

## **Brief for researcher for LGBTQ+ research project**

The National Museum of Ireland (NMI) seeks applications from suitable individuals, in particular those with knowledge of and/or lived experience in LGBTQ+ history, culture and heritage, for a social history research project to develop a Queer Tour for the NMI - Collins Barracks. The Museum will launch the tour to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Marriage Equality Referendum, which was passed in May 2015.

### **Background and overview**

In 2019 the Museum developed the Rainbow Trail as a Museum Guide for visitors, which aimed to provide representation for LGBTQ+ Museum audiences.

The Trail, which can be picked up on entering the Museum, highlights artefacts on display which have a connection with LGBTQ+ histories, including LGBTQ+ figures who were caught up in the 1916 Easter Rising and more recent activists involved in the campaigns for equality in Irish law. The Rainbow Trail has received very positive engagement and response from visitors. In particular we have received positive feedback from LGBTQ+ visitors who articulated that they felt represented on seeing the Trail on display in the reception space for visitors to pick up and use to navigate the Museum. This positive engagement has also come from a range of visitors, including school groups. We have, however, received feedback from audiences who expressed a desire for a Trail or Tour which might extend these themes in terms of depth and detail.

The Museum recognises this demand and need from visitors and in response we aim to develop a Queer Tour that could offer visitors a rich and informative historical tour of the Museum through a queer lens. This tour, which will be delivered by Museum Guides, will aim to stimulate discussion, engagement and learning amongst participants and will be targeted not only at the LGBTQ+ community, but also for visitors interested in 'hidden' or overlooked histories and students at post primary level. The tour will aim to illuminate the diverse experiences of LGBTQ+ communities, including those at the intersections of race, ethnicity, ability, class and migration.

In planning this kind of tour, the Museum also recognises the importance of consultation with stakeholders – and the concept of 'nothing about us without us' is a basic principle in how we work. The Museum will liaise with a diverse range of LGBTQ+ community groups and individuals, including those from historically additionally marginalised communities, to advise and steer the development of a Queer Tour, and a process of formative evaluation and a feedback loop will be built into the planning process.

The timeline proposed needs to take account of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the passing of the Marriage Equality referendum, on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025. The Museum has committed to

having this tour launched in May 2025 at an event, in which the project researcher will have input.

**Key audiences:**

- Visitors to the Museum from the LGBTQ+ communities
- Museum visitors, including post-primary schools (history and politics & society) interested in ‘hidden’ and overlooked histories.

**Location:**

Researcher can work at Collins Barracks and remotely. When required a desk will be provided at the Collins Barracks site in the education offices.

**Reporting to:**

The researcher will report to the Education & Outreach Officer, NMI – Collins Barracks

**The NMI Project Team:**

Helen Beaumont, Education & Outreach Officer

Oein de Bhairduin, Traveller Culture Collections Development Officer

Brenda Malone, Curator, Art & Industry

Emer Ní Cheallaigh, Registrar, Registration and Documentation

**Role Description**

The project researcher will:

1. Write a tour script for exhibitions and collections on display at Collins Barracks, reflecting LGBTQ+ history and through a queer lens. The script should cover a range of Museum galleries and exhibitions, including the forthcoming ‘Changing Ireland’ exhibition, opening in mid-2025.
2. Collaborate with NMI project team on programme for a public event to launch the tour.
3. Collaborate with the Museum’s social media team on raising awareness of the new tour, its content and associated programming
4. Provide input to a training programme for freelance guides and facilitators
5. Provide input to an evaluation process for the tour
6. Provide recommendations around actions for NMI in developing an ongoing programme of events on LGBTQ+ themes, for LGBTQ+ audiences

The Museum will provide a set of existing scripts which can provide starting points for the new LGBTQ+ tour, including:

- Introductory tour and highlights of the Museum
- From Barracks to Museum: A History of Collins Barracks
- Recovered Voices – Stories of Irish in WW1
- Revolutionary Women
- Bonnets, Bandoliers and Ballot papers – changing roles of women in early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Ireland
- Introductory tour of Changing Ireland

The Museum can also facilitate access to:

- The Rainbow Revolution archive of oral histories created by videographer Edmund Lynch in 2013 for his documentary, A Different Country
- Information and imagery relating to objects in the collections
- Supervised access to the Museum's online database (Axiell), and the Museum's library and archives

#### **Personal Specification - Essential**

- Excellent research skills and experience
- Excellent communication skills and experience in both written and spoken form
- Experience in writing for a range of audiences
- Experience of the museum or cultural heritage sector
- Experience of working with the public in a cultural or heritage context, for example as a museum guide
- Ability to work to tight deadlines and prioritise
- Good attention to detail
- Ability to collaborate and work within a team
- Excellent organisation and administration skills

#### **Personal Specification - Desirable**

- A third level qualification in a relevant subject, such as Museum or Cultural Heritage Studies, History, Public History, Art History, Sociology, Gender Studies or a combination of any of the above
- An understanding of museum learning for a range of audiences, including schools, families and intergenerational groups.
- An understanding of object-based learning methodologies
- An understanding of the role of museums in society, especially in the area of community engagement
- An understanding of the role of museums in progressing cultural diversity, inclusivity and equality of access
- An understanding of the potential of a Queer tour to highlight the intersectional identities within the LGBTQ+ community
- Knowledge of the Irish language

The Museum is especially interested in applications from candidates with knowledge of and lived experience in LGBTQ+ history, culture and heritage

#### **Copyright and Intellectual Property**

- By agreeing to this contract of work you assign full copyright and ownership of all researched content to the National Museum of Ireland.

#### **Timeline**

Research period March - April 2025.

Final delivery date early May 2025 (date to be agreed)

- **14<sup>th</sup> February:** Deadline for applications in response to this brief

- **18<sup>th</sup> February:** Shortlisted applicants will be notified
- **24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> February:** Interviews of shortlisted applicants may take place
- **3<sup>rd</sup> March:** Successful applicant appointed
- **3<sup>rd</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> April:** Research period
- **4<sup>th</sup> April:** First draft script to be submitted
- **18<sup>th</sup> April:** Feedback on first draft script
- **25<sup>th</sup> April:** Second draft script with edits based on feedback submitted
- **2<sup>nd</sup> May:** Feedback on second script
- **6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May:** Pilot testing period onsite at Collins Barracks
- **16<sup>th</sup> May:** Final script approved

### **Budget**

Fee for research project not to exceed €3,500

### **Contract Agreement**

A contract agreement to be drawn up and signed before commencement which will include time for research, meetings online or onsite, the presentation of completed script research to the project team, and all other tasks as outlined above.

### **Payment**

A schedule of payment will be agreed as part of the contract.

Please note that to receive payment you will need a TCAN number from Irish Revenue and proof of income tax compliance.

### **How to Apply**

- Applications should include a CV and cover letter by email to [hbeaumont@museum.ie](mailto:hbeaumont@museum.ie) on or before **5pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025**.
- Please put your full name followed by 'LGBTQ+ Research Project' in the subject bar.
- **Please note:**  
Cover letter to include an outline of your approach to the project and examples of previous work that could inform your work on this project.  
Applicants should provide at least two referees.

Visit the [LGBTQ+ Engagement and Programmes](#) section of the National Museum website for further information about LGBTQ+ programming at the Museum.