



ORANGE REGIONAL MUSEUM

Brief for Curator for Orange Regional Museum's permanent exhibition.

"A History of Orange in 50-100 objects" (working title).

ORANGE REGIONAL MUSEUM: Permanent Exhibition Proposal

Summary:

Orange Regional Museum is seeking an experienced and collaborative social history curator to undertake the research and facilitation of a permanent/long-term exhibition exploring the history of Orange and district.

Taking inspiration from the British Museum's [*History of the World in 100 Objects*](#), the exhibition will highlight objects and intangible cultural heritage material that exemplifies or are linked to significant narratives of the region.

The exhibition will explore the history of the region and its people through objects and stories, presenting multiple interpretations for each object with the aim of surprising and challenging visitors, providing them with alternative perspectives alongside the established narrative.

Linking content to education requirements and providing fresh and engaging approaches to museum-based story-telling, the exhibition will place the audience and their interaction with the content at the centre of the experience.

The exhibition curator will be required to liaise with a cross-section of the community, seeking authentic and varied perspectives, build and strengthen relationships, and discover objects and stories to furnish the exhibition. Museum staff will work alongside the exhibition curator to have input, provide assistance and resources where required.

Gallery size: approximately 250m²

Number of objects: 50 - 100 (negotiable)

Exhibition Opening date: Friday 27 March 2020

The closing date for the submission of proposals is 5.00pm Monday 5 August 2019.

For all enquiries for this project please contact:

Allison Campbell, Acting Manager, Orange Regional Museum

ACampbell@orange.nsw.gov.au

(02) 6393 8175

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Background:

[Orange Regional Museum](#) is a new social history museum located in Orange in the Central West of New South Wales. The purpose-built Museum opened in 2016 and received the 2017 Sulman Medal for Public Architecture. The Museum cares for a small but growing collection and prides itself on strong partnerships with surrounding community museums, historical societies, private collectors and the wider community to tell stories about the district and its people. As a newly established institution, the Museum is uniquely placed to reexamine the ways in which history and heritage are explored and shared.

Since 2016, Orange Regional Museum has presented three major exhibitions that explored local themes and stories. These exhibitions occupied the entire Museum gallery, an area exceeding 400m². In March 2020, the Museum will execute the final stage of fit-out – installing an internal wall system to divide the exhibition gallery to create permanent and temporary exhibition spaces. The new permanent exhibition space will be approximately 250m² and host the proposed exhibition for an estimated five years.

Vision:

The exhibition will become a valuable education asset for local schools and students, a jumping off point for visitors in gaining an understanding of the region, and a fresh and surprising interpretation of history for the local community (perhaps a vehicle for having their voice heard for the first time).

Placing the visitor experience at the centre of the exhibition will promote consideration of the different needs and expectations of our diverse audience. The exhibition will place emphasis on interactivity and engaging methods of conveying information and ideas, and reimagine ways in which objects and stories can be viewed from various humanized historical perspectives and contexts.

The objects selected for inclusion in the exhibition will exemplify the idea that ordinary objects can tell extraordinary stories, and explore new ways of interpreting stories through seemingly unrelated objects and thereby surprising the visitor and challenging their understanding of the past.

Audience:

Orange Regional Museum's audience is diverse and growing. The co-location of Orange's Visitor Information Centre within the Museum building ensures that a significant proportion of visitors originate from places external to the region.

Pre-school and school-aged children and young adults are a growth area within the Museum's audience and have been identified as a priority areas for our exhibitions and programming.

Local stakeholders contribute significantly to our audience numbers; we seek to encourage repeat visitation while expanding our local audience.

The Museum is seeking to strengthen its connection with members of the community from indigenous, cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and those experiencing learning and mobility challenges.

Existing information:

Significant research and numerous literary publications regarding local history are available to support the exhibition.

Additional assistance is available through the close partnership the Museum holds with Council's Heritage unit and Orange & District Historical Society.

The search for objects and stories in the exhibition will be supported through the expansive network of external stakeholders which the Museum maintains across the region.

