South East Europe Cultural Heritage Exchange Programme Announcement

The British Council, University College London (UCL) and Heritage Without Borders have partnered to deliver the South East Europe Cultural Heritage Exchange Programme. This programme will explore the broader role that museums can play in contemporary society, through establishing and defining identity, addressing pressing contemporary issues and through engaging with young people and communities.

It will give successful applicants the necessary skills and confidence to develop partnerships with their local communities and broaden the audience of their institution.

Mid-career museum professionals (with a minimum of 3 years’ years work experience) who are looking to become leaders are invited to apply to take part in the programme. Applications will be accepted from managers and museum professionals from museums in the following countries:

- Albania
- Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Kosovo
- Macedonia
- Montenegro
- Serbia

One participant will be selected from each country for participation in the UK placement and knowledge exchange programme. Good English language skills are a prerequisite as part of the programme will be delivered in the UK.

The project will take place from September 2014-March 2015. It is a 6-month programme with mandatory attendance at a 1-week training programme in the UK and commitment to undertaking activities that help develop community engagement skills and disseminate knowledge to colleagues in the sector. Successful applicants will need to be able to demonstrate the support of their current institution of employment.

Learning outcomes:
Participants will gain:
- Insight into the context of community engagement theory and practice in the UK;
- first hand, practical experience of community engagement programmes in the UK;
- confidence in planning and delivering a new community engagement project;
- the ability to evaluate a community engagement project and share the learning with colleagues; and
- opportunities to interact, build networks and exchange ideas with international colleagues.
The project has the following phases:

1. **2-days’ study session at University College London (UCL)** focusing on community engagement through guest talks, visits, readings, discussion sessions.

2. **A short UK placement** when each of the delegates will spend three days in one of six partner museums. Each of these has a strong track record in community engagement. Each delegate will have the support of a community engagement expert from the partner museum, while placed at that museum.

3. **Sharing experience through practical exchange** whereby delegates supported by their UK colleague, will plan a workshop session. This 2-way, collaborative exchange will take place via email, phone and/or Skype. The resulting session will be jointly delivered in the delegates’ museums.

4. **A final 3-day workshop in the region** will be held in Belgrade, Serbia. The workshop will focus on: the role of museums in society, audience development, community partnerships and the use of digital technology. A broad audience of museum professionals from the region will be invited to attend the event.

**Funding**
This programme has been made possible with the aid of a generous grant from the Headley Trust. The British Council, University College London (UCL) and Heritage Without Borders (HWB) will cover the costs of participation. This includes travel to/from the UK, in-country travel, accommodation and subsistence during participation in the UK. Delegates’ museums must commit to hosting UK colleagues for a short visit (up to 4 days) between October 2014-February 2015. This **does not** require a financial commitment from the institution, but does require a willingness to give them access to museum facilities during their stay. The final 3-day workshop will be in Belgrade, Serbia. The British Council and HWB **will not** cover travel costs to Belgrade, but will cover accommodation and subsistence costs during it.

**Timescale**
- September 2014: UCL course and placement in the UK
- October 2014-February 2015: Collaboration on workshop development via telephone, email and/or Skype; and visits by UK colleagues to delegates’ museums
- March 2015: Workshop in Belgrade, Serbia

**To apply**
Please fill in the application form online and return it to:

dominica@heritagewithoutborders.org

Find the programme announcement and application form (PDF) on the HWB website:

Deadline for applications: 16 May 2014