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## **Fellows on the Move!**

**The Finnish Institute in London together with the Finnish Cultural Institute in New York are launching a mobility programme for freelance curators and archives and museums sectors' professionals in Finland, in the UK, in Republic of Ireland and in the United States.**

**The mobility programme supports professional development of visual arts, archives and museums sector professionals by the means of increasing international mobility. The programme aims at various mutual benefits, for instance expanding professional networks and disseminating best practices within participating countries.**

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### **The concept**

#### **What are the aims?**

In short, to promote the international mobility and enhance professional development of freelance curators and archives and museums sectors' professionals. The programme aims at creating new ideas and facilitating positive energy and change.

The project will be lead by the Finnish Institute in London together with Finnish Cultural Institute in New York. The partner network will consist of Finnish, British, Irish and American museums, archives and freelance curators. Participants will spend a pre-determined period of time working in one of the partner organisations. Visits and working periods are scheduled to be 2 to 3 months long.

During the application process, all prospective participants will present a project plan where they express how their expertise and knowledge would be useful for the respective organisation they are willing to spend the exchange period. Correspondingly, they will also present what knowhow is needed in their home organisation. The aim is to provide opportunities for both

meaningful cooperation and for comparative cross-cultural analysis of different organisation.

## Sharing Knowledge

Sharing of lessons learned is a crucial part of the project. At the end of the programme, participants will join in a series of round table discussions, where the key findings will be scrutinised. Participants will also discuss and report their experiences during the exchange periods by using a custom-made online platform.

The results will be collated into a shared publication and the key findings will be promulgated after the three-year programme in various fora.

## Themes

The programme will focus on a handful of selected key themes that will benefit the whole sector in Finland, the UK, Republic of Ireland and the US.

### Some of the pre-identified themes include:

- The use of archives and museums in teaching and education
- Open data and open knowledge
- Copyrights, licenses, the use of resources
- Long-term preservation and accessibility of digital objects
- Diversity, openness, volunteering work

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## Benefits

The programme aims at various benefits. For instance, in the age of rapid digital development there is an urgent need to ensure that archives and records management professionals possess relevant digital information management skills. Also, since most of the information created is now born-digital, there are plenty of unanswered questions regarding the long-term preservation and accessibility of this information. Many of the benefits are relevant for both archives and museum sectors and thus cannot be separated by discipline.

### Some of the expected benefits include:

- Increased mobility and professional expertise of visual arts, archives, museum and records management professionals
- More accessible and reusable information
- Visual arts, archives, museums and records management becoming more prominent in the wider society
- Deepen the knowledge in the arts
- Increased collaboration and stronger international networks between visual arts, archives, museums and records management professions
- Dissemination of best practices  
New ideas and energy

Many of the wider-scale societal benefits will be cumulative. For instance, opening up cultural data for software developers' free reuse is expected to result in various digital innovations. These innovations can result in improved access to rich cultural contents and have various educational, cultural and also economic benefits.

## **Applying for the programme**

The three-year programme starts in 2014. Applications for the 2014 intake to the UK and Republic of Ireland are to be emailed to the Finnish Institute in London by 16 December, 2013 (antti.halonen@finnish-institute.org.uk)

The Finnish Institute in London will cover the travel and living costs. The sending organisation will pay for the salary whereas the receiving organisation is committed to provide professional guidance and support for the duration of the exchange.

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### **The applicants are required to**

- have more than five years work experience arts, archives or museums
- speak and write fluent English
- be able to work in an international environment for approx. three months  
be willing to share the lessons learned with a wider community

### **The applicants are expected to send**

- Motivation letter and an outline of
- the theme/topic/project of applicant's interest
- Agreement from the sending organisation
- Applicant's CV

**The application period for the USA will begin in 2014.**

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## **Queries**

UK and Republic of Ireland: arts and museums:  
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USA: rossi@ficultureny.org ; laamanen@ficultureny.org