



JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Senior Project Conservator

Department: Master of the Household's Department

Section/Branch: Programme Management Office (PMO)

Location: Buckingham Palace

Reporting to: Collections Project Manager

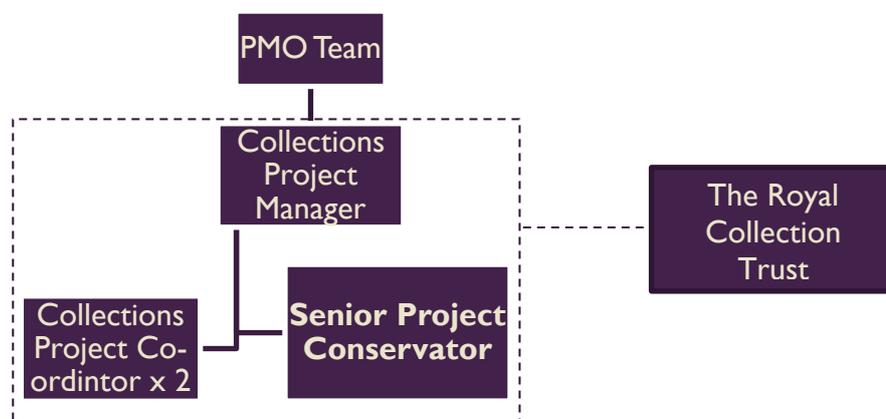
Job Context

Buckingham Palace is currently undergoing a ten-year programme of works to overhaul the building's infrastructure and protect the palace for future generations. The building's essential services - including electrical cabling, plumbing and heating - have not been updated since the 1950s, in the aftermath of the Second World War. As a result, the building is now in urgent need of an overhaul to avert the very real danger of catastrophic failure leading to fire or flood, and incalculable damage to the building and works of art in the Royal Collection.

The phased Reservicing Programme began in 2017 will be sequenced wing-by-wing to ensure the palace remains occupied and fully operational throughout, as both the working headquarters of the Monarchy and the principal residence of The Sovereign. National events such as the Changing of the Guard, Investitures, Garden Parties and the Summer Opening of the Palace will ensure the palace continues to welcome over half a million people each year. In addition to replacing the essential services, the Reservicing Programme will also deliver tangible benefits - including increasing the operational effectiveness of the palace through improving accessibility and energy efficiency.

Overall, the programme will futureproof one of the world's most iconic historic buildings, ensuring it remains fit for purpose.

Organisational Chart





Job Purpose

The Project Conservator will be responsible, with the Royal Collection Trust (RCT) teams, for the safe movement and protection of the collection and for the ongoing care and monitoring of collections during the programme. They will lead on the care of protected objects remaining in situ in areas of the palace being reserviced and be the on-site point of contact between RCT and PMO collections teams and the construction team and contractors.

Principal Accountabilities

- Working with the RCT team and PMO collections project management team, to lead the planning and execute the de-installation and reinstallation of works of art for the duration of the Reservicing Programme.
- Write specifications for the tender for the packing and storage of objects, working with the RCT sections responsible for each type of object. Specify with RCT the in situ protection required for works that cannot be moved.
- To lead, with the support of the Collection Project Coordinators, supervising art handling contractors on site to ensure completion of de-installations and reinstallations in line with the wider programme.
- Assist with the movement of objects where necessary and fulfil courier duties as required.
- Lead the installation of in situ protection by contractors and the care of objects remaining in situ during construction work.
- Responsible for regular monitoring of the protection and the protected objects throughout the construction phase, providing on site supervision of construction works as necessary.
- Lead the response for any urgent temporary removal of in situ protection including the design and necessary mitigation to ensure continued protection of the affected objects.
- Liaise closely with the PMO construction team and contractors to understand and mitigate any risks to collections during the construction phase.
- Co-ordinate the condition assessments prepared by RCT conservators for all objects prior to removal or protection contributing as necessary to the programming of any required conservation work to enable the removal or reinstatement of objects.
- Be responsible for the fit out and preparation and ongoing monitoring of suitable environmental conditions for decanted collections.
- With the Collection Care stewards, contribute to the review of any emergency salvage plans objects in the collection.
- Working with the Collections Information Management team to ensure that all movements of works of art are updated on the Collections Management System (CMS).
- Liaise with RCT colleagues to manage conservation programmes for works of art.
- Ensure reserviced rooms are suitably prepared for the reinstallation of decanted collections, including managing and executing conservation cleaning of affected areas as necessary.
- Providing guidance, induction and coaching for contractors in order to promote awareness of best practice in relation to historic fabric and to minimise risk to works of art.
- Review contracted art handlers' risk management and health & safety policies and procedures, and those of construction contractors where they concern collections, to ensure they are appropriate and adhered to.
- Participate in public programmes where appropriate in order to promote public understanding of the works programme.

This document is not contractual and may be subject to change following consultation with the post-holder.



Person Specification

- Postgraduate qualification in collections conservation with experience in preventive conservation and collections care in historic occupied buildings. Experience of managing the care of collections displayed in context and on open display. Experience working with collections of mixed decorative art preferred.
- Accredited Conservator Restorer (ACR) in preventive conservation, or working towards qualification, or equivalent
- Extensive experience of object removal and protection projects (building, storage, filming or similar projects)
- Advanced knowledge of environmental monitoring and control systems for works of art in historic buildings
- Able to organise a varied and reactive workload with a systematic approach to solving complex challenges and able to balance competing demands and can respond to changing requirements.
- Practical, hands-on approach to collections care and contractor supervision. Confident working at height on ladders and scaffolding.
- Experience of procuring and managing external consultants and contractors, utilising resources effectively to maximise efficiency and performance
- An ability to work at both a strategic and tactical level
- Exemplary and proven communication and stakeholder management skills; able to engage with varied audiences, including portraying technical detail to a non-technical audience. Excellent influencer with proven ability to build and sustain positive relationships outside own area, across teams and disciplines.
- Self-motivator and team player, able to work collaboratively as a member of a multi-disciplinary team
- Recent and up-to-date knowledge of materials and approaches to packing, transport and protection of works of art
- Experience of using collections management systems and good attention to detail when dealing with large and varied data.