



## **Role Description: Head of Learning & Engagement, V&A East**

- Contract:** Permanent
- Hours:** 36 hours per week  
*Normal working hours are 9am-5.15pm Monday-Thursday, 9am – 5pm Friday.*
- Location:** Here East, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London E20 3BS
- Salary:** £51,000 – 56,000 depending on experience
- Responsible to:** Deputy Director, V&A East (dotted line to Director of Learning, National Programmes and Young V&A)
- Responsible for:** Senior Producers (x2), Creative Studio Manager, senior line management of Producers (x2), Creative Facilitators, Learning Coordinator, Learning Intern

**V&A East** is dedicated to creative opportunity and its power to bring change. Two free cultural destinations – V&A East Storehouse and Museum – will open up the V&A collection for all, celebrate making in all its forms and create new possibilities for everyone. Opening in east London, 2025.

**V&A East Museum** celebrates making and creativity’s power to bring change. Created with young people and rooted in east London’s heritage, V&A East Museum explores what’s shaping our world with the voices leading contemporary culture. Two galleries explore why we make, alongside a major exhibition space, restaurant, shops and spaces for social gathering and events, all housed in a new building designed by world renowned architects O’Donnell and Tuomey, V&A East Museum opens in east London in 2025.

On the other side of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, **V&A East Storehouse** is located in Here East (near Hackney Wick) and has been created to provide unprecedented access to the V&A collections and archives. A unique new museum experience invites visitors behind the scenes to wander amongst half a million creative works, spanning every era, discipline, and corner of the globe. Through an ever-changing programme of displays, events and workshops, V&A East Storehouse will share new discoveries and untold stories and provide new opportunities for everyone to discover and develop their own creativity. Designed by leading architects Diller Scofidio + Renfro, opening in east London in 2025.

## Who is V&A East for?

V&A East is for everyone, but we're committed to delivering an offer that speaks to communities historically underserved by mainstream cultural institutions. This means we are working hard to ensure that we reach and engage under 24s, residents of Hackney, Newham, Waltham Forest and Tower Hamlets and those from global majority backgrounds.



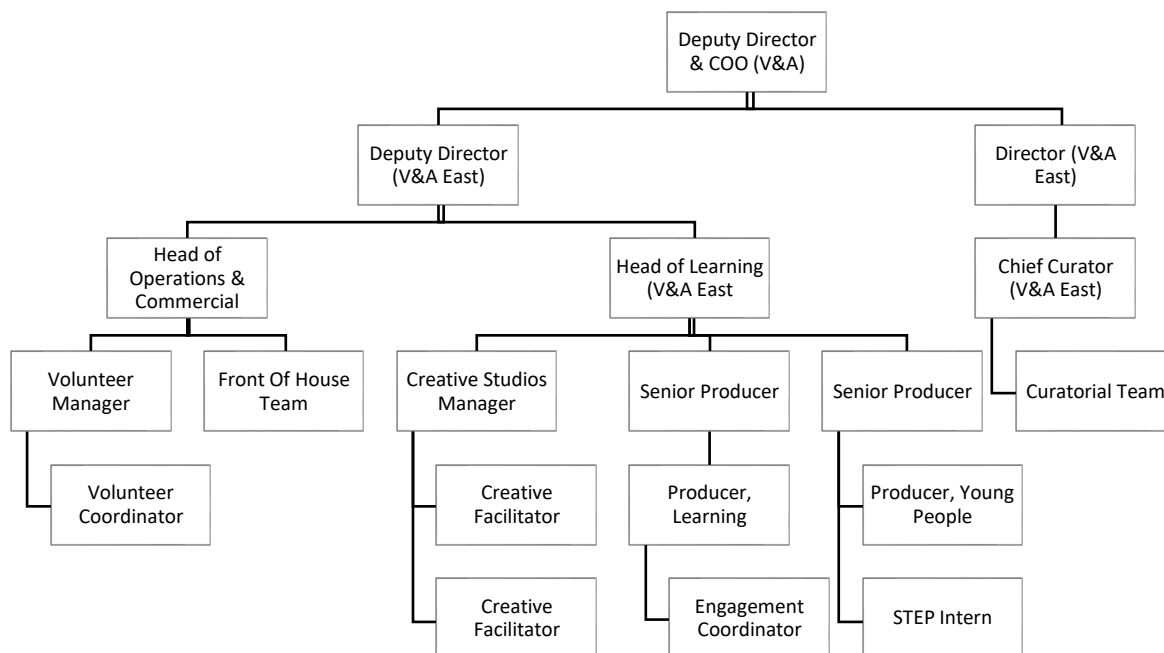
External render view of the new V&A East Museum at Stratford Waterfront, designed by O'Donnell + Tuomey. © O'Donnell + Tuomey / Ninety90, 2018



