

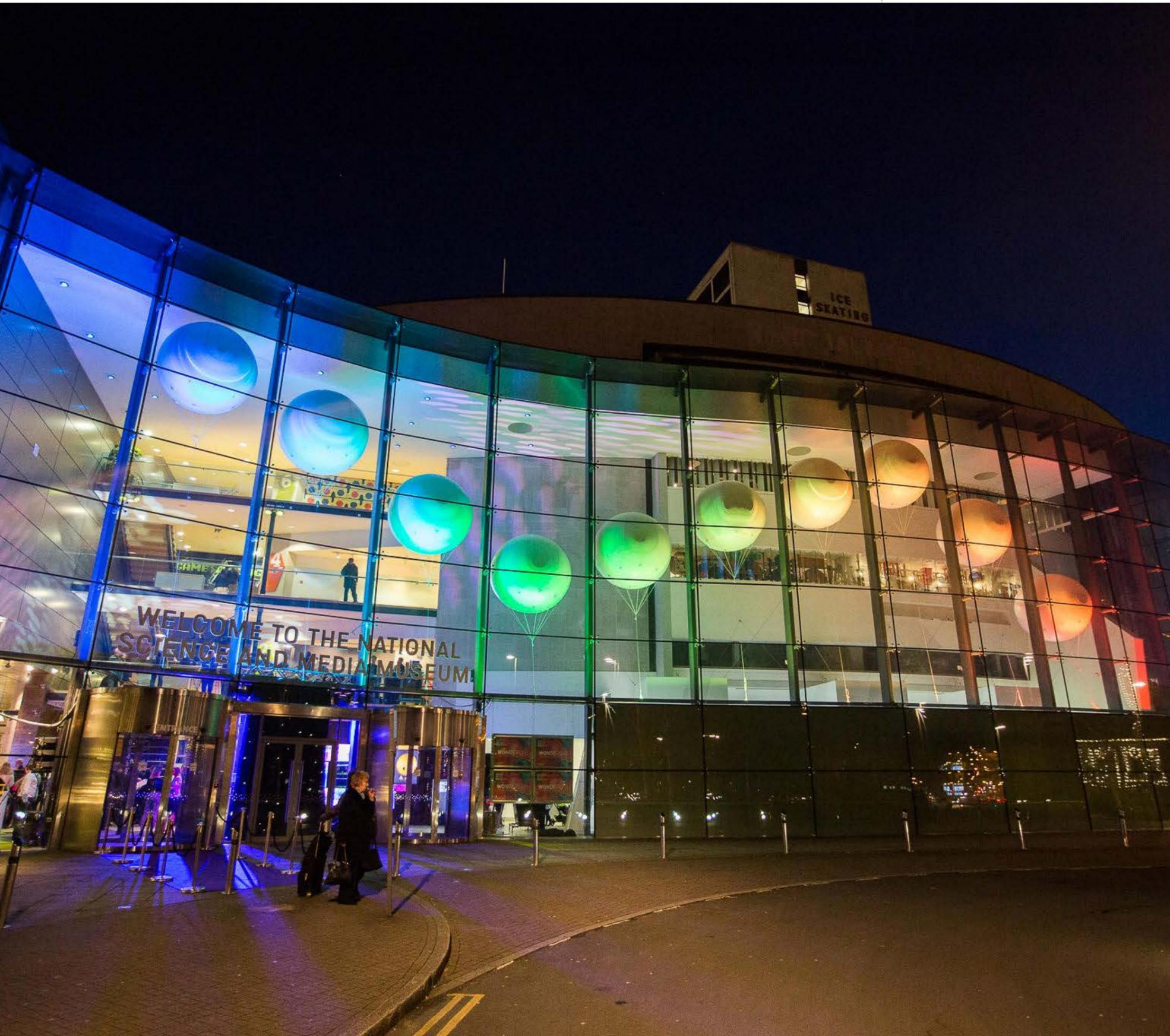
SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP



APPOINTMENT OF HEAD CURATOR

JULY 2018

BACKGROUND



The Science Museum Group's mission is to 'inspire futures' and our five museums, including Locomotion, are a key national resource. With unparalleled collections in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine, the Group is uniquely placed to draw people of all ages to engage with science in an inspirational and informal way. And with over 600,000 of the Group's nearly 6 million visitors each year coming in booked education groups, we also have an extraordinary capacity to open people's minds to the creativity and wonder of science.

