



Job Description

Job Title: Collections Care Conservator

Department: Collections

Line Manager: Head of Collections

Grade: D

Salary: £21,080 per annum (0.6 FTE)

The job description is an operational document that does not form part of the contract of employment.

It may be that from time to time an individual is expected to perform tasks that may not be expressly in the job description but are nonetheless necessary in the day to day performance of their duties.

St Paul's Cathedral reserves the right to amend the job description as may from time to time be necessary to meet the changing needs of the organisation.

Purpose of the Job

The Collections Department works with care and imagination to be part of a centre for welcome, worship and learning which inspires successive generations to engage with the richness of the Christian faith and its heritage. We seek to engage and inspire the public; preserving the cathedral collections for successive generations and maximising their potential as a rich resource for exploring and promoting the life and work of the Cathedral and the heritage of the Christian faith.

The Objects, Archive and Library Collections of St Paul's are a remarkable body of material which collectively help to record and illustrate the history of the Cathedral and the Church of England. The object collection includes: architectural models, paintings prints and drawings, monuments and mosaics; the archive comprises approximately 7,000 plans, drawings and documents; the library houses approximately 13,500 books and manuscripts dating from 1200-2024. Some are retired to store for use in display and loan while others are in regular use as part of the busy working life of the Cathedral.

The principal aims and purpose of the Collections Department are:

- To fulfil the Cathedral statutory obligations in relation to inventory keeping, conservation practice and collections management.
- To advise on and enable appropriate use of the collections.
- To use the collections to deliver public and social engagement.

The Collections Care Conservator plays a central role in ensuring that the Cathedral's internationally significant collections are appropriately used and cared for. Responsibilities range from day-to-day preventive measures to special projects for the remedial conservation of individual objects, salvage planning and risk management. The work requires excellent advocacy and interpersonal skills; collaboration with the Cathedral's Works Department and external specialists.

Main Duties

- Work with the Head of Collections to produce a conservation management plan for the Cathedral's historic collections.
- Complete care plans and regular condition checks on items designated as being of outstanding historical significance.
- Maintain policies and procedures for collections care and disaster response.
- Provide conservation advice for collections-related major projects.
- Create documentation for the conservation permissions process.
- Manage the remedial conservation of inventoried items by external specialists.
- Create and maintain documentation associated with conservation work.
- Manage and report on environmental monitoring and Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
- Provide condition reports and advice associated with displays and loan requests.
- Oversee installation of incoming and outgoing loans.
- Advocate for, and provide training on, best practice to stakeholders across the Cathedral collections.
- Liaise with Collections Department colleagues in connection with the care of the Library and Archives.
- Participate in conservation-based visitor engagement activity.
- Work with volunteers on aspects of collections care including the Cathedral Broderers.
- Assist with fundraising visits as required.
- Any other appropriate duties that the line manager, senior management or Chapter may request from time-to-time.

Person Specification

Essential

- A portfolio of successfully completed and documented conservation projects.
- A recognised qualification in conservation.
- Experience of conservation work within a museum or cultural heritage organisation.
- Excellent conservation skills and attention to detail.
- Demonstrable planning, resourcing and prioritisation skills.
- Demonstrable knowledge and practical application of current Health and Safety practice, including awareness of collections-based hazards.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to work effectively and collaboratively as a member of a team.
- Confident, clear and effective communication skills both verbal and with a good standard of written English.
- Demonstrable strong written and oral communication skills including a good standard of written English.
- Good IT skills in Microsoft applications.
- Demonstrable research and documentation skills.

Desirable

- ICON accreditation.
- Proven conservation experience in a similar context with relevant specialist conservation skills.

The successful candidate will be in sympathy with, and in their work support, the Christian aims and mission of St Paul's Cathedral.