



JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION/TITLE:	Exhibit Developer and Community Engagement Consultant
DEPARTMENT:	Education
SUPERVISOR:	Vice President of Exhibits and Education
FULL TIME/PART TIME:	Part-time- Consultant

Brooklyn Children's Museum (BCM) is the world's first children's museum and a pioneer in the field of informal learning. Inspired by the energy and diversity of its borough, BCM's programs and exhibits engage children between the ages of 2 and 10, and their caregivers, through play-based learning at the intersection of culture, the arts, and science. The Museum serves 300,000 visitors annually and operates in 140,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor space. Learn more about [BCM's Theory of Change](#), [Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Plan](#), exhibits and programs at www.brooklynkids.org.

PROJECT AND POSITION OVERVIEW

Brooklyn Time Machine: Encouraging Character Development through Exhibit Interpretation and Narrative Design is an initiative funded by the Lilly Endowment through their Fostering Character through Children's Museums program. Brooklyn Children's Museum (BCM) will use this funding to expand the development of interpretive frameworks and narrative development rooting the Brooklyn Time Machine exhibit as well as engage community groups of educators, families, and scholars to gather feedback on the design and development of the exhibit to date.

The consultant will join the project team comprised of BCM staff representing Education, Exhibits, Marketing, and Programs departments as well as design partner Moey Inc. for the 11-month grant period. The interpretive planning consultant's scope of work includes outreach to community-based groups of Educators and families; facilitation of workshops with community groups and scholar advisors; archival research; collaboration with members of the project team and design partners; and the creation of an interpretive plan.

Brooklyn Time Machine is a permanent, multi-level exhibit spanning a 10,000 square-footprint that combines scholarship-based history, personal narratives, and gross motor engagement to immerse families in intersectional stories about Brooklyn's history. The exhibit consists of three levels with multiple spaces: level one includes the subway car, the waterfront, and the caisson; level two, the street and the storefront; and level three, the skyscraper. Each environment includes set pieces, projections of historic imagery, objects, primary sources, and audio narratives from BCM, the Center for Brooklyn History (CBH), and other collections that highlight the ways in which the people of Brooklyn have created the iconic place that stands today. The exhibit's primary educational goal is to showcase the ways Brooklyn is shaped by the people who lived, and currently live, there. In considering and selecting stories, BCM will focus on both well-known figures in Brooklyn's history and those who are not famous, but have nevertheless been instrumental in building the borough's communities.

Through these stories and interactive activities, children and their caregivers are invited to consider and practice various civic and performance character traits, such as teamwork, service, resilience, neighborliness, and perseverance. Activities and prompts will encourage children and families to identify the character traits that appear in these stories, and consider how they shaped the borough's history. Through this process, they will reflect on the ways these traits appear in their own lives, how they might exercise these traits on a daily basis; and draw inspiration from these traits as they think of themselves as changemakers in shaping the borough's future.

BCM's design partner on the project is Moey Inc., a Brooklyn-based exhibit design firm.

PREFERRED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Historical interpretation for family audiences; cultural histories that have contributed to the growth and development of Brooklyn and NYC; storytelling and/or creative writing that incorporates historical facts, voices, and events; archival research; exhibit development and research based on humanities themes; interest in connecting historical past to contemporary lives in Brooklyn in relevant and dynamic ways.

SCOPE OF WORK

The interpretive planning consultant's scope will be comprised of the following activities over the course of the 11-month grant period:

Outreach and Planning:

- Collaborate with BCM's Communication and Programs teams to create materials for outreach to BCM's existing network of Community Based Organizations (CBOs), partners and former advisory groups to recruit participants for community and educator engagement.
- Plan interactive workshops sessions with community members and educators in collaboration with BCM's Exhibit and Education departments as well as Moey Inc. In each workshop a physical area of the exhibit and related interactives will be shared. Workshop activities and review will focus on eliciting feedback through the lens of character development attributes aligned with the grant and the Jubilee Centre's framework of civic and performance virtue pillars. (<https://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/527/character-education/framework>)

Facilitation:

- Consultant will lead the facilitation of three Community Engagement sessions and three Educator Engagement sessions. Each session will take place at BCM for approximately 2 hours with the goal of engaging 15 participants in each session. Ideally, participants will continue through the course of the project. Facilitation will be supported by BCM's Exhibit and Education teams.
- Consultant will facilitate two group-based feedback sessions with 7 scholars identified in the attached proposal or connect with scholars individually if needed. Feedback will focus on interactive elements and stories identified by the interpretive consultant over the course of the project. Feedback from these sessions will be recorded and/or transcribed and shared with the project evaluator. Written feedback on exhibit elements will be collected during or after the second scholar feedback session.

Coordination:

- Plan and execute each in-person workshop for community, family, and scholar groups including coordinating BCM space usage and setup, refreshments, supplies, and workshop materials. Any supplies and food orders will be handled by BCM's Education department staff members.
- Plan and execute professional development workshops with 3 scholars identified in collaboration with BCM's Education team whose work and area of academic research align and support BCM's Education practice and development. Workshops may take place virtually if needed and will include BCM staff from Programs, Education, and Exhibit departments.

Research:

Conduct research drawing on existing organizations' archives including Center for Brooklyn History, NY Public Library system, Immigrant History Initiative, Weeksville Heritage Center, and local universities, primary source materials, and BCM's network of CBOs and partners and scholar advisors.

Narrative Plan Development:

- Create an interpretive plan for Brooklyn Time Machine exhibit, highlighting 1-2 interactive experiences in each exhibit area. The interpretive plan will be based on the identification, research, and interpreted stories of families that connect with civic and performance virtues. The outcome will be a documented exhibit narrative that outlines approximately 20 specific stories to anchor the exhibit content and indicates where and how those stories will be told through exhibit interactives and hands-on experiences.

MILESTONES AND DELIVERABLES:**October 2023- December 2023**

Engage Evaluation consultant and collaborate to identify evaluation tools and scope

Educator Engagement Session #1

Community Engagement Session #1

Identification of exhibit areas with opportunities for story development in collaboration with core team

January 2024-March 2024

Educator Engagement Session #2

Community Engagement Session #2

PD Workshop with Scholar #1

Scholar Review #1- In-person or virtual

First Draft of Narrative Plan delivered for feedback and review by March 30, 2024

April 2024-June 2024

Educator Engagement Session #3

Community Engagement Session #3

PD Workshop with Scholar #2

Scholar Review #2- In-person or virtual

Draft evaluation tool completed by evaluation consultant

July 2024-September 2024

PD Workshop with Scholar #3

Final evaluation tool delivered by evaluation consultant

Prepare final draft of narrative plan for submission by September 15, 2024

Monthly check-ins will be held with Hana Elwell, VP of Exhibits and Education, Dan Marwit, Moey's Content Developer and representatives from the Brooklyn Time Machine project team. While most work will take place offsite, work space at BCM can be made available upon request.

SALARY

The project-based fee is \$50,000, payment schedule to be determined at time of engagement.

APPLY

Please send a cover letter and resume as 1 PDF to careers@brooklynkids.org with "[Your Last Name] –ExhibitConsultant" in the subject header.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, with a preference for applications received by October 31, 2023. Only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. No telephone calls for position inquiries, please.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT

Brooklyn Children's Museum is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, national origin, ethnic origin, citizenship status, disability, race, religion, creed, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, marital status, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local law in its employment policies.