Tender for filmmakers, animators and sound artists for digital installation at London Museum Docklands for Curating Visibility.

Client Name:

Screen South

Point of Contact:

Esther Fox, Head of the Accentuate Programme

Email:

info@accentuateuk.org

Fee and timescale:

£12,500 inc. all expenses and contingencies and VAT. The fee includes any design materials and equipment needed.

The project timeline will run from February 2026 to May 2026. Indicative deadlines are included in the brief below, a full timetable of work will be developed with the successful applicant and final agreement of payment schedule will be based upon this.

Project Purpose and Opportunity

Accentuate creates and delivers projects that break new ground for deaf, disabled and neurodivergent people in the cultural sector. Accentuate is one of Screen South's portfolio of programmes. Screen South is a Folkestone based cultural development agency, with digital creativity at its heart.

An Arts Council England grant is supporting Accentuate to deliver the landmark project **Curating Visibility**. Curating Visibility follows the acclaimed Curating for Change programme and continues to tackle the serious under-representation of deaf, disabled and neurodivergent people in museum workforces, collections, interpretation and audiences, through the creation of 6 curatorial Fellowships for deaf, disabled and neurodivergent people at partner museums across England. Curatorial Fellows gain the experience they need to kick start or progress their curatorial careers, ensuring that those with lived experience of disability are at the heart of museum research and interpretation. Curatorial Fellows also work with local communities to research hidden disability history stories and share these through highly accessible public-facing interventions which have a digital focus.

This opportunity to produce an installation is with our Curatorial Fellow at London Museum Docklands. The Fellow is working with a group of deaf, disabled and neurodivergent co-producers, who are supporting the development of this commission and the content within it. The commission is to produce dynamic film, animation and sound which captures and evokes lived experiences of nightlife in the 1930s, 1980/90s and today.

The primary goal is to challenge highlight the hidden history of the disabled community in London's nightlife by joyfully celebrating the resilience and creativity that disabled people have used to create their own nightlife, both past and present, and imagining a near-future where nightlife is accessible to all. Through a focused selection of 20th century oral histories, modern testimony, and contemporary artistic responses, the display explores how disabled people have been creators of their own nightlife culture in past and present London, and how we can learn from the past to make an accessible future.

Objective

Screen South's Accentuate Programme is calling on **filmmakers, animators** and **sound artists**, to submit proposals for creating this temporary digital installation for London Museum Docklands. The objective of this installation will be:

- To realise the vision of the Curating Visibility Curatorial Fellow and their co-production group for a gallery installation which tells the experiences of disabled people in London's nightlife.
- To build on London Museum's and Accentuate's ethos of innovation practice and telling underrepresented stories.
- To create an installation that demonstrates best practice in accessibility.
- To make a new digital work which brings to life through animation and film, embedding audio and visual assets provided by the Museum to in the piece.
- To bring oral histories to life through sound design, video and animation.
- To engage diverse audiences in understanding broader social contexts of disability and to help them reflect on their own experiences and perspectives.

The Storytelling Journey

The installation follows a three-stage narrative cycle, the film, animation and sound track to be created by the supplier:

  - **The 1930s (Betty Phillips & Betty Harmasz):** Features a film of two dancers projected on the wall performing a ballroom dance (e.g. the polka or waltz), accompanied by archival oral histories of "The Two Bettys" from London Museum's archive.

In her oral history, Betty Phillips remembers an occasion where she dances with a visually impaired dancer, who was also a woman. This dancer leads Betty (as the dance partner) whilst Betty guides her (as the sighted dancer).

In her oral history, Betty Harmasz - who had cataracts and limited vision – talks about learning to dance the Waltz and the Polka at school, going out with her friends during the Blitz, as well as dancing with her sighted husband on nights out.

- **The 1980/90s (Punks & Nightclubs):** Features animated 1990s London street scenes based on artwork from London Museum's archive, featuring an archival oral history from a wheelchair-using DJ and alternative club goer. The paintings show a London street and the characters seen on it including punks, the paintings will be accompanied by featuring an archival oral history from a wheelchair-using punk.
- **The Dream Nightclub:** A digital, audio-visual visualisation of co-producers' "dream" future nightclubs, where creative captions and music fill the space. Using "DIY" materials and artwork from co-producers.

Target Audience (Who are we trying to reach?):

The target audiences are:

- People with lived experience of neurodivergence, deafness and disability
- "Expression" - London Museum target audience (Interest in emotional connection, human interest stories, and the connections between historical and contemporary London)
- Stimulation - London Museum target audience (Experiential audience looking for surprising moments)

Specifications

The gallery space is approximately 7787mm by 9404mm

The designer will have access to London Museum's existing technical and audio-visual equipment in the gallery.

There is a projector (Christie LWU701i) available from the museum which can be used in the position of the existing projector. There are stereo speakers in the space for delivering sound as part of the AV setup. There is also one low level plug socket. No other alterations will be possible in the space.

The piece will need to be created off-site and tested on-site before installation.

