

Project Brief

Freelance Artist – Industrial Heritage Collection

Budget: £15,000

Application deadline: 31st July

Interviews: tbc

Start date: August – date to be agreed with successful candidate

Contract Purpose

The National Coal Mining Museum for England are looking for an artist with experience in creating audio-visual installations and soundscapes to create an immersive artwork for a large industrial style building. The building, called The Powerhouse, is currently an open access store which we would like to transform into an engaging gallery space to showcase our amazing Industrial Heritage collection of mining machinery.

The artwork will draw on the Industrial Heritage collection and associated stories and lived experiences of ex-miners for inspiration and content and will be part of a larger project to redisplay the building to transform it to a gallery space and to work with our communities to gather the memories and personal stories from the ex-miners who worked with these machines.

We would like the artwork to bring these stories and machines to life for our visitors and to fill the large space of the Powerhouse with sound and visuals. We are keen for the installation or artwork to be modern, filling the large gallery of the Powerhouse with sound and vision, building a meaningful legacy for the Museum and region, and meet our **need** to attract new and diverse audiences. We must tell the story of coal in ways that resonate with future generations, making the Museum appealing, imaginative and accessible.

It is an exciting project with lots of scope to make an ambitious artwork.

About Us

NCMME is the only surviving intact example of a rural 19th century colliery in the UK. We are the national learning hub for the industry past and present and last year we welcomed over 5,000 school children for educational self-led visits, had over 98,000 visitors to the site and enjoyed support from 75 volunteers. The 45-acre site includes 36 buildings, a Conservation area, a Schedule Ancient Monument, three key listed

buildings and extensive industrial and art collections, an underground mine experience, woodland, a nature trail, playgrounds, a mine-water treatment plant and stables. Collections reflect all aspects of the heritage of mining and its people, including social history items, geology, art and photography and industrial heritage. The collection became of national significance in 1995 when the British Coal Collection was transferred to NCMME's care. Much of the industrial heritage collection is part of this unique and nationally significant British Coal Collection.

Key Tasks and Responsibilities

The successful candidate will work with a freelance curator, ex-miners, volunteers, and the Collections Team to create an artwork to help transform the open access store into an engaging, curated gallery space to showcase the Industrial Heritage collection, incorporating the associated stories and memories which have been gathered as part of the project.

Responsibilities will include:

- Working with the curator to access the collections and stories which have been gathered as part of the project.
- To develop a fully costed proposal for an audio-visual artwork for The Powerhouse drawing on the collection and associated stories
- To produce a finished piece which reflects the mining machinery and mining heritage suitable for a family audience and for the space in The Powerhouse
- Install the artwork in situ in The Powerhouse

For examples of the machinery in the Powerhouse follow these links:

[Dosco Roadway Cutter Loader Mk2](#) [Image of Roadway Cutter](#)

[Meco Hydraulic Chock](#) [Image of Underground Supports](#)

[Waddle Fan](#)

[Eimco 21 Rocker Shovel Loader](#)

[Samson Twin-arm Loader Mk2](#)

[BJD Anderton Longwall shearer](#)

Indicative Timeline and Key Milestones

Start date: August 2026

Completion Date: end January 2027

Budget

A budget of £15,000 is available to deliver this work, to include materials, installation, personal expenses and travel. The appointee will be responsible for paying their own tax and national insurance contributions.

There is an additional budget of £1,500 which is available for the purchase of equipment for the artwork.

This is a grant funded project.

Application Process

Please direct questions about the role to Freelance Curator Ali Bodley
ali@bodleyheritage.co.uk 07884444675

To apply, send the following to ali@bodleyheritage.co.uk :

- CV
- Brief outline of potential ideas for this project
- A budget breakdown, detailing how many days' work at what day rate this would equate to.
- Examples of previous work including links to films

Please save documents using your name and this job role as the title.

Interviews will take place either remotely or at National Coal Mining Museum, Caphouse Colliery, New Road, Overton, Wakefield, WF4 4RH.

Please let us know if you require any reasonable adjustments at the interview.

You can find information about getting to National Coal Mining Museum on our website.