor for shaping places, regeneration and community wealth building.



ABOUT THE MIGRATION MUSEUM



'If there is any country that needs a museum to tell the story of migration it is the United Kingdom; four nations bound together and set at the heart of the Commonwealth. Migration made us.'

PROFESSOR DAVID OLUSOGA, Migration Museum
Trustee, Historian, Broadcaster And Author

The Migration Museum explores how the movement of people to and from the UK across the ages has shaped who we are – as individuals, as communities, and as nations. We stage engaging exhibitions and dynamic events, alongside a far-reaching education programme for primary, secondary, university and adult learners. We have a growing digital presence and convene a knowledge sharing Migration Network of museums and galleries across the UK.

ABOUT THE MIGRATION MUSEUM

Migration is the story of our time. It frequently hits the headlines and dominates political discourse. But it is not a new story.

There is an underlying narrative of comings and goings stretching back many centuries that connects us all. And it goes to the heart of who we all are, where we've come from and where we're going. Migration is often misunderstood, misrepresented and misinformed. It's also conspicuously missing from the UK's cultural map and national curriculum. The Migration Museum fills this gap, creating a moving and inspiring institution that reflects the central role that migration has always played in our national stories.

The Migration Museum aspires to create a space where people from all walks of life can meet, share stories, and feel a sense of belonging.



THE MIGRATION MUSEUM'S PERMANENT HOME



This will be a museum with a difference –
evoking an arts centre feel that challenges perceptions of what a museum is and who it is for.

This museum will be a national platform for learning and a place where everybody feels seen, heard and represented.

THE MIGRATION MUSEUM'S PERMANENT HOME

This purpose-built venue will include :

- [Flagship permanent exhibition](#) – communicating the sweeping history of migration to and from the UK.
- [Dynamic temporary exhibitions](#) – co-produced with community partners.
- [Education suite](#) – curated with artistic projects that offer a stimulating backdrop for workshops and training.
- [Food and drink offer](#) – working in partnership with renowned migrant chefs and restaurateurs, creating an immersive dining experience.
- [Shop](#) – platforming migrant makers and supporting early-career creatives and entrepreneurs.
- [Studios](#) – inviting artists with migrant or refugee heritage for short-term creative residencies.



