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**Volunteering at the Royal Academy…**

**RA Heritage volunteers (Saturdays only)**

The Royal Academy is a unique organisation which was established in 1768 to professionalise art practice in Britain. It is one of the UK’s leading arts institutions, dedicated to making, exhibiting and debating art. Burlington House, an ornate seventeenth century mansion in the middle of bustling modern-day Mayfair, has been our home since 1867

Today the Royal Academy has a world class programme of exhibitions which are visited by over 800,000 people a year. It also offers free daily tours which cover the architecture, history and art Collections.

In 2000 we purchased nearby Burlington Gardens and have exciting plans to link these two buildings by our 250th anniversary year in 2018. A major project, RA250: Opening up the Royal Academy, which is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, will run from 2015 – 2018. During this time we will be running a series of activities designed to encourage even more people to learn about and engage with the history of the Royal Academy, including its buildings and Collection.

**The role**

We are looking for enthusiastic and outgoing volunteers to help our visitors engage with the history, architecture and art of the RA through the wonderful interiors of the John Madejski Fine Rooms in Burlington House.

Currently these rooms are only available to view during one of our hour-long RA Tours, and we are keen to open up the rooms for visitors who would like to visit on a drop-in basis, including families.

**What is the time commitment?**

Volunteers will need to be at the Royal Academy between 12.30pm and 4.30pm, and should be prepared to commit to two Saturdays per month initially, with the option of reducing to once a month after three months.

**What will you be doing?**

* Encouraging people to look at the art and architecture within the spaces
* Giving short informal introductions to the heritage, art and architecture of the John Madejski Fine Rooms
* Overseeing multisensory handling resource boxes containing objects giving an insight into artistic and architectural practice such as sculpture, drawing techniques and gilding
* Directing visitors to other areas of the Royal Academy where artworks from the RA Collection are on display

**What will this volunteer opportunity offer you?**

* An opportunity to enable people to engage with the rich heritage of the Royal Academy
* Experience in using objects as a starting point to talk about art and architecture
* Experience of working in a beautiful heritage environment
* An opportunity to gain skills to enable you to talk to diverse audiences about art and architecture
* Opportunity to make a valued contribution to the Royal Academy’s vision and values

**Interview and training requirements**

Interviews will be held on **Tuesday 9th June** between 6.30 and 8.30pm and **Saturday 13th June** between 3 and 5pm.

Training dates for this role are as follows:

**Thursday 18 June** - Induction (6.30 – 8.30pm)

**Saturday 20 June** – Information on Fine Rooms (2.00 – 5.00pm)

**Tuesday 14 July** – Presentation skills (6.30 – 8.30pm)

**Tuesday 21 July** – Handling boxes (6.30 – 8.30pm)

**Thursday 3 September** – Refresher session (6.30 – 8.30pm)

Please note: You **must** be available to attend all of the training dates listed above.

**What are we looking for?**

* A friendly and approachable manner
* Excellent communication skills
* Interest in art, architecture and heritage
* A flexible approach to telling the story of the RA

Please note: travel expenses will be reimbursed for this role at a maximum of £10 per day, proof of travel needed.

**How to Apply?**

Please visit <http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/careers-at-the-ra> to download an Expression of Interest form and send to [recruitment@royalacademy.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@royalacademy.org.uk)