To achieve a 12 -18 minute experience, the following elements are required:

Visuals:

- Produce visuals for the three sections of the display as described below.
- Wall Projection: High-definition projection to display dancers' film and animated paintings.
- The visuals will be accompanied by a British Sign Language (BSL) translation of the spoken audio. This translation will be supplied as a digital file and is not part of this commission. BSL content will need to be incorporated into the projected visuals (typically at the bottom right-hand corner of the projection).

Audio:

- Synchronised Soundscapes: The system must trigger specific audio tracks (e.g. 1930s music, 1980s/90s punk, and modern club music to match the archival materials) in sync with visual shifts.
- Oral History Integration: Delivering clear oral histories provided by London Museum for the three sections, in sync with captions and visual shifts.
- Sound design: Creating an evocative and immersive soundscape for the display which conjures up a sense of night life and dance.
- Any music licensing fees would need to be included in this fee. Therefore, the use of public domain or Creative Commons music may be preferred.

Requirements of the Commission:

- Design and deliver a cohesive digital installation comprising the following elements:

1) A film of two people performing a ballroom dance for the 1930s section, also including two oral histories (provided by Museum of London).

- The film to be made by the supplier will feature a partially sighted or blind person dancing with their sighted partner. The dancers will be supplied and supported by Accentuate. There is a separate fee for this.
- The film should be soundtracked by two supplied oral histories from London Museum's collection as well as any accompanying sound design.
- Filming should be organised and undertaken by the supplier.
- The space to film the performance will be provided either by London Museum Docklands or Screen South (Folkestone)

2) Animations of two London Museum archive paintings.

- The supplier will animate the two paintings from the collection bringing the vibrant street scenes to life.
- The supplier will soundtrack the animation with the supplied oral history and any accompanying sound design.

3) A Dream nightclub digital collage or animation with visuals and audio elements from the co-production group.

- The supplier will be provided with audio files, such as stories, poems, and possibly music and visual materials such as collages from the co-producers. The co producers will not have access to high-end digital recording technology; therefore, these materials will have a "DIY" aesthetic. The soundscape and visuals should 'lean into' the underground, grassroots feel of these segments.
- An invitation for the visitors to dance if they would like to – this could be within this section, or another section of the piece.

The supplier will create a cohesive animation using these visual and audio elements.

- Work with Accentuate, the Curatorial Fellow and London Museum to develop the design approach.
- Agree and fulfil the development schedule.
- Attend meetings with the Accentuate team, the Curatorial Fellow and London Museum team.
- If necessary, provide any training for staff on setting up/closing down the installation and any special requirements.
- Accessibility is not an "add-on" but at the core of the creative process.
- Inclusive Content: The stories will reflect a wide range of disabilities and backgrounds. We expect no visitor to be excluded from being able to participate and engage with the installation. The installation should reinforce the co-producers' message: "*I have the right to dance and move*" and "*I have the right to be here*".
- Accessible Media: Instead of standard subtitles, we would like the filmmaker/animator to use creative captions integrated into the visual design which animate and illustrate the text and audio. We would also like the filmmaker/animator to consider how to embed audio description into the three sections. Accentuate is able to advise on how to do this, and can make suggestions for audio describers to work with, and provide additional budget for this component.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Experience

We are looking to appoint an individual, company or consortium with experience of working within the cultural sector and demonstrable evidence of the following:

- A proven track record of designing and delivering film, animation and sound works.
- Knowledge and experience of working with a range of media, including digital assets, animation and audio.
- Knowledge of creating media which is reflective of, and authentic to, themes, values and ethos of lived experiences.
- An understanding of the importance and application of accessibility in digital design, and experience of delivering accessible digital work. By ‘accessibility’ we mean an understanding of how to create as equitably accessible experience as possible for people who are deaf, disabled, or neurodivergent.
- Excellent self-monitoring.

- Excellent planning and communication skills.

Schedule, Projected timeline, important dates, deadlines etc

RFP Open: Tuesday 27 January - Sunday 15 February 2026 (5pm)

Shortlisting: Wednesday 18 – Friday 20 February 2026

Interviews: Thursday 26 February 2026

Designer/Maker chosen: w/c Monday 2 March 2026

Appointed: w/c Monday 9 March 2026

Concept Brief provided by London Museum: w/c Monday 16 March 2026

Work complete and installed by: Wednesday 6 May 2026

Exhibition launch: Friday 15 May 2026

Budget

£12,500 inc. all expenses and contingencies and VAT. The fee includes any design materials and equipment needed.

How to apply

Your submission must include:

- No more than 4 sides of A4 providing an outline proposal of your approach to delivering the brief, including the skills you would use to deliver the project.
- A proposed budget for the work and how you envisage you will manage your time.
- Submit a portfolio of up to three similar / relevant projects as case studies.
- Two referees with whom you have worked on similar projects. Please ensure they are in a position to provide a reference/testimonial for the team members you propose (if applicable) for this project.
- CVs may be attached in addition to your proposal.
- Your price must be inclusive of ALL disbursements and be inclusive of VAT.

Enquiries about the commission or your proposal should be sent to info@accentuateuk.org before 5pm on Sunday 15 February 2026.

Appendix 1: Plans and Images of Space

The projection wall in the gallery space in London Museum