



The MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust

Engagement & Learning Officer (Sophy & White: The Dunollie Collections Unboxed Project) | Job Description

Fixed Term Contract | 24 hrs per/week | £16,931 per annum (£24,380 pro rata)

Start Date

Fixed term until

January 2024

June 2026

About Dunollie

Dunollie Museum Castle and Grounds is an independently run charity based 2 miles north of the town of Oban, on the west coast of Scotland. Dunollie Castle is the historic seat of the Clan MacDougall and the site is soaked in over a thousand years of history. The Castle ruin and the 1745 House Museum are surrounded by woodlands and green spaces and with spectacular views out to the islands of Kerrera and Mull it truly is one of the most picturesque locations on the west coast.

The Project

Sophy & White: The Dunollie Collections Unboxed, is a 30-month project to audit, review, record, contextualise and maximise the impact of two discrete collections housed in the Dunollie storerooms 'Sophy' and 'White'.

'Sophy' is home to 3,000 items of clan and family dress and textiles dating from 1620 to early C20th. These objects have been largely locked down since their discovery in 2002 for safety of the objects.

'White' houses the Hope MacDougall Collection gathered in the latter half of the C20th to record the working and domestic life in Argyll and across the Highlands and Islands. It includes over 5,000 objects supported by substantial archive and background material.

These two collections are generally undeveloped, some parts barely catalogued and are stored in unstable conditions. We want to develop these collections to build our audiences and have a role in shaping a sustainable future by assisting education, health and well-being.

Sophy & White: The Dunollie Collections Unboxed is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.



The Role

This is an exciting opportunity for an Engagement and Learning Officer to join the team at Dunollie and help to engage people to provide opportunities and benefits through learning, participation and volunteering, and to broaden our network of people to promote the growth of creativity and knowledge from our heritage.

To achieve this, they will work with the project staff and wider Dunollie team of volunteers, participants, learners and staff assisting with the delivery of the Sophy & White: Dunollie Collections Unboxed project.

Responsibilities

- Preparation of an engagement plan for the project, identifying target groups and activities.
- Recruitment, induction and management of new volunteers, community groups and participants.
- Supporting target groups in the delivery of four collections development projects, which re-imagine our interpretation style and engage new participants. The projects are:
 - SCOTLAND'S WOMEN COLLECTORS; influenced by our Hope MacDougall Collection, an interactive collaborative research project into 20th century women collectors in Scotland;
 - COBALT BLUE; an exploration of our cobalt blue objects, the impact of the cobalt industry through the ages and its sustainability struggle today;
 - WEAR IT OR SLEEP IN IT: a look into Dunollie's unique collection of plaids, blankets and shawls as a focus for research into the use, adaption and influence of plaid's over time and the current call for blankets for refugees;
 - SEED; exploring the impact of changing agricultural methods drawing from our extensive collection of agricultural tools, to understand impacts on food consumption today, and the importance of the sustainable food movement.
- Work collaboratively with organisations in Argyll to set up a dedicated external group to investigate options for a North Argyll Museum store.
- Working collaboratively with creative groups on the handover of the Dunollie Fasanta Heritage Textiles Festival.
- Throughout the project, identify opportunities for the sustainable development of engagement with the Dunollie Collections.
- Assisting the Project Manager in gathering evaluation data and reporting on the progress of the project.



Person Profile

We need a person who is passionate about the value to people of participating in heritage activities and someone who can demonstrate an understanding of the following criteria:

Essential:

- An interest in Scottish Social History, Museum Collections, and a passion for sharing these subjects with a wide audience.
- An understanding of how social disadvantage can impact on people's lives.
- An understanding of the positive impact heritage can have.
- Good written and oral communication skills.
- Good IT skills, particularly with Microsoft Office packages.
- A well-organised individual, capable of working independently.
- A "people person" with some practical experience undertaking educational projects with either children, young people or adults.
- Previous practical experience of working with volunteers.

Desirable:

- Knowledge of the Scottish School Curriculum and previous work or volunteer experience with school age children.
- Previous work or volunteer experience with disadvantaged or vulnerable adults.
- Use of databases in previous work or volunteer roles.

The postholder will work alongside a team of project staff, including a Project Manager, Collections Development Officer, Freelance Evaluator and Practitioners.

The postholder will report to Dunollie's General Manager (Emma Sutcliffe), the Project Manager.

The roles will work alongside the busy Dunollie Museum Castle & Grounds charitable activities.

To Apply

Please apply using an update to date CV and Covering Letter, outlining your suitability for the role. Applications can be submitted to emma@dunollie.org.

Application Deadline: Wednesday 18 October at 5pm.

Interviews scheduled to take place on Friday 27 October 2023.