OUR COMMUNITY CURATORS PROGRAMME

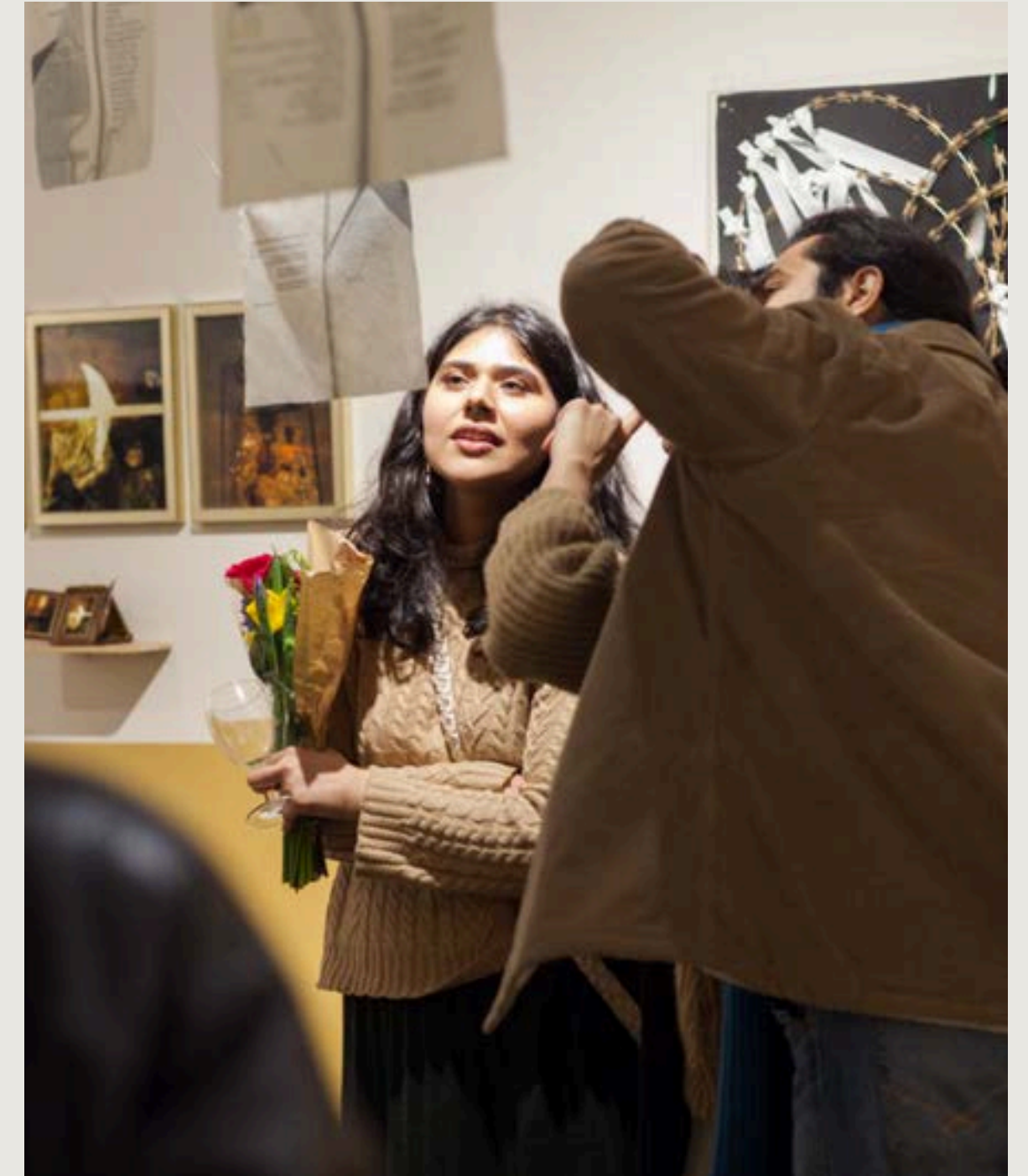
Collaboration and co-production is at the heart of the Migration Museum's values. As we work towards our permanent home, we want to expand our representation of migration stories across the UK, whilst broadening our civic engagement practices through collaborations across the four nations.

We are building on learnings and developing our UK-wide Community Curators programme from our [previous Community Curators project in London](#) (2024-25).

To get as broad a representation as possible in our new museum home, we are working with 5 cultural organisations across the UK:

- **Hastings Museum & Art Gallery**
- The Food Museum
- Glasgow Life Museums
- Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art
- Museum of Free Derry

Each of these museums will be hosting 2 Community Curators who will work together to create a display related to local migration stories, histories, and perspectives.



PROGRAMME DETAILS: MIGRATION MUSEUM x HASTINGS MUSEUM & ART GALLERY



This project will run across 9 months – from September 2026 to at least May 2027.

From 22nd September onwards, the Community Curators will work with the Migration Museum and on placement at Hastings Museum & Art Gallery on a freelance basis, committing to 4 hours of engagement per week (paid at £20ph):

- 2hrs per week with the Migration Museum (joining an online meeting every Tuesday, 11am-1pm)
- 1hr per week with Hastings Museum & Art Gallery (in person, flexible)
- 1hr per week flexible (independent work or research, visits to other museums/galleries etc)

PROGRAMME DETAILS: MIGRATION MUSEUM x FOOD MUSEUM

The programme will involve a curatorial skills training scheme, run by the Migration Museum and Hastings Museum & Art Gallery.

This course will introduce Community Curators to the basic principles of curatorial work, community engagement, as well as the practical skills of how to conduct oral histories, work with collection objects, commission artist works, write exhibition texts and install/display work in museum settings.

Community Curators at Hastings Museum & Art Gallery will take part in this programme alongside 8 other Community Curators based at other organisations across the UK (Glasgow Life Museums, Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Museum of Free Derry, and The Food Museum).

The 2 Community Curators at Hastings Museum & Art Gallery will work together to create a small display reflecting on the theme of migration and the natural and built environment, due to launch in July 2027.

