



The Synergy Project

Design Consultant – Invitation to quote

Catalyst Science Discovery Centre and Museum is seeking a Design Consultant with experience in designing museum exhibitions and exhibition spaces to provide the design of refurbishments to parts of the Catalyst building during the development phase of the Synergy Project. This is a National Lottery Heritage Funded Project and work will commence in March 2023. We expect the design activity to be delivered over a six month period interfacing with the independent cocreations activities.

Role: Design Consultant

Reports to: CEO and Heritage Project Manager

Location: Catalyst SDC and Museum, Mersey Road, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 0DF

Total Contract Value: £30,000 maximum

Application closing date: 20th February 2023

As the Design Consultant you will be expected to:

- Design the refurbished gallery and transition spaces, showcasing the importance of Widnes and Runcorn and its communities to the development of the global chemical industry.
- Utilise a combination of graphics, objects and interactives to design the refurbished gallery and transition spaces
- Develop and produce proposed concepts for display in the temporary gallery
- Ensure timely coordination, presentation and reporting of all intelligence and data relating to the co-design of Synergy
- Ensure the Citizen Co-Creation Working Group views are fully reflected in the overall design of Synergy
- Be the main point of contact for the design element of Synergy and to ensure that stakeholders receive regular updates and feedback on their input
- Work alongside the Co-Creation Consultant to plan and run events and sessions relating to the redesign of the physical spaces
- Work with staff at Catalyst in order to fulfil the objectives of the project

Consultancy Specification

Necessary Requirements:

- Experience designing exhibitions and exhibition spaces in the heritage sector

- An interest in history and heritage

Desired:

- Membership to the Chartered Industry of Designers
- Knowledge of the local area and community
- Knowledge of the Chemical industry
- Previous experience working with the National Heritage Lottery Fund

Skills and knowledge required:

- Excellent communication skills
- A thorough attention to detail
- Ability to work well with others and on your own initiative
- Demonstrable design skills, knowledge and experience
- Excellent time-management skills
- A creative and imaginative way of thinking, as well as the ability to think outside the box
- Ability to meet tight deadlines

If you are interested in this contract please email us at jobs@catalyst.org.uk by Monday 20th February. Please send information about design projects that you have worked on and we can discuss the design brief.

We hope to meet with prospective consultants toward the end of February.

Please note that this is a contract and that the contracted individual or company will be responsible for their own tax, NI, pension, and any insurance you require to fulfil this work.



The Synergy Project

Outline design brief

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Introduction

Catalyst has applied for funding to make the heritage offer accessible to new and under-represented audiences in an exciting and meaningful way. We are therefore looking to appoint a Design Consultant so that Synergy is codesigned and co-created to include all components within the scope of the brief. The timescale for this project will be March 2023 to September 2023.

The heritage of our place is important for people to understand, not only its genesis but its relevance to the modern world and how it has shaped this area. We want to engage people with our local heritage and use our vast, underutilised heritage archive including our social history/lived experiences to create much richer and meaningful content using real stories and making the connections between our heritage and the science. This makes better use of our resources and archives and opens up the local history and heritage to a much wider range of people.

The Birth of an Industry gallery was installed in 1996. It tells the story of the chemical industry's origins, which fundamentally shaped the local area; however, it currently provides a general/global history rather than foregrounding local stories. The gallery is old fashioned, the stories un-coordinated and generic, the interpretation is didactic, text-heavy, displays are outmoded and our feedback tells us that it is uninspiring/uninteresting to our target/local audiences.

Although the history it relates to is highly important to the area, the gallery is the least visited part of our offer, as the narrative in its current form does not seem relevant to children/young people or easy to absorb for those with learning difficulties, autism and other related conditions.

The 4th floor glass-walled Observatory gallery was last refurbished in 2000 and houses exhibits that link to the surrounding area/environmental issues. It is used for bridge building and local history

workshops for local schools, sleepovers for uniformed groups, heritage afternoon teas and for corporate events.

