

# Citizen Curators Pilot Programme

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1. Citizen Curators is a work-based training programme aimed at skilling up volunteers (and also staff who want to develop new and refresh old skills) in modern curatorial practice.
2. It occupies a place in between one-off training and a full-on course at a university.
3. The opportunity to develop the idea into a pilot came as part of my Arts Council England-supported Change Makers programme and serves both Goals 1 (excellence) and 5 (young people) as well as goals 3 and 4 which focus on resilience, sustainability, diversity and skills owing to its focus on providing skills and learning opportunities to young people.
4. The rural context of Citizen Curators is important as part of the need has arisen from the lack of access to formal courses in rural regions and small workplaces.
5. The goal is to create a community of practice that increases a museum's capacity to care for and provide better access to its collections and the knowledge they represent; and to engender an active interest in current good practice. This is a route to becoming a modern curator in the broadest sense of the role. Ambition to become an accredited and widely respected course.
6. The programme will be designed around attaining a set of competencies in different areas: research, communication, technical skills, backed up by theory, and set in the context of sector awareness, community awareness and organisational awareness.
7. Citizen Curators is a key part of the RIC's 2018 bicentenary programme (RIC200). It symbolises a change in the way the organisation works and how openly it shares and cultivates its

knowledge. The pilot is aimed at empowering RIC volunteers to share that knowledge with others to **engage more people**. It is also an opportunity for staff and trustees to learn from volunteers and to create a cohort of experienced people that can stand up for equality, diversity, the value of knowledge within the institution and out in the community.

8. Citizen curators will provide new voices within an institution, will feel confident about challenging and changing the status quo through using their skills to **broaden** the kinds of **museum activities** traditionally associated with a curator, e.g. not just label writing but building maintenance, facilitating meetings, learning about ethics.
9. Our **new voices** will also come from the pilot's pledge to recruit 50% from existing pools of volunteers and 50% under-25s. In organisations like the RIC that is dominated at Board level by older, wealthier people from a narrow socio-economic stratum, we feel the missing link is involving younger people in decision-making. However they have to be well-equipped in order to take part in decision-making meaningfully—working with Liz on a Youth Panel.
10. Practicalities. We will be recruiting 12 participants who will produce up to 6 collections-led, audience-focused outcomes by the end of the pilot. The pilot will recruit end of June/July and the training will commence in October 2017 and end in December 2017. There is opportunity for volunteers and staff from other museums to observe and take part in workshops. Please get in touch.

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#citizencurators