**Voluntary role**

**Building Explorers Volunteer**

**Sir John Soane’s Museum, London, UK**

**Building Explorers Role Background**

The Soane’s Learning Team consists of 2 part-time, permanent staff and a team of 11 freelancers. Emma Miles, Learning Manager, and Rhiannon Litterick, Learning Officer, work together on most of the team’s activities, including developing, planning and running both formal and informal learning activities for school and community groups and families.

Building Explorersis an after-school architecture club for 8-10 year olds. It runs from 4 – 5.30pm on most Tuesday afternoons in term time. The club aims to engage children in learning about the built environment and exploring their own creativity through a range of activities and occasional trips. The club is provided free of charge to children in Years 4 & 5 from our closest local primary schools.

Recent activities have included exploring materials, through building wattle and daub structures and clay temple capitals, and testing the strength of structures through building bridges using art straws. The Building Explorers are currently learning how to draw plans of buildings, before designing and building their own mini museums.

Building Explorers is run by our freelancer, Jennie Saunders, and supported by Rhiannon and Emma.

**Role description**

Volunteering with Building Explorers will give the post holder an insight into how informal learning activities for children are run in a small but busy national museum. This experience will provide an excellent opportunity for those wanting to learn more about museum education to gain valuable skills and experience in helping to deliver sessions for this key audience group.

**Role responsibility**

* Helping with setting up and taking down sessions
* Liaising with and providing freelance educators with support to deliver activities
* Assisting with the smooth running of the session, through distributing materials, helping with demonstrations, aiding participants and answering children’s queries
* Helping to keep the Art Room tidy and well-stocked

**Role profile**

This role would be suited to someone who has:

* An enthusiasm for working with children, and an awareness of how to support children to learn in a warm and welcoming environment
* A thoughtful and careful approach to all tasks and the ability to work accurately with attention to detail
* Happy to work in a team and follow specific instructions
* An ability to be flexible and respond to the unexpected
* A knowledge of, or an interest in learning about, architecture and the built environment

**What you’ll gain from volunteering at the Soane:**

* Be invited to take part in talks, events and the Volunteer Lecture Series at the Museum.
* Reimbursement for out-of-pocket travel expenses will be paid, up to a maximum of £8 per day.
* Full training for the role and a named volunteer supervisor.

**Time commitment**

We are looking for volunteers who are available to commit to assisting with sessions on a Tuesday afternoon, 3pm – 6pm. Ideally, we would like volunteers to commit to volunteering for one school term (September – December, January – March, April – July). We are happy to discuss a flexible arrangement with individual volunteers .

**How to apply**

We welcome applicants from all sections of the community. As an organisation we want to offer opportunities especially to those from our local community and to people new to museums and heritage.

If you are interested in applying for this voluntary role please send your CV and covering letter to Katie Weston, Volunteer Manager, 13 Lincoln’s Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3BP or email kweston@soane.org.uk by Friday 30th of November 2018. We anticipate that we will hold informal discussions about the role on the 6th of December 2018.

Please contact the Volunteer Manager on [volunteer@soane.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@soane.org.uk) if you have any questions about the role.