

River and Cloth ***Celebrating the Textile Heritage of Merton 2009 – 2010***

Call for Volunteers

The London Borough of Merton is looking for volunteers to participate in an exciting new arts and heritage project: River & Cloth.

River and Cloth celebrates the diverse cultural heritage of Merton and its contribution and influence on the textiles industry from the 17th century onwards. The project aims to raise awareness among local people about the history of their local area, the contributions made by immigrants and refugee workers to the textile industry and how these influenced techniques employed by famous textile artists such as William Morris.

A major part of the project involves a series of artist-led creative workshops with schools and community groups and we would like to recruit a team of volunteers to support the artists in the delivery of these workshops. Other tasks include supporting the River & Cloth Project Manager on mounting a celebratory exhibition and publication towards the end of the project.

If you can answer yes to any of the following questions, we would like to hear from you:

- Do you have any practical skills and experience in textile art, such as working with colour, fabric, printing, stitching and dyeing?
- If you don't have experience in textiles, are you excited about the opportunity to learn more about the subject?
- Would you like to work alongside experienced artists, develop your creativity and have the opportunity to lead your own textile workshop?
- Would you like to learn more about the history of Merton and the important role the River Wandle played in textile innovation?

We would like to hear from people who have experience in textiles and also people who are just enthusiastic to learn more about the art form. In return for your help, we can offer an exciting programme of training in textile art, an insight into the local history of the borough, free visits to heritage sites such as Merton Abbey Mills, Wandle Industrial Museum and Victoria & Albert Museum and the opportunity to showcase your creations in a major exhibition. We will cover travel expenses and on training days we will provide lunch and refreshments.

River and Cloth Volunteers

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Participate in a short programme of training in dyeing, printing and stitching techniques.
2. Assist the lead artists in the delivery of workshops to community groups and schools, providing hands-on practical guidance to the participants, as well helping to prepare workshop resource packs.
3. Participate in a series of visits to local heritage sites and other places of interest.
4. Assist the River and Cloth Project Manager in the organisation of the project exhibition.
5. Advocate River and Cloth and promote it within your local community.

Other requirements

Health & Safety

To comply with and ensure that Corporate and Departmental Health and Safety policies and procedures are implemented at all times and to raise any concerns regarding their operation or any other health and safety matters with the appropriate line manager.

Equal Opportunities

To be aware of the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy, to understand it and to adhere to it.

Customer Care

To assist in ensuring that Merton's aims regarding customer awareness are achieved.

Application Process:

If you are interested in volunteering for River and Cloth, please send the following:

- A short statement (no longer than one page of A4) explaining why you are interested in the project, what you would like to gain from the experience and what you can offer.

Please email or post your application by 19 February 2009 to:

Clare Moloney – Project Manager, River & Cloth

ACAVA Studios

First Floor

17-25 Cremer Street

London

E2 8HD

claremol@gmail.com

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the role further, please feel free to email Clare.

Please note, all volunteers will have to undergo an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check.