Internal render view of the new V&A East Storehouse at Here East designed by Diller, Scofidio + Renfro. © Diller, Scofidio + Renfro, 2018

## Where does this role sit within the wider V&A team?

The V&A is a family of venues, made up of V&A South Kensington, Young V&A (Bethnal Green), V&A East (Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park), V&A Dundee, V&A Wedgwood Collection (Stoke-on-Trent) and V&A at Design Society, Shekou (Shenzhen, China). This role will focus entirely on V&A East, you will be based with the V&A East team already based in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, with occasional work from V&A South Kensington and Young V&A as required.



## **V&A East Learning & Engagement Team**

Through Learning and Engagement, our vision is to harness the V&A's incredible collections to enrich communities, with a focus on 16-24 year olds. Our programmes support wellbeing and social connection through creativity and making, we enable people to build skills, knowledge and creative confidence through encounters with our collection and through practical insights into art and design. In addition, we support emerging careers and practice in art by connecting young people with creative professionals and by creating opportunities within our networks. We also work collaboratively with communities to explore the creative and educational potential of V&A East sites.

We seek to engage new and under-represented audiences and use collaboration and consultation to address barriers that may have traditionally excluded young and diverse participants. We balance an international profile and a national remit, with close community partnerships and networks in East London. We also work closely with other cultural and educational partners within the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

### **Main Purpose**

This post will drive forward the vision for Learning and Engagement at East, ensuring that our new sites function as accessible and relevant resources that support local communities and that actively contribute to creative and careers education for young people. At the heart of this role is a commitment to collaboration and creative leadership that includes close work with the V&A East Chief Curator, to ensure Learning and Engagement contributes actively to the growing creative programme at V&A East, and that outputs are in tune with community need.

Over the next 12 months this post will work with colleagues across V&A East and the wider museum to deliver final pre-opening programme activity including our Schools Tour, Youth Collective and Make Space. Simultaneously, the successful candidate will oversee the finalisation of co-creation projects, will plan and deliver launch events for Learning and Engagement and establish business as usual programming in our new buildings.

This will require careful and coordinated work that brings young and community stakeholders into the heart of decision-making, but that also is practically aligned with multiple internal stakeholders.

### **Main responsibilities**

#### Strategy

- Strategically oversee and build on an ambitious diverse community engagement and learning vision and programme for V&A East
- Lead on achieving our aim for V&A East to reflect the interests and needs of local communities with a particular focus on young people and creative sector through a programme of consultation and collaboration. Oversee community and local stakeholder relationships to enable productive two-way dialogues with future users and collaborators of V&A East.

- Build a framework for engagement and participation at V&A East that communicates the unique and collaborative approach that puts diverse young voices at the heart of all programmes.
- Facilitate internal relationships that enable the Learning and Engagement programmes and team members to work in an integrated way with colleagues across V&A East and in the wider organisation, including close collaboration with Visitor Experience, Curatorial and Collections Care and Access.

