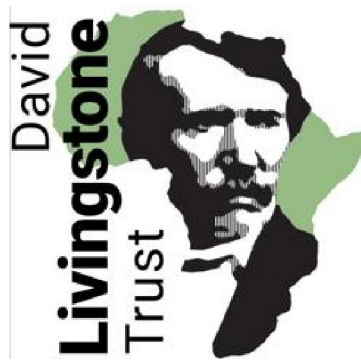


David Livingstone Centre



Role Description

Job Title: Conservator

Location: David Livingstone Centre, Blantyre, near Glasgow

Reporting to: Learning Officer/Centre Manager

Responsible for: Volunteers, student placements and interns as required during the project

Application Deadline: 7th August 2017

Salary: £15,000 per annum

Background

At end of March 2017, the David Livingstone Trust (DLT) took over the management of the Centre from the National Trust for Scotland who had managed and operated the site for some 17 years. DLT is therefore in the process of establishing a small management team to lead the Centre into an exciting future which includes 'The Birthplace Project', an ambitious plan for a 6.3-million-pound refurbishment of the historic buildings, redesign of the exhibition and conservation of key pieces of its 3,000-piece Collection. This Project is being funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Scottish Government and Historic Environment Scotland.

The Conservator role will be help deliver the Birthplace Project and successfully build momentum during delivery of the refurbishment project and will also support delivery of the Activity Plan for the Birthplace Trust project. The individual whom we are seeking therefore must have proven experience of conserving and managing a museum collection in accordance with Museum standards.

More detailed descriptions of DLT, the Centre and the Birthplace Project are provided in the Appendix.

Role Purpose

This is an exciting time for DLT; an opportunity for rebirth and re-establishing the ethos of the Centre, promoting the life and values of David Livingstone. The Centre deserves to be driven by people with commitment and enthusiasm who will bring a new perspective to ensure sustainability and future prosperity.

The Conservator will be part of a small team and will report to the Learning Officer and work alongside the Curator. This project role is available on a consultancy basis to a suitably experienced individual and will be based on a 3 day a week pattern. A fee of up to £15,000 per annum is available and the post is expected to be for an 18-month period. However, there is some flexibility about the number of days and period that they will be worked over and this will be agreed with the successful candidate.

Job Purpose

- To lead on the delivery of the decant, storage and re-installation of the collection as described in the CCMP, working closely with the Curator, contractors and consultants
- To be the primary contact and support for all collections conservation issues
- To contribute to best practice and improved standards at the Centre through training and documentation.

Key Responsibilities

- Developing a detailed Action Plan for all project elements as identified in the Collections Management Plan.
- Managing the decant of Collections on display and in storage to temporary storage facilities, including packing, transport, and setting up the temporary store.
- Arranging remedial treatment of Collection items in urgent need of treatment, and organising transport of Collection items between store and conservators' premises.
- Contributing to the planning/installation of the new displays (display case specification, lighting, mounting requirements and security), working closely with the Interpretation consultants Event Communications, and overseeing the installation of UV film, light reducing blinds and black-out facilities.
- Establishing Storage and Study Room facilities, including the provision of appropriate storage furniture, methods and materials, and the provision of Study/Research Room materials for safe collection handling.
- Instigating preventive conservation strategies for environmental control (including installation of environmental monitoring system); annual in-depth data analysis; regular collection condition audits; housekeeping and pest management; and events and emergency planning
- Working with and supervising volunteers, delivering collections care induction and training and/or organising training by specialist conservators as required.

- Maintaining conservation documentation records of the collections, including object tracking records, and ensure they are compatible with DLC documentation systems.
- Ensuring integration of collections care in all relevant areas of the project, in particular with regards the design of building, displays and environmental control strategy, through ongoing input in the Design and Construction Teams.

Person Specification

Knowledge

- **Conservation qualification (essential)**
- **Knowledge in the conservation of a wide variety of materials as represented by the Collections at the DLC (essential)**
- ACR status is desirable or the post-holder must demonstrate they are working towards Accreditation
- Knowledge of the CAT database, and of documentation and cataloguing systems such as Adlib, MODES or, CATALYST and/or others is desirable

Experience

- Experience in planning and delivery of at least one project similar in scope and scale (essential)
- Experience of working in a museum standard conservation environment (essential)
- Experience of preventive conservation/collection care management
- Some experience of project management
- Management of Conservation Volunteers

Skills and Abilities

- Excellent organisational, administrative and time-management skills
- Outstanding inter-personal and communication skills
- Effective team-working skills and ability to multi-task within a small organisation
- Ability to work independently and to show initiative and flexibility
- Ability to assimilate and analyse complex information to help make management decisions
- Ability to think and act quickly when confronted with emergencies
- Ability to understand and interpret architectural and structural plans
- Highly IT literate
- Possession of a current clean driving licence is preferred

Personal Qualities and Requirements

- **Strong interest in and commitment to the DLC's mission, vision and values**
- Understanding of, and commitment to, Equal Opportunities policy and practice

Applications for the role in the form of a CV and covering letter should be sent to grant.mackenzie@dltrust.uk by noon on Monday the 7th August 2017.

