



Curatorial and Creative Service Brief – Sporting Injury (working title)

Thackray Museum of Medicine is looking for an exhibition curator to create and deliver the content for its upcoming exhibition on sporting injuries. The exhibition will open in April 2023 and run for six months.

Budget

£10,000

Background

Sporting Injury is a season of exhibitions and events that explores how athletes cope with injuries affecting their performance. Taking three local athletes as the focus, we will explore through personal stories, the highs and lows of their journey of recovery.

Visitors will see some of the latest innovations that get sports people back on the field and help protect them from injury while on it. The season will also delve into the physiology behind injury and highlight the mental struggles that athletes face.

The three athletes' stories will be told in our temporary exhibition space via an immersive digital presentation (see appendix for a mood board) We're keen for this to provide a real 'wow' moment to the programme.

Each athlete's story will focus on a particular type of injury that is a common within their sport. For example, a rugby player could be used to discuss head injuries, or a cricketer could illustrate issues related to lumber stress fractures. Through this approach we will aim to present a broad range of conditions and treatments.

We would also like to investigate the stories of athletes whose injuries have seen them transition to para sports.

As a starting point, we'd look to debate the following questions

- What are the commonest and most concerning injuries sportspeople face today and how do these change their lives and inhibit their performance?
- What are the technical advances which help athletes get back on form?
- What pressures are today's athletes under to perform and how do they balance this with their health and wellbeing?

Throughout our permanent galleries we will also feature interventions and displays that explore the stories of the medical professionals who have aided in the athletes' treatment. Through interpretative techniques designed to encourage increased medical capital, we hope to inspire the next generation of physios and coaches.

Community is at the heart of sport and so it will be for our season. We will explore ways of taking the athletes stories back to the grounds where they made their names by partnering on a number of community events with local clubs. Fans groups will be invited to work alongside a creative practitioner to create their own response to their hero's journey. Central to this will be our fan's choir who will help us create an immersive soundtrack for the exhibition.

Exhibition Aims

To focus the themes and aims of our interpretation and ensure contemporary issues/stories are represented

To build interpretation partnerships, working in innovative & surprising ways

To improve our offer (and importantly, return offer) to current and potential visitors and set a programme of continual display improvement

Audience (see appendix for more details)

Families – Explorers

Neighbourhood Plus –especially younger, working class men who don't visit museums.

Brief

To develop, deliver and co-curate content for Sporting Injury and three associated cases in our permanent gallery.

Scope

- Develop and deliver the project research strategy
- Deliver project research
- Suggest and recruit two Sporting Champions to feature in the exhibition
- Suggest and recruit three medical professionals associated with the Sporting Champions to feature in the three permanent gallery cases
- Manage and maintain the relationship with our Sporting Champions and associated medical professionals
- Develop and deliver the co-curated interpretation plan
- Develop and deliver the co-curated content plan (including object lists)
- Deliver the co-curated project content (including text, objects, images and audio)
- Liaise with digital designers on the creative solution

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- Advise on accessions and loans
- Advise on layout and design
- Assist with installation
- Assist with community programme
- Report on progress and risk

Not in scope

- Exhibition project management (budgets, schedules etc.)
- Loans and condition checking
- Management of design and installation (including layouts)
- Storyboarding and digital design
- Image clearance and rights
- Marketing

Meetings

Please allow for a bi-weekly phone catch-up (one hour) and regular attendance at our monthly exhibition delivery group meeting (one hour). Please allow at least three days to assist with the community programme and at least three days for the exhibition install.

Progress so far

We have been in touch with former Leeds Rhino captain, Stevie Ward, with the view of involving him in the exhibition. Stevie was forced to retire at the age of 27 due to severe concussion, an injury he is still struggling with today. Stevie is really keen to take part and tell his story.

We have undertaken some basic scoping on local sports clubs and sporting collections. We have looked at our own collection and begun to identify some potential objects and areas in which we'd like to collect.

We have had some preliminary conversations with several audio visual designers about projection mapping. We have also spoken to Museum's Liverpool about their recent project, I Too am Survivor.

Challenges

We have taken an ambitious digital approach to telling the exhibition's story and one in which we have not taken before. Creating content for this medium will not be as straightforward as a usual exhibition and will require working closely with the digital creative team to work out how to best do this.

This ambitious approach is subject to funding. If this is not successful a challenge will be to pivot the exhibition into a more achievable display format (for example a more traditional style exhibition of panels and cases).

We are keen to welcome a new, working-class male audience to the museum and have chosen the theme of sport to appeal to them. The exhibition themes and interpretation will need to work hard so as prove welcoming and attracting to this audience.

Gallery information

Our temporary exhibition gallery is 10m long x 8m wide. It is situated on our ground floor, opposite the reception desk. We have a number of cases and Perspex hoods available to display objects. We are able to take loans to GIS standard.

How to apply

In no more than 300 words, tell us how you would approach delivering the brief.

In no more than 200 words each, please also provide details of up to three relevant projects (including images) that illustrate your past work.

Please provide an example of where you have written something for a museum audience. This could be an object label, exhibition introduction or a blog.

In addition, please provide an outline schedule with key milestones to complete the exhibition content by January 2023. Please include an outline of how many days you would allocate to each task.

Please provide details of your day rate for this project. Please allow for all costs and expenses in your final quote.

Please note that the successful candidate must be covered by public liability insurance.

Please address your response and any questions you may have to Jamie Taylor, Programmes Manager at Jamie.taylor@thackraymuseum.org by 18 July 2022

Appendix

Audience descriptions

Mood board

Gallery plan

Project team outline roles and responsibilities