### Programme Delivery

- Lead the team responsible for the development and delivery of learning, youth practice and community engagement for V&A East. This includes providing mentoring, motivation, and supporting their development.
- Support sustained and productive relationships with communities and organisations across East London; championing and advocating for these communities internally, and constructively challenging internal stakeholders as needed.
- Support the delivery of finalised collaborative and co-created exhibits and programmes.
- Lead on the design and implementation of a strategic programme of post-opening learning and engagement activities including V&A-led, collaborative and co-created outputs, contributing to the development of multisite strategies for learning at V&A with Learning and Engagement peers at other V&A sites.
- Work with colleagues in the People team and external organisations such as LLDC, the Good Growth Hub, and East Bank Partners to develop career pathways in particular for entry-level roles across V&A East.
- Champion a people-centred and community-engagement approach to the vision and development of V&A East in relation to staffing, operations, content programming and partnership planning and ensure aspirations to make this a 'locally-owned' and relevant institution are met.
- Maintain awareness of best practice and a research-led approach. Bring sector specialist skills and innovative thinking to the project to develop new models of public engagement, participation and co-creation practice for V&A East.
- Represent the V&A and the V&A East project within and external to the Museum, including with East Bank partners.
- Within the multi-site strategy for learning lead on V&A East working collegiately with South Kensington and Young V&A teams.
- Oversee the establishment of spaces for learning and engagement across V&A East sites, including the Creative Workshops and Studios. And work closely with relevant colleagues including Projects, Operations to achieve this.
- Oversee Learning and Engagement budgets ensuring careful and effective allocation of resources and accountability in relation to income targets where applicable.

## **We are looking for someone with:**

### Skills

- Proven ability of having effectively managed complex budgets and resources
- Excellent communication and writing skills.
- Evidence of practical and organisational skills.
- Demonstrable computer skills, competence in standard software in professional use, experience of working with social and other digital media, and ability to manage information systematically and accurately.

### Experience

- Experience and evidence of developing key relationships with communities and / or organisations in east London.
- Relevant experience of developing and leading learning programmes in museums, galleries or equivalent community / cultural / arts organisation
- Experience of working collaboratively with culturally and socially diverse audiences to ensure a responsive and relevant programme.
- A proven track-record of developing and delivering engagement and outreach programmes.

### Behaviours

- Demonstrable evidence of practice in creative education
- A resilient, independent self-starter with excellent advocacy and interpersonal skills
- Demonstrate creativity and an appetite for innovation with the ability to plan and deliver programmes related to art, design and performance.
- Evidence of ability to work under pressure, to multi-task and to work effectively as part of a team.
- Proven ability of developing and maintaining excellent relationships with individuals across the Museum.



Yinka Shonibare CBE RA - Hybrid Mask II (K'PELIYE'E) 2021



T-shirt, 1970s, Uk. Museum no: T.604-1997. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London



Preston Bus Station #139, 2011-2018 by Jamie Hawksworth, © Jamie Hawkesworth

## What we can offer you:

- Generous pension scheme: post-probation 5.5% employee contribution, 10% employer
- Generous holiday: 29 days plus bank holidays
- Flexible working options
- Tickets to V&A exhibitions for you, your friends or family
- 25% discount on V&A shops
- Give as you earn scheme (tax free charity donation scheme)
- An interest free season ticket or bicycle loan
- An interest free rental deposit loan
- Free safety check and small repairs to your bike with Dr Bike
- A wide range of training and professional development opportunities (apprenticeships, online training hub, regular training courses)
- Staff diversity networks that bring together people with a shared interest in an equality issue to exchange information, support and influence positive change throughout the organisation. These include: Disability Action Group, Anti-Racism Taskforce, Decolonisation Reading Group.
- An Employee Assistance Programme which provides information and support on a range of topics, from health and fitness to finance, childcare and counselling.

## Key dates:

- Application closing date: 20 May 2024
- Interviews (first round): w/c 3 June 2024
- Interviews (second round): w/c 17 June 2024

## **Equity, Diversity & Inclusion**

We strive to integrate equality, diversity, and inclusion consistently and naturally into all our activities. We want to be proactive in recognising and removing the barriers that people from all backgrounds may face in accessing our collection, services, and employment. We recognise the value of difference, and we celebrate the creativity and productivity that diversity can bring to everything we do.

We are proud to be an open, tolerant, and diverse organisation. We want to do more to welcome a broader audience and develop a more diverse workforce. At the V&A we are committed to a strict zero tolerance policy on any discrimination, harassment or bullying regarding sexual conduct, race, sex, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation, beliefs, and socio-economic background.