



The MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust

Collections Development Officer | Sophy & White: The Dunollie Collections Unboxed Project | Job Description

Fixed Term Contract | 26 hrs per/week | £18,844 per annum (£26,092 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 which will audit, review, record, contextualise and maximise the impact of two discrete collections housed in the Dunollie museum temporary 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 the collections to build our audiences and contribute to the international agenda for museums to 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 a dynamic museum professional to join the Dunollie Museum Castle & Grounds team to work with these collections to stabilise the objects *in situ*, but also, to help re-imagine how we manage our collections at Dunollie for inclusivity, diversity and climate action in this post covid era.

The project focusses on how we can influence the future with what our collections tell us. It will help us to update our thinking on how we manage conservation needs whilst meeting the expectations of modern audiences and paying attention to our planet.

Responsibilities

- An Audit & Review of the collections housed in “Sophy” and “White”.
- Migration from Adlib to EHIVE to increase access and enhance our digital presence.
- A 30-month structured training programme to develop two collection assistant teams.
- A five-year activity plan promoting new interpretation styles aimed at a diverse range of audiences.
- Supporting target groups in the research and planning 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.
- Throughout the project, identify opportunities for the sustainable development of the 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 museum collections and someone who can demonstrate an understanding of the following criteria:

Essential

- Previous work or volunteer experience in a museum carrying out Collections Management tasks to SPECTRUM standards.
- Good IT skills, including knowledge of museum collections management systems and/or databases.
- Excellent organisational skills, with the ability to carry out and prioritise workloads independently and methodically.
- An interest in Scottish Social History and a passion for engaging new audiences and sharing heritage.
- A team worker able to manage collections management activities project alongside the core work of the museum.
- A people person, with a good standard of communication and customer service skills.
- A creative thinker, capable of carrying out practical activities.

Desirable

- Working with volunteers, including setting tasks and identifying training opportunities.
- Knowledge of, or work/volunteer experience with educational projects to share heritage with a wide audience.

The postholder will work alongside a team of project staff, including a Project Manager, Engagement and Learning 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 date TBC.