



OPEN CALL: Lancashire Textile Gallery –Academic Research Commissions

A WORLD OF TEXTILES IN ONE COUNTY...

Modern Lancashire is built on a powerful heritage of textile manufacturing and global trade.

The Lancashire Textile Gallery project aims to build a new digital resource & gallery which highlights and brings together significant local and global textile artefacts from museums, archives, galleries, and manufacturers across the county. Through a series of new digital exhibitions, downloadable resources, academic research and community curated responses, this online presence will collectively build an understanding of the significant impact that textiles have played in shaping people's lives, not only in this county, but across the globe.

The Lancashire Textile Gallery is a collaboration between [Gawthorpe Textiles Collection](#), the [University of Central Lancashire](#) and the [British Textile Biennial](#) with contributions from museums and archives across Lancashire. The Lancashire's Textile Treasures project has received DCMS and National Lottery funding, distributed by the Heritage Fund as part of their Digital Skills for Heritage initiative.

Background: <http://www.lancshiretextilegallery.com/>

The Brief

We are looking to collaborate with textile, fashion and heritage academics seeking to extend their own areas of research practice or start new investigations with some of Lancashire's most important textile archives and collections.

Researchers can be at any stage of their academic career and be affiliated with a university, institution or entirely independent.

Successful research applicants will be invited to spend time accessing the appropriate collection / objects / artifacts and to create an outcome that can be represented in digital form on the new <http://www.lancshiretextilegallery.com/> platform. E.g. detailed photographic images, films, academic papers, presentations.

These small pilot research projects are aimed at testing the opportunity for academics to work with and respond to our collections and to make manifest the results in digital form that will help drive engagement, conversation, community

curated responses and other forms of interaction through the <http://www.lancshiretextilegallery.com/> platform.

Applicants are invited to respond to this open call based on their own areas of practice and research interests and if successful will be matched with an archive, heritage venue or collection based on the most appropriate connection.

Examples of archives, collections and buildings involved in the project include:

Queen Street Mill Textile Museum, Burnley
Showtown Museum, Blackpool
Touchstones Rochdale
Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery
Astley Hall, Chorley
Grundy Art Gallery, Blackpool
Harris Museum, Art Gallery and Library, Preston
Haworth Art Gallery, Accrington
Lancashire Archives; Preston
Towneley Hall Art Gallery and Museum
Gawthorpe Textiles Collection, Burnley

Researchers will be supported by the project team and host collection/heritage venue throughout the development of the work.

This brief is deliberately very open, as we are interested in a wide range of responses that can spark imaginations and create a breadth of outcomes to present on the platform, to highlight the possibilities of working with Lancashire's textile heritage objects to tell new and previously unheard stories which resonate with audiences and which will inspire responses from others. We are keen to hear your ideas for starting points, areas of particular curiosity and inspiration. But we recognise that the process ultimately will define the outcomes of the work as it develops, so these are not expected to be set in stone from the outset.

Budget

There is a small budget available for research fees, expenses and towards making the final research outcome suitable for presenting on the <http://www.lancshiretextilegallery.com/>.

Delivery timescale

The selected researchers will work during October – December 2022 (exact dates tbc) to undertake research visits, shape ideas and create the final outcomes which will go live on the <http://www.lancshiretextilegallery.com/> platform in Jan 2023.

How to apply

Please send us:

- A short outline of why this research opportunity interests you, your area of practice/focus and the process you would undertake towards the realisation of the final work. Please mention if there is a particular collection or area of textile heritage that you are particularly keen to explore.
- Links and info about your current research activity and publications.
- An indication of the budget you would require to deliver the research activity including VAT and expenses.

Deadlines

Deadline for applications is **9th September 2022**

Shortlisted researcher interviews to be held on 16th September 2022

Please email applications to zara@superslowway.org.uk

If you have any questions or want to talk over your application prior to submission, please email jenny@superslowway.org.uk with any questions or to arrange a time to chat.

N.B. The successful researcher must be available to deliver the project within the timescales outlined above.