

# DEPARTMENT

## **Creative Curator**

DEPARTMENT, 29-30 Cross Street, Ryde, Isle of Wight

[www.department-ryde.org](http://www.department-ryde.org)

@department-ryde

**Closing date for applications is 5pm on Wednesday 21st February**

**Interviews on Wednesday 28th February**

**If you would like to apply, please send a CV and covering letter (no more than 2 sides of A4) to [info@department-ryde.org](mailto:info@department-ryde.org)**

*Bringing the stories and history of DEPARTMENT alive in a new creative centre at the heart of the community.*

60 days @ £300 – Total Fee £18,000

March 2024 to March 2025

We are seeking an experienced and innovative Creative Curator to work on an unusual, ground-breaking project in Ryde, Isle of Wight.

This is a part-time role with funding for 60 days at £300 over 12 months. *(Please note that the daily rate includes any VAT, travel and accommodation costs you may incur).* Remote working is possible for some of this role but there is a requirement for onsite working at times.

### **The Creative Curator Role**

As the Creative Curator, you will delight in the unusual; love working with people and ideas; and enjoy the involvement of partners and the community in the creation of exhibits.

This heritage interpretation project celebrates the opening of Department in a way which will surprise, entertain and inform visitors of all backgrounds about the history of the site and the people who have worked here, including the history of the site before it became a department store and was a base where artisans and craftsmen lived and worked.

We are looking for a Curator who loves to think outside the box and can create an innovative, interactive and immersive exhibition to celebrate the history of this iconic building. Part of the project will include a temporary exhibition on the ground floor and working alongside the team at Department to display permanent features around the building. Working with the oral history collectors and our heritage partners, we would like you to consider novel ways of using textiles, sound, light, visual, performance, digital and

text to help interpret this for a contemporary audience in Ryde. The commissioning company is [Shademakers UK](#), one of Europe's leading carnival arts companies and experts in costume creation, textiles, and community engagement. The artists and team at Shademakers all live locally and are part of the community as well as having an international reputation and experience.

In partnership with the Isle of Wight Council Shademakers UK have succeeded in raising substantial funds to transform this town centre building into a new creative centre with art at its heart. Department is a space to dream big, create, display, perform, learn, and exchange skills.

The building, which is being transformed into Department ready to fully open by Spring 2024, is on the site of *Woods & Wilkins*, an electrical and hardware store in the 1800s-1970s, and then the Elizabeth Packs Department store until 2018.

The building work has just begun and is due for completion by mid-autumn. The exhibition is likely to be held in December 2024 with full opening to the public by March 2025.

We are looking for a Curator to lead on the project to create and displays long term exhibits in the foyer, and cafe wall.

We want to be delighted by your ideas as you help us celebrate this project and place.

The Creative Curator role is funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund and the wider construction project is also supported by funding from DCMS, Arts Council England, and Historic England.

### **The Curator's role will be to**

- Manage the content curation for public exhibitions and a booklet – we anticipate some elements will be ready for December 2024 with the main opening events in March 2025.
- Work in partnership with the Shademakers UK team, project partners, and volunteers
- Manage the processes of producing the exhibitions and booklet within the budget available and with the support of partner organisations.
- Supervise collection of archive materials and the final delivery to archives of all records
- Lead on the project evaluation

### **Skills Required**

- Experience in working with communities
- Experience in curation of high quality exhibitions in community environment
- Project Management experience
- Community group liaison skills
- Good office and administrative skills

### **Desirable skills and interests**

- Knowledge of the local history of the Isle of Wight
- Knowledge of craft skills, fabric skills and retail heritage

## Interpretation and Budget

The overall heritage activities budget includes the Curator fee and many already committed strands such as oral history recording, a photography project with young people, research and archiving with a local history group, traditional skills workshops with furniture and upholstery, the creation of a new community textile wall-hanging - all led by other professional specialists .

The Curator role is to have an overview of the various projects, and select a narrative and themes that emerge from these strands of work, then offer these within the building to display the history.

There is a materials exhibition budget for the Curator to use for any interpretation panels, printing of displays and suchlike. Items such as screens for digital work are built into the overall capital budget.

For further information please email Joe or Sharon [info@department-ryde.org](mailto:info@department-ryde.org)



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