We play a central and irreplaceable role in deepening and expanding science literacy in the UK. The breadth of resources, the diversity of audiences and communities we serve, and the wide range of expertise embedded in our learning, collections and exhibitions teams are a world-class resource for public engagement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Our organising principle of enhancing 'science capital' offers a vision of enriching people's lives as well as enhancing their contributions to society, and is a core priority for our overarching Group strategy, as defined in 'Inspiring Futures: Strategic Priorities 2017-2030'. Located at the intersection of formal and informal learning, we have a direct impact on millions of families, teachers and members of the visiting public, young and old. By devoting resources to researching and extending this impact, the Science Museum Group will be a transformative engine for improving lives across the UK and beyond.

Opposite:
National Science and
Media Museum entrance
© Jody Hartley

THE GROUP

The Group incorporates the Science Museum, London; the Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester; the National Railway Museum, York; Locomotion, Shildon; and the National Science and Media Museum, Bradford. In addition, collections stores are located in Wroughton and London.

Science Museum, London

As the home of human ingenuity, the Science Museum and its world-class collection forms an enduring record of scientific, technological and medical achievements from across the globe. Welcoming over 3 million visitors a year, the museum aims to make sense of the science that shapes our lives, inspiring visitors with iconic objects, award-winning exhibitions and incredible stories of scientific achievement.

Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester

The Museum of Science and Industry's focus is the creative exploration of how science, innovation and industry created and sustain modern society. Its mission is to explore where science met industry and the modern world began, and to understand the impact that Manchester science, technology and innovation continues to have on all our lives. Originally opened in 1969, the museum now occupies the former Liverpool Road station, one of Manchester's most important historic sites.

The National Railway Museum, York and Shildon

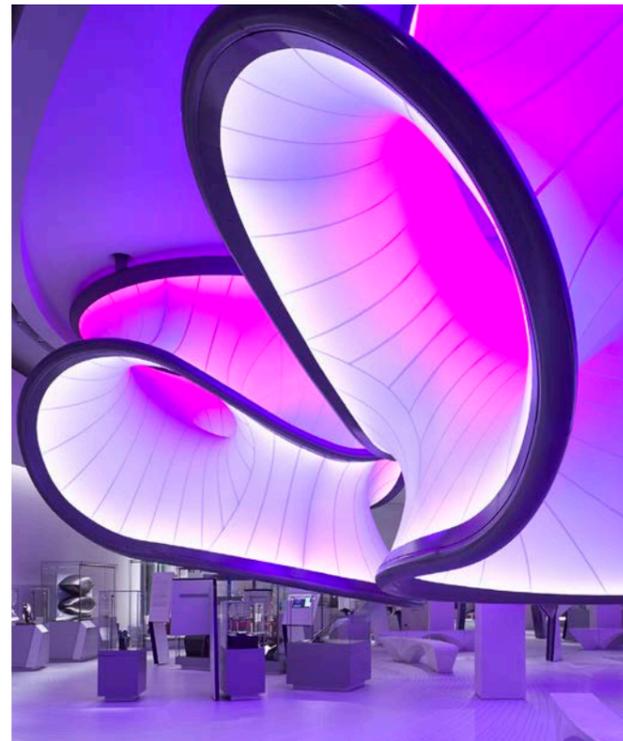
The National Railway Museum is a museum that tells the story of rail transport in Britain and its impact on society. It is the home of the national collection of historically significant railway vehicles, as well as a collection of other artefacts and both written and pictorial records. These include a collection of over 100 locomotives and nearly 300 other items, virtually all of which either ran on the railways of Great Britain or were built there.

National Science and Media Museum, Bradford

The National Media Museum is situated in the heart of Bradford, UNESCO City of Film. Its aim is to explore the transformative impact of image and sound technologies on our lives. The museum is home to over 3.5 million items of historical significance, and includes traditional and interactive galleries. It also features the UK's first IMAX theatre and two other cinemas, and hosts a comprehensive programme of cultural and educational events.

Locomotion, Shildon

Opened in September 2004 as a joint venture with Durham County Council, this museum showcases important railway vehicles and items from the national collection. From December 2017, the museum became a full part of the Group. Although the SMG will now manage Locomotion, the strong partnership with Durham County Council will continue to be key to the future of the museum. Events such as Mallard 75 and Flying Scotsman and the Shildon Shed Bash have established Locomotion as one of the biggest tourist attractions in the North East.



THE GROUP



OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Core priorities

- Grow science capital in individuals and society – the Science Museum Group's offer and reputation for lifelong informal STEM learning and engagement is the best in the world.
- Grow our audiences and exceed their expectations – we understand and consistently meet or exceed our visitors' expectations; we reach and reflect the communities we aim to serve.
- Sustain and grow our world-class collection – the Group's collection is the best in the world for our fields: well understood, well housed and accessible (physically and digitally), and used effectively by ourselves and others for research, display, learning and pleasure.

