

***Sankofa: Connections & Collections* Project Evaluation Brief National Museums Liverpool**

National Museums Liverpool wishes to conduct an evaluation of *Sankofa Connections and Collections*. *Sankofa* was a collections research project that was funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund that sought to explore and represent Black community experience and history in Liverpool. The project began in July 2016 with the appointment of a Project Curator who was in post until July 2018.

The project led to a number of significant outcomes including the drawing together of objects in National Museums Liverpool's collections (from International Slavery Museum, Museum of Liverpool and Merseyside Maritime Museum) into an online portal which also highlighted personal stories and voices from the community. It also included a programme of skills workshops which focused on research and collections care in home and community environments and an education and participation programme.

<http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/collections/research/sankofa/>

We would like to commission a full evaluation of the project that evaluates the successes and challenges of the project. In particular the team at National Museums Liverpool would like the evaluation to explore the following areas:

- How has the *Sankofa* project changed audience perceptions of National Museums Liverpool particularly International Slavery Museum, Museum of Liverpool and Merseyside Maritime Museum?
- How effective is the online portal as a site for sharing information about Black social history in Liverpool?
- How successfully did the project develop the concept of a dispersed collection relating to Black social history in Liverpool?
- How successful was the project partnership with Bristol Museums?
- What was the impact of the project on National Museums Liverpool?

In addition, as part of the evaluation National Museums Liverpool would like the evaluator to recommend ways that the project could be continued or extended in future.

These recommendations should consider how the ways of working developed through the *Sankofa* project could be embedded, and support the ongoing development of National Museums Liverpool. The recommendations should also consider how the *Sankofa* project and resources could link to and support other local projects in Liverpool that focus on the Black community's heritage and histories. The report will be shared with the project funder Esme Fairbairn Collections Fund and a summary of the report will be shared with other museums, cultural and community organisations.

Cost estimate

Expressions of interest for this opportunity are invited by 20th May 2019 at 12 noon. Please email kate.johnson@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk with a suggested project methodology, cost plan, your CV and a covering letter which outlines your experience in evaluating similar projects.

The deadline for the completion of the evaluation is 31 July 2019.