Project team structure:

Project manager: Museum Manager

Exhibition curator: To be appointed

Staff and specialist resources: Collection Officer, and Public Engagement and Education Officer

Exhibition designer: To be appointed

Graphic designer: Orange City Council graphic design team

Construction: Orange City Council building services team

Installation: Collection Officer, Museum technicians, with input from Exhibition Curator and Exhibition Designer

Schedule:

Project commences: **Monday 12 August 2019**

Milestones:

- 28 August 2019 – clarification of exhibition concept
- 18 October 2019 – secondary exhibition brief with identified objects, graphics, stories and concepts for multimedia/interactive components
- 15 November 2019 – final object, graphic, stories and concepts for multimedia/interactive components identified (engagement of exhibition designer)
- 13 December 2019 – presentation of final exhibition design, object list, associated object and exhibition text
- 6 March 2020 – final multimedia/interactive components content created or sourced
- 9 – 25 March 2020 – Exhibition installation

Exhibition opens: **Friday 27 March 2020**

Meetings

1. Project team meetings

Four primary meetings with the project team will be held, corresponding with the milestones listed above, with the addition of an introductory meeting on **12 August 2019**.

2. Stakeholder meetings

The curator will be required to visit various individuals, local history groups and small museums, particularly between 28 August and 18 October 2019. A schedule for these meetings will be developed with assistance from the project team between 12 and 28 August 2019.

Catalogue and Interpretive Text

The Curator will produce introductory and theme texts as required for the exhibition. Extended labels offering alternative ways of seeing and interpreting each object are also an integral part of the exhibition concept.

These texts will form the basis of the exhibition catalogue which will be produced to coincide with the opening of the exhibition.

Orange City Council will hold copyright over the exhibition interpretative material and the text of the catalogue.

Budget:

Curator's Contract fee: **\$25,000.00**

All tasks and disbursements associated with the project must be undertaken within this budget. There will be no further funding available and the curator must undertake all tasks within this budget; this covers all travel, expenses and other ancillary costs.

The exhibition project budget will be discussed with the successful candidate.

Payment

Payments will be made on the following schedule:

- 20% on signing the contract
- 20% on presentation of secondary exhibition brief with identified objects
- 20% on presentation of final object, graphic, stories and concepts for multimedia
- 40% on presentation of final exhibition design, object list, associated object and exhibition text, including final multimedia/interactive components content created or sourced.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please send proposals to:

Allison Campbell

Acting Manager, Orange Regional Museum
PO Box 35, ORANGE NSW 2800

ACampbell@orange.nsw.gov.au

Proposals, addressing the submission requirements and required skills can be submitted in writing or by email clearly marked:

Orange Regional Museum: Permanent Exhibition Proposal

The closing date for the submission of proposals is 5.00pm Monday 5 August 2019.

Proposal Submission Requirements

Proposal submissions should include:

- A response to the brief, outlining how the work will be undertaken, number of visits and days allocated for work in the region
- A breakdown of project costs within the fixed contractor fee, including travel expenses.
- Details of previous exhibitions and museum projects
- Brief CVs for the key people who will undertake the work, including examples of relevant exhibition and museum projects
- A timeline for the project based on the milestones in the schedule above. It is anticipated the work will take approximately 20 - 22 weeks from signing the contract to the presentation of final exhibition design, object list, associated object and exhibition text. This does not include the installation phase and opening events, floor talks etc.

Skills

The successful consultant(s) will have the following areas of expertise and be able to demonstrate:

- A minimum of 5 years' experience as a museum curator or a related field of work
- Experience in writing and producing interpretive texts and catalogue essays.
- Understanding of the role of museums in preserving and presenting cultural material to different audiences, particularly in a regional context.
- A knowledge of museum practice, including collection management and loans, exhibition planning, installation and public engagement
- Experience in conducting oral history interviews and working with community museums, historical societies and community groups.
- Capacity to meet the proposed timeline and deliverables within the agreed budget
- Excellent communication skills and ability to work in a team

Insurances

Evidence of public liability and professional indemnity insurance is required by Council. Council generally requires evidence of \$10 million Public Liability Insurance and \$2 million Professional Indemnity Insurance.

Driver's License

A Class C driver's license is essential.