Artist Brief: Make Zoo and Mend and Winter Wildlife 2024 at the Museum of Zoology

Summary

We are looking for a textile artist-facilitator to work with the Museum of Zoology to develop and deliver a drop-in collaborative art activity using recycled fabrics to run across two events: Make Zoo and Mend, an evening event on Wednesday 13 November 2024 for a student/young professionals audience; and a family day for our Winter Wildlife festival on Saturday 30 November. We would like this activity to fit with a theme of sustainable fashion and sustainable giving. We are looking for someone with experience delivering activities, some knowledge of sustainable materials and practices, and ideally an interest in the natural world and responding to environmental change and the climate crisis.

Background

The engagement programme of the Museum of Zoology puts sustainability at its heart, and the Make Zoo and Mend and Winter Wildlife events showcase this directly. We want not only to explore nature and how diverse and wonderful it is, but also show ways that we can help the natural world and provide some hope in a time when the climate crisis can feel overwhelming.

Make Zoo and Mend is an event designed for an adult audience – more specifically students and young professionals – and explores the impact of the fashion industry on the environment, and what we can do to be more sustainable with our clothing. There will be workshops in skills like visible mending, a clothes swap and more. This event is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 13 November from 6pm-9pm.

The Museum of Zoology runs a Winter Wildlife festival every year before Christmas, with a focus on local wildlife and how to support it. The festival includes a YouTube livestream and an in-person family day, where we have hands on activities and showcase ideas on how to have a more sustainable festive season. The livestream is scheduled for Wednesday 27 November from 7-8pm, and the in-person family event in the Museum on Saturday 30 November from 10am-4.30pm.

We are looking for an activity that can run at these two events, potentially with some changes to suit the different audiences, that can be a focal point for our participants for their creativity and thinking about our impact on the planet and what we can do about it. We are open to ideas about the product being created, but particularly enjoy collaborative projects that connect our visitors to the Museum and each other.

Format

For this project, we are looking for a textile artist-facilitator to lead drop-in activities at the Make Zoo and Mend event on 13 November and Winter Wildlife in-person event on 30 November. We find that a collaborative creation by audiences throughout an event like this works well, and would like to link these two events with an artwork in this way. Options for take-home elements for our audiences would be a welcome addition too. We would like the activity to be on a theme of sustainability – in our wardrobes and gifting – and link to the Museum's annual theme of connections.

With its focus on sustainability, it is essential that the activity uses recycled or repurposed materials. Depending upon the materials used, we have different spaces where the activity could take place – there are restrictions in the Museum galleries that mean no wet or messy materials can be used, and nothing that might risk bringing in pests (e.g. foodstuffs, woollen materials that may harbour moths etc). However, there is more flexibility with the Learning Lab space beneath the Whale Hall.

Activities need to be age appropriate (i.e. for younger audiences, they should not involve materials and equipment that could cause injury), and there is space in the Museum's learning lab for display of a completed artwork, if appropriate, where it can be enjoyed by school groups and other workshops.

Fee

£900 excluding materials, for which there is a separate budget. Fee is calculated on the basis of 1.5 days of delivery and 1.5 days prep (including set up in the Museum) at £300 per day. There is a separate budget of £100 for materials and equipment.

Send a proposal

To apply for this freelance opportunity, please send us a proposal including the activities, outputs, and materials required, and a CV with information about your experience and links to any previous projects, and ideally two referees we can contact about your work.

We are happy to discuss ideas in advance, but please be aware that we are a small team so may take a few days to get back to you, and will not be able to respond to queries at weekends.

The deadline for submissions is 9am on Thursday 3 October. We will aim to be in touch with shortlisted candidates within two weeks of the deadline.

For further information or apply for this opportunity, please contact Senior Learning and Engagement Coordinator Roz Wade on rcw30@cam.ac.uk