References will be required by the successful candidate.

Appendix 1 – The David Livingstone Trust

DLC is owned by the David Livingstone Trust (DLT) and the constitutional responsibility of DLT is to hold and maintain a National Memorial and Museum on the site of Livingstone's birth, which is made available to the public, providing an interesting, educational and enjoyable cultural experience. The Trust achieves this by:

1. Preserving in good physical order the present buildings which contain the birthplace of David Livingstone and the immediate environment.
2. Bringing together, holding, adequately housing, conserving and documenting a collection of specimens being of historical, artistic, scientific and ethnographical association with the life and times of David Livingstone, Blantyre, Scotland and the countries associated with his explorations.
3. Stimulating public interest in the Centre as a focal point of education and of interest in the life and times of David Livingstone.
4. Displaying and publicising the Collection for the public benefit.
5. Promoting and assisting in the collating and recording of the historical, ethnological, archaeological, biological, geological or other related information appropriate to the purpose of the Museum.

The David Livingstone Centre

Background

The David Livingstone Centre (DLC) is located on the site of the former Blantyre Mill. Established as the Scottish National Memorial to David Livingstone in 1929, it comprises Shuttle Row, the mill workers' tenement block in which David Livingstone was born and raised; an important, accredited museum collection; and a visitor centre, all set in 11 hectares of parkland along the banks of the River Clyde.

David Livingstone (1813 – 1873) was born in Blantyre Mill, a poor mill worker's son. Inspired by the ideas of the Scottish Enlightenment, by faith and by the mill's commitment to workers' education, he would go on to become a world-renowned explorer, medical missionary and anti-slavery campaigner. Hailed as 'Africa's First Freedom Fighter', Livingstone remains a positive example of international solidarity and his story presents Scottish history, culture and learning within a truly global context.

Blantyre Mill was built in 1785 and was a major industrial location on the Clyde. It was contemporary with New Lanark, founded on similar enlightened principles with a strong focus on the improvement and education of its large workforce. The mill continued to operate until 1904 and by the 1920s Shuttle Row had degenerated into a slum. However, the mill's history as the birthplace of David Livingstone inspired a campaign by local people to preserve it as a lasting monument. Following a general mobilisation of the Sunday Schools of Scotland, the Shuttle Row buildings were saved and refurbished as the heart of the Scottish National Memorial to David Livingstone. The A-Listed Shuttle Row comprises an 18th century tenement and terrace, outbuildings and a forecourt, describing the former communal courtyard and laundry area. The main building, a rare surviving example of early industrial housing, houses the Livingstone birthplace museum over three floors. It includes the restored single room where Livingstone was born and a sequence of galleries containing interpreted displays. The adjoining buildings contain offices, stores and meeting space.

The Collections

The Livingstone birthplace collections are unique and internationally significant. At their core are many of the items that were saved and returned to Britain by Livingstone's African companions, alongside material donated by Livingstone's friends, family and neighbours. As such they represent a remarkable, international effort by community members across a considerable stretch of time to create a material record of Livingstone.

This collection continues to be subject to important new research.

Another important part of the collections is the Blantyre Works Library, a unique surviving early worker's education resource and an important educational foundation for Livingstone's remarkable journey.

DLC is an accredited museum.

Gardens and Landscape

David Livingstone's Birthplace is located within 7 hectares of parkland and woodland on the banks of the River Clyde. The grounds contain gardens, children's play areas, walking trails, and archaeological remains of Blantyre Works Village. The site sits within the Clyde River Strategic Wildlife Corridor and a large part includes a section of SSSI designated woodland, woodland regeneration habitat and wetlands. It is also home to a wide range of animal species including bats, otters, badgers and heron.

The park is an important asset for the local community, in terms of dog walking and children's play.

The David Livingstone Birthplace Project

The David Livingstone Trust is now embarking on a major project to refurbish Shuttle Row and the African Pavilions to create a high-quality museum and visitor centre, with improved facilities enabling us to deliver a memorable visitor experience rich with opportunities for learning and enjoyment.

When the Birthplace project is complete, a vibrant new visitor destination telling the story of the remarkable life and heritage of David Livingstone will have been created. This story sets Scotland in a global context and presents a compelling universal example of what each of us can achieve – and what we must offer the world. Given the importance of our Collection we intend to become a centre for research; and deliver learning and public programmes to support schools, community regeneration and international partnerships.

We intend to raise the profile of the Centre during the construction phase through a lively programme of learning and participation, leading to a major series of launch events to mark the reopening of the Centre and then an ongoing programme of activities and outreach. The Centre will be recognised as a hub for disseminating ongoing academic research into David Livingstone with links to a wide range of audiences in the UK and Africa. The Centre has developed detailed guidance for the first few years of redevelopment in the form of an Activity Plan and a Collections Care Management Plan and is seeking highly experienced staff to deliver these to fulfil the potential of the refurbished Centre.

Further information can be found at <https://www.david-livingstone-trust.org/>