

**VACANCY**  
**Project Co-ordinator**  
**Woven Together: Abertay Historical Society Multicultural History Project**

Outline

With support from Dundee City Council, the University of Dundee Museum Services and the Alexander Moncur Trust, the Abertay Historical Society is seeking to appoint a Project Co-ordinator on a consultancy basis for 6 months.

Our main aim for this project is to engage members of the local community in a project to research and promote the history of Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic people in Dundee. The Project Co-ordinator will seek to identify and work with volunteers and relevant organisations and special interest groups to uncover this hidden history and bring it to light through various public outputs.

Background

How much do we know of the history of ethnic diversity and multiculturalism in Dundee, and the city's links to slavery and colonialism? Although occasional research projects have previously taken place, the results have not been widely disseminated and in general we still know little about the history and experience of people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds who have lived in this city or interacted with others from here. Joseph Knight's story is well-known but what of other slaves and slave-owners, and to what extent did Dundee's textile industry profit from slavery? Who were Tayside's leading anti-slavery campaigners? When and how did today's ethnic minority communities develop in Dundee, and what contributions have they made to Dundee's rich history?

The Abertay Historical Society, in collaboration with Dundee City Council and the University of Dundee Museum Services, is undertaking a community-based project to tackle these questions, aiming to gather together existing knowledge and material and uncover new information through further research. The project will focus specifically on Dundee and the immediate surrounding area. Having made initial contact with relevant organisations around the city and held a survey to gauge public interest, we now wish to appoint a Project Co-ordinator to undertake the following:

Key roles and responsibilities

- Review and collate existing knowledge on the topic, identifying material in museums, archives, libraries and other sources
- Identify topics for further research
- Work with curators, archivists, librarians, local history societies, University students and other volunteers to undertake this research

- Identify and make contact with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals, groups and communities who live in or have lived in Dundee and the immediate surrounding area
- Where possible, record their stories and memories either formally through video / oral history interviews or written submissions; or informally through one-to-one conversations or discussion events
- Compile the results into a series of videos, recordings, essays or blogs for publishing online
- Set up and populate a website to disseminate the above
- Work with local schools to increase engagement and understanding of the topic among young people
- Promote the project through talks, tours, pop-up exhibitions or other forms of public engagement
- Identify and apply for sources of funding to maximise the range and effectiveness of these outputs
- Collaborate with the BARD research project (see below)

### Knowledge/experience required

To maximise the impact of the Project Co-ordinator in a short period, we are looking for someone who already has good knowledge of and connections with minority ethnic communities in Dundee and/or experience of organising similar community-based projects elsewhere. Good IT skills are essential, particularly in assembling data and web editing. A good knowledge of sources in Dundee's museums, archives and library collections would be useful but not essential. No permanent workspace has been allocated for this post so the Project Co-ordinator will need to organise her/his own workspace, although individual project partners may be able to provide temporary desk space. The Project Co-ordinator would also be required to organise her/his own travel.

We will particularly welcome applicants with relevant lived experience.

### Scope of Research

Topics for investigation will include (but are not limited to):

The cultural and scientific contributions of notable Black, Asian and other minority ethnic residents of Dundee (eg J D Sagar, Walter Kamba, Narendra Patel, Anuja Dhir)

Slaves and slave owners, and jute and linen connections to slavery

The Dundee plantation and other connections in the Caribbean

Frances Wright and local anti-slavery campaigners (eg J C Smith, George Gilfillan and the Dundee Ladies Anti-Slavery Association)

Black celebrity visitors to Dundee (Frederick Douglass, Paul Robeson, Jack Johnson, Duke Ellington etc)

Black and Asian students/staff at the city's Universities, attitudes in student magazines etc

The history of Dundee's mosques, Sikh temples and other places of worship  
The history of ethnic cuisine in Dundee

NB – In tandem with this project, the BARD (Black Atlantic Research Dundee) group at the University of Dundee are undertaking a project investigating the University's links to slavery and colonialism through its early funding. Working closely with this project will therefore be essential to share information and avoid duplication. Students in History and Geography may also be undertaking research on local topics so could be an invaluable help to the project.

### Outcomes

The principal output of the project will be a series of datasets comprising information, images and other sources of material relating to the various topics which have been researched. The Project Co-ordinator will make these available on a website as a series of blog posts and will also disseminate the project through a range of public, community and schools activities, eg talks, discussion events and pop-up exhibitions.

### Timescale

We expect the Project Co-ordinator to begin work as soon as possible (by 1 Oct 2021 at the latest) and carry out the project part-time over a six-month period. A minimum of 60 days fte is expected and we would anticipate around two and a half days a week spent on the project, though some periods may require more intensive working than others so the post-holder will need to be flexible. A smaller number of days per week spread over a longer period than six months is also possible but would need to be agreed with the Project Steering Group.

### Finance & Contractual information

A fixed total fee of £12,000 (inclusive of any VAT) will be paid to the Project Co-ordinator in regular instalments, subject to receipt of an itemised invoice on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. This fee includes basic office and travel expenses. An additional budget of £1000 has been allocated to cover activity costs (eg printing, exhibition material, website etc). Any further project expenditure would require additional fundraising.

The Project-Co-ordinator will be employed by the Abertay Historical Society and will report regularly to the Project Steering Group.

### Applications

To apply, please send a CV and covering letter outlining your relevant skills and experience, your interest in the project and the names and email addresses of two referees. Applications should be emailed to [museum@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:museum@dundee.ac.uk) by 5pm on Friday 6 August 2021. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview on Tuesday 17 August 2021.

If you have any queries prior to applying, please contact Matthew Jarron, General Secretary, Abertay Historical Society on [museum@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:museum@dundee.ac.uk)