This project recognises the need to deliver a coherent scheme for the whole building that addresses orientation around the building's four floors, makes the best use of transition spaces and creates links between the science and heritage elements of our organisation – the then and now.

Key Messages

An essential element of this project is the opportunity to build on previous successful outreach and co-creation work and to fully engage our target audiences and the local community in the development and design of our heritage programmes and new exhibitions.

This project will allow us to engage people in a much more interactive and relevant ways and build on the interest that we know exists.

We would like to offer the opportunity to

- to enrich peoples' lives through a better understanding of the relevance of the heritage of our area
- engage authentically with new audiences using real stories
- to develop an understanding in a wider audience of the significance of the local chemical industry heritage and its influence on the world today
- to integrate heritage and science offers throughout the building so that the heritage offer is more accessible

Objectives

- To work with the Co-creation consultant (and potentially target audiences) to co-create the transformation designs ensuring that the recommendations/findings from the co-creation workstream are reflected in the final plans
- To design the refurbished gallery and transition spaces, showcasing the importance of Widnes and Runcorn and its communities to the development of the global chemical industry. Audiences will feel better informed and have a more holistic visitor experience.
- To utilise a combination of graphics, objects and interactives is seen as the ideal combination. Defining the right balance between these elements will be a key element in fulfilling the brief
- To develop a design that could easily fit with and enhance our community and education programmes
- To deliver the transformation of our heritage offer through the refurbishment of the gallery and transitions spaces so that it is better explained and more meaningful

Key tasks

- Ensure the data collected by the Co-creation consultant is reflected in the overall design of the refurbished gallery and transition spaces
- Be the main point of contact for the design element of Synergy and to ensure that stakeholders receive regular updates and feedback on their input

- Work alongside the Co-Creation Consultant to plan and run all events and sessions relating to the redesign of the physical spaces
- Develop and produce proposed concepts for display in the temporary gallery
- Work with staff at Catalyst in order to fulfil the above objectives
- Ensure effective and timely progress reporting

Deliverables and Key Dates

- Designs for the physical spaces that:
 - Reflect the output of the cocreation activities for the project
 - Can be delivered within the budget available for the delivery phase of the project
- April 2023, work with the Co-creation consultant to ensure the feedback from the co-creation workstream will be reflected in the final design plans
- April 2023 – September 2023, create initial designs for the refurbished gallery and transition spaces based off the themes agreed to by the co-creation workstream and Project Implementation Group (PIG)
- End of April 2023, provide an update on the progress of the initial designs
- End of May 2023, provide an update on the progress of the initial designs
- June 2023 – September 2023, create initial designs for concepts to be displayed in the contemporary gallery
- End of June 2023, provide a mid-project progress report on your workings with the Co-creation consultant, the designs for the refurbished gallery, transitions spaces and temporary gallery, and costings
- July 2023, provide an update on the progress of the initial designs
- August 2023, provide an update on the progress of the initial designs
- September 2023, deliver the final designs for the refurbished gallery, transition spaces and temporary gallery.
- September 2023, deliver full costings for the final design

Skills and Experience

Necessary:

- Experience designing exhibitions and exhibition spaces in the heritage sector
- An interest in history and heritage
- Excellent communication skills
- A thorough attention to detail
- Ability to work well with others and on your own initiative
- Demonstrable design skills, knowledge and experience
- Excellent time-management skills
- A creative and imaginative way of thinking, as well as the ability to think outside the box
- Ability to meet tight deadlines

Desired:

- Membership to the Chartered Industry of Designers
- Knowledge of the local area and community

- Knowledge of the Chemical industry
- Previous experience working with the National Heritage Lottery Fund

Budget and Payment Schedule

The budget for this commission is £30,000. This budget is inclusive of all project costs. It is anticipated that this will be paid in three instalments of 40% on commencement, 40% on the half-way point and the remaining 20% on completion.

Management

The Design Consultant will report to the CEO and Heritage Project Manager.

Further Information

For further information please contact jobs@catalyst.org.uk or visit our website at www.catalyst.org.uk