Content from this display will then inform the Migration Museum's exhibitions, launching in London from Spring 2028.

ROLE DETAILS

This is an outstanding opportunity for those local to Hastings Museum & Art Gallery who are passionate about engaging diverse audiences and interested in the subjects of migration and the natural and built environment.

This role will suit those with creative skills and curatorial ambitions with interest in the cultural sector. All Community Curators will undergo specialised training provided by creative professionals within the Migration Museum and Hastings Museum & Art Gallery, and are not expected to have any prior experience in curation when applying.

Location – Online and at Hastings Museum & Art Gallery (East Sussex, England)

Contract type – Freelance contract for 9 months (flexible)

Salary – £20ph, approx 4 hours per week (via invoice and bank transfer or high street voucher)*

*People seeking asylum are invited to apply. We welcome discussions on how reimbursement can be structured to meet all regulatory requirements.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Participating in training sessions provided by creative professionals to enhance curatorial skills (weekly on Tuesdays, 11am-1pm, online).
- Collaborating with Hastings Museum & Art Gallery to shape and implement the vision for the exhibition on migration and the natural and built environment in East Sussex
- Fostering connections with a diverse range of community members to ensure inclusivity in the curation process
- Commissioning new artwork or undertaking primary research
- Working with the museum team to review artwork, collection objects, or texts to be on display in the exhibition
- Planning and delivering an exhibition launch, as well as other events that may take place throughout the time of the exhibit at Hastings Museum & Art Gallery



WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for enthusiastic and creative people who are eager to tell stories and work with their local communities to change national narratives around migration.

We are particularly interested in working with individuals of different community practices and lived experiences, ensuring that the curators are diverse in terms of age, ethnic background, social class, and education attainment.

The purpose of the Community Curators programme is to highlight stories of diversity across the UK, bringing voices to life. Community Curators should therefore have strong connections to others within their own local area and should feel comfortable and excited by the prospect of collaboration across cultures and communities.



PERSON SPECIFICATION

- Creative vision, initiative and imagination with the drive and confidence to carry the mission of the exhibition to the larger community
- An ability to plan strategically and respond quickly to opportunities and challenges
- Comfortable with communicating the project to the wider community
- Dedication to making arts and culture accessible and inclusive
- A great team player - able to work effectively across an organisation and champion the work of Hastings Museum & Art Gallery and the Migration Museum
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Passionate individual with a commitment to diversity and inclusion
- Knowledge of contemporary migration experiences
- Knowledge of Hastings and surrounding areas
- Living, studying, volunteering, or working within Hastings or surrounding areas (or a similar connection to the local area)



HOW TO APPLY + DEADLINE

If you are community-minded, interested in making a difference and in shaping an exciting new national museum, we invite you to join us.

[APPLY HERE](#)

Deadline: 23rd August, 23:59

Interviews: 1st – 11th September (online)

For assistance with your submission or to request an alternative format, please contact Mona Jamil.

All requests will be considered on an individual basis to ensure equitable access: mona@migrationmuseum.org.

Contact us:

Mona Jamil – mona@migrationmuseum.org

Daria Lynch – daria@migrationmuseum.org

FURTHER READING: OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT VALUES

All our work follows the Migration Museum's community engagement values, co-produced with our People's Panel and Migration Network in 2023:

The Migration Museum is...

- A space to celebrate legacies and forge networks – where everyone is valued, welcome, counted and present.
- Providing space for marginalised voices to be heard – inviting discussions around the intersectionality and complexities of migrant experiences.
- Promoting learning and curiosity by sharing all our stories – inspiring us to be more unified with the people around us.
- Generating meaningful connections through cultural exchange – allowing us to respect and elevate one another.
- Accessible, transparent, and open to change – we ensure that our values are in line with key priorities of the diverse communities that we serve.
- Making room for self-reflection and acceptance – we invite everyone to join us on this journey.



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Website: www.migrationmuseum.org

Insta: [MigrationMuseumUK](https://www.instagram.com/MigrationMuseumUK)

BlueSky: [@MigrationMuseum.org](https://bsky.app/profile/@MigrationMuseum.org)

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