



# Art Fund\_



## Curatorial Associate

**Role:** Curatorial Associate

**Location:** Spalding, Lincolnshire

**Terms:** 100 days over the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027

**Remuneration:** £15,000

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### About Us

Spalding Gentlemen's Society (SGS) is Britain's oldest provincial learned society; its museum is the country's second oldest, after the Ashmolean. The museum, library and archive holdings are global in nature, reflecting the society's 300-year history. The 'Original Collection' of artefacts, specimens, artworks, books and manuscripts acquired between the Society's foundation in 1710 and its second constitution in 1814 is an Arts Council England Designated Outstanding Collection of national and international significance.

SGS has expanded its operations rapidly in the past decade. We open to the public five days a week, and maintain a regular programme of exhibitions, programming, education, conservation and digitisation. We are currently repairing and refurbishing our Edwardian museum with support from an Arts Council England MEND grant. During this period, we are undertaking key improvements to our collections, including creating an online collections database for all our museum, library and archive holdings.

After returning to our museum building in 2027, we will embark on the next phase: extending our site to provide a regional centre for exhibitions, conservation, research and community programming.

### About the Role

The Curatorial Associate is a key member of the team delivering the Art Fund supported '[SGS Reimagined](#)' project. It is generously funded by Art Fund (as part of the 'SGS Reimagined'

grant) and the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership NPO (as part of SGS's Heritage Associates Programme).

Over the course of 12 months, the Curatorial Associate will collaborate with SGS staff and volunteers in the development and delivery of SGS's first large-scale re-curation in more than a century.

The Curatorial Associate will join the team in a freelance capacity, for an average of approximately 2 days per week for one year. They will work closely with the SGS Head of Collections & Operations, Collections & Facilities Officer, Project Conservator and Hon. Curator to finalise gallery plans, select objects for display, research and write interpretation, and deliver the reinstallation of the collections in spring 2027. The Curatorial Associate will mentor and be supported by a team of volunteer Collections Champions with knowledge of the SGS collections and experience working with them in a variety of capacities. The project will also be joined by a group of Young Curators from local schools, who will participate in workshops and decision-making related to object and story selection for the newly curated galleries.

The Curatorial Associate will be mentored by the SGS Head of Collections & Operations and join the early-career SGS Collections & Facilities Officer and Project Conservator for peer mentoring. The Curatorial Associate will also join SGS's network of Heritage Associates, early-career heritage professionals who have worked with SGS since 2024 and who are now in GLAM roles throughout the UK.

The role would suit someone with previous curatorial experience who is seeking to develop their career and professional skills, and who is hoping to gain experience of leading teams and managing discrete projects (with support and direction).

NB. The successful candidate will be required to work on-site in Spalding on a weekly basis for the duration of the project.

## **Responsibilities**

The Curatorial Associate will:

- Contribute to the final design process for the SGS galleries
- Engage in object selection and research, and interpretation design
- Support Hon. Curator and Head of Collections & Research who are acting as lead curators for particular galleries
- Support the Collections & Facilities Officer where necessary to facilitate successful exhibition planning
- Act as lead curator for one gallery (if desired)

- Work with, mentor and support SGS Collections Champions and Young Curators as needed, including planning and delivering a small number (approx. 2) of workshop sessions
- Assist with the installation of the exhibits in spring 2027
- Engage with all members of the project team, and the public, with professionalism and according to best practice
- Commit to their own professional development and reflective practice throughout the 'SGS Reimagined' project, including through mentoring and active participation on project reflection and evaluation

### Person Specification

Requirements	Essential/Desirable
Relevant experience in a discipline related to cultural heritage and/or curation; or an equivalent degree	Essential
Experience of curating and/or supporting the curation of exhibitions	Essential
Demonstrable interest in a career in museums, libraries and/or archives	Essential
Good knowledge of accessibility as it relates to curatorial practice, and to museums more broadly	Essential
Experience carrying out object-based, art historical, and/or historical research	Essential
Experience in museum collections handling	Essential
Strong attention to detail	Essential
Ability to work independently and as part of a team with people of various ages, abilities, and backgrounds	Essential
Creative approach to problem-solving	Essential
Experience working with volunteers in a museum or gallery setting	Desirable
Experience working with collections databases (e.g., Modes, EMu, Collections Index+)	Desirable
Experience digitising collections (including artworks, artefacts, books and/or archival material)	Desirable
Understanding of arts, culture and heritage in rural communities	Desirable

## **Remuneration**

The fee for this role is £15,000 for 100 days of work on the project, on a freelance basis.

SGS will provide overnight accommodation (a private room in a shared house) for the successful candidate should they wish to stay overnight in Spalding between on-site working days and/or during busy project periods.

## **Accessibility Note**

While we will make every effort to make the Curatorial Associate role as accessible as possible, the SGS Collections Store and Museum do not have lift access and the nature of many of the tasks associated with the role require an ability to climb a flight of stairs and to carry objects and boxes of modest size and weight.

## **To Apply**

We welcome enquiries from potential applicants who would like to discuss the role prior to making an application. For an informal conversation, please contact:

Dustin Frazier Wood

[Dustin.FrazierWood@sgsoc.org](mailto:Dustin.FrazierWood@sgsoc.org)

To apply, please submit via email:

1. A covering letter of not more than 2 pages, setting out:
  - How you match the requirements as set out in the Person Specification above
  - Your motivation for applying
  - What you hope to gain or learn from the role
2. A CV that includes details of 2 references, at least one of whom should be able to comment on your knowledge and/or experience relevant to the role

The deadline for receipt of applications is **Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> February at 12pm (noon)**.

Interviews are provisionally scheduled for w/c March 9<sup>th</sup>.