Supporting priorities

- Extend our international reach – the Science Museum Group has a very strong international profile and reputation for excellence that enhances our offer, promotes the UK and generates income.
- Transform our estate – our buildings, public spaces and facilities will be welcoming and inspiring places to visit, effective and accessible housing for the collection, and great places to work.
- Harness the potential of digital – our digital offer is acknowledged as one of the best in the world and the Group's websites are a global destination for their subjects.
- Increase income – sustainable unrestricted income from a variety of sources is significantly greater than in 2015/16 and is used efficiently to realise our vision.

OUR VALUES

The Science Museum Group succeeds through its people. 'Inspiring Futures' touches every part of the organisation and is the responsibility of all the Group's teams. There are five values to underpin all activity:

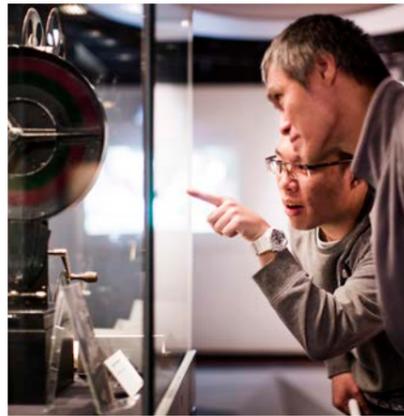
- Think big
- Reveal wonder
- Share authentic stories
- Ignite curiosity
- Open for all

Opposite:
Mathematics: The Staircase
Gallery at the Science
Museum (@ Nick Guttridge)

Above left:
A4 locomotives together
at the last *Great Gathering*,
National Railway Museum,
Shildon, 2014.

Above right:
Wonderlab at the
National Science and
Media Museum

THE GROUP



Highlights

- The Science Museum Group attracted nearly 6 million visits in 2016/17, among which over 400,000 people visited the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford
- The National Science and Media Museum is home to Europe's first permanent IMAX theatre – showcasing the magic of moving images from around the world in Bradford, the first UNESCO City of Film
- In 2017, the National Science and Media Museum curated and re-launched the Bradford Science Festival resulting in over 34,500 visitors
- The National Science and Media Museum collection currently numbers in the region of 3.5 million individual objects, ranging from instruction manuals, to family photographic portraits, to the most significant collection of American television receivers in the UK, to the Kodak Museum collection, comprising photographs and equipment dating back to the very beginnings of photography
- The National Science and Media Museum in Bradford opened with its new name, visual identity and vision in March 2017, at the same time launching its own Wonderlab gallery – costing £1.8million this new interactive gallery saw 6000 visitors in its opening week alone
- In 2017, the National Science and Media Museum launched a 'first of its kind' national touring exhibition of European Space Agency Astronaut Tim Peake's Soyuz capsule, with the aim of inspiring a generation of people across the country
- One of our sister museums, The National Railway Museum, forms part of one of the largest urban redevelopments in Britain, York Central, which will see the National Railway Museum completely transformed with new galleries, outdoor spaces and learning platforms, investing £50 million
- In December 2017, Locomotion in Shildon became a full part of the Science Museum Group and exciting plans are being developed for the future of the site and restoration of our historic buildings

- Another of our sister museums in the North, the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester, with two Grade 1 listed buildings and sitting on the terminus of the world's first inter-city railway, will see completion of a new £6million special exhibition gallery in 2020
- Our flagship museum, Science Museum in London, will see the opening a brand-new gallery in 2019, spending £24million to re-imagine 3000m2 of medical collections

Above left:
Wonderlab Bradford
launch event
© Jody Hartley

Above centre:
Kodak Gallery

Above right:
Wonderlab at the
National Science and
Media Museum
© Lee Mawdsley

Opposite:
Wonderlab entrance
© Lee Mawdsley

How our collections inspire futures

The National Science and Media Museum holds outstanding, internationally important collections of photography, film, television and sound technology. As well as many firsts and significant milestones in the development of image and sound technologies, such as the earliest surviving photographic negative or the first film camera, the museum holds many examples of everyday technology as made and used by millions or ordinary people.

These collections are at the core of the museum, supporting all of our activities – from object-rich exhibitions and galleries to our programme of events and festivals. Our collections not only show how technology works and is developed, but also the impacts that it has on our lives and society.

Through our collections we can explore with our visitors the historical ancestors of today's immersive VR and AR technology, and show how concerns about surveillance and privacy have precedents in the nineteenth century. Through these collections we use the past to inform our present and inspire our future.

Championing access, research and development of our collections

The Head Curator leads the team in promoting access to the collection through our popular research centre – Insight – and by instigating and managing projects to improve cataloguing and digitisation. The development of the collection is a core responsibility, making sure that we continue to acquire important historic and contemporary materials, while actively planning for transfers and rationalisation where appropriate.

The curatorial team are charged with raising the profile of the collection for all – public, researchers, communities of interest – both within and outside the museum. Research on the collection is enabled by collaboration with universities and our programme of collaborative doctoral studentships, as well as original research carried out directly by the curatorial team.

Scope for impact of Head Curator

Leading the Curatorial team at the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford, you will manage a team of ten curators, archive and volunteer management professionals dedicated to developing, managing and researching the museum's collections, and facilitating public engagement with them.

As a leader and member of the Senior Management Team at the museum, you will champion the collections and their use in all areas of the museum's activities. You will lead the content team in producing the Sound and Vision Galleries, defining the curatorial approach to interpreting and displaying these collections in the museum for the next 20 years.

Beyond the museum, you will advocate for the collections across the Science Museum Group, working with Head Curators at the other museums to ensure they are used and visible to all, and you will represent research and public engagement into the collections to the sector and to the public.

HEAD CURATOR

Department: Curatorial and Archives
Type: Permanent
Location: Bradford
Hours: 35 per week
Reports to: Director,
 National Science and Media Museum
Salary: £38,000 – £45,000 + benefits
Date: July 2018

ABOUT THE ROLE

The National Science and Media Museum (NSMM) explores the transformational impact of image and sound technologies on our lives. It holds internationally significant collections of film, television, photography, photographic and sound technologies as well as extensive library and archive collections.

Currently in the early stages of delivering a major £5million Masterplan Project, which involves the renewal of two object-rich galleries, the museum is also delivering an important strategic, community-focused programme in collaboration with the University of Leeds and key stakeholders across Bradford.

As our Head Curator, you will lead the Curatorial department in research and archives activity which supports our strategic mission and ambitious projects. As well as maintaining and developing our historic collections, you will champion our ambitions to collect more contemporary and digital materials, whilst developing innovative modes engaging audiences.

WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING

- Providing leadership to the Curatorial department and wider museum
- Leading content development for our Masterplan galleries and other cultural programme projects
- Promoting a culture of high-performance, fostering original thinking and publications relevant to the collections by staff and through external collaborations
- Communicating our vision to stakeholders and collaborators, negotiating, maintaining and developing partnerships that support fundraising and the delivery of museum objectives
- Ensuring the curatorial team stay abreast of contemporary practice, contribute to professional networks, develop the collections and produce innovative, visitor focused outputs

- Managing the Volunteer co-ordinator, ensuring museum wide volunteering opportunities are increased
- Embedding a strategic, group-wide approach within the activity of the Curatorial department
- Coordinating the planning and delivery of curatorial and research projects with colleagues
- Reporting matters relating to collections and research to senior levels within SMG, to the museums Advisory Board and Collections & Research Committee
- Establishing, agreeing, allocating, monitoring and controlling all curatorial budgets and resources
- Implementing and maintaining Health and Safety requirements across all teams in the Department, ensuring the department can respond effectively to emergencies
- Taking care of your personal health and safety and that of others. Complying with the Science Museum Group Health and Safety Policies, risk assessments and safe systems of work and reporting any health and safety concerns

WHAT YOU BRING TO THE TEAM

You will definitely have...

- Substantial experience of curating collections and communicating them in innovative ways
- Experience of leading teams, resource and budget in a strategic way
- Demonstrable experience of acting as an advocate and having the confidence and skill to influence and negotiate effectively
- Demonstrable experience of working collaboratively
- A passion for understanding museum audiences and their needs
- A well-established practitioner with a network to inform and inspire the Curatorial team
- Accomplished networking skills with proven stakeholder management skills at senior level



- The ability to direct research to support the development of projects and publications
- An ability to work in a dynamic environment and to institute new standards and practices
- Strong leadership skills, ambitious to establish new ways of working

It would be good if you have...

- Significant knowledge of the Museums subject areas and/or the histories of science and technology
- Knowledge of cultural contexts, socio-economic and political trends relevant to the museum

Additional information

This role is subject to a Disclosure Scotland basic criminal record check.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Please answer the following questions in your Supporting Statement:

1. Using examples, please outline the breadth of your experience in curating collections and the techniques you brought to the role.
2. Please tell us about a time you have led a large and diverse team and how you ensured they developed to be successful in their roles.
3. Please provide an overview of an innovative project or programme you have delivered, including what role you played and who you collaborated with to ensure its successful delivery.

If you require assistance to complete your application or would like to inform us of anything we need to take into consideration during our shortlisting process, for example due to a disability, please contact us by email or by calling 0207 942 4222.

We wish you every success with your application!

Above left:
Fake News exhibition

Above right:
NSMM Wonderlab
© Lee Mawdsley

