

HERITAGE PROJECT 2021/22

Reunited: Understanding the context and legacy of the work of first generation South Asian artists.

Freelance Consultant Brief

Researcher

Fee: £4,000 (20 days @ £200 a day) *(To include 5 days of supporting and working alongside volunteer trainees)*

Dates: Between September 2021-February 2022, to be agreed

Location: Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, including remote working as and when necessary.

Introduction to organization

SADAA (South Asian Diaspora Arts Archive) was founded in 1999 by a group of academics, experts and practitioners of South Asian literature and arts in response to a widespread and growing concern that the contribution of South Asian community to literature and arts in Britain was disappearing and becoming inaccessible primarily due to a lack of resources.

Aims of SADAA:

- To highlight the creative achievements and developments of first generation South Asian Diaspora writers, artists, and performers in Britain.
- To improve access to such resources for all interested users
- To preserve materials in danger of deterioration and of being lost

The organisation is run by volunteer trustees and supported by freelance paid staff on a project-by-project basis.

Background to project

This project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund will capture vital perspectives and testimonies that contextualise the development and recognition of the work represented in our archive, now at risk of being lost. It will engage Birmingham's South Asian communities with SADAA with a programme of events and training opportunities to acquire accredited heritage skills.

Key responsibilities:

- Responsible for the research into and documentation of material within the SADAA archive and from other sources relating to the artwork of South Asian artists living and working in television, theatre and the visual arts during the 1960s 1970s and 1980s.
- Identify written and contextual digital material relating to life in the UK in the 1960/70/80s, which had an impact on the lives of these artists.

- Provide professional support to the Project Manager and SADAA Trustees on the ways in which the research can inform the project.
- Identify key items arising from the research within SADAA and from other sources which should be digitised and made available on the SADAA website.
- Prepare a final report to the Project Manager and to the Trustees, which describes the research process, identifies the relevant materials, and outlines the findings.
- Work closely with the project archivist ensuring that all materials found as part of the research process are properly catalogued, stored and where appropriate digitised.
- Assist with activities relating to the promotion of the Reunited Project including hosting open workshops.
- Provide support for the delivery of events, and education activities.
- Provide support and on-the-job training for volunteers in research skills in accordance with OCN accreditation.

The successful candidate will have:

Knowledge and Experience

- Demonstrable knowledge of and/or an informed interest in the development of South Asian arts in the UK.
- Knowledge and experience of the arts and heritage sector, with special reference to research methods.
- Experience of researching and organising written, photographic, and digital resources.
- Excellent communication and written skills, with appropriate IT skills.
- Ability to train and guide the work of volunteers in the research process.
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a team.
- Ability to be able to speak and read one or more South Asian languages is an advantage but it is not essential.

Application Process

Please send a CV with a supporting letter to admin@sadaa.co.uk

Closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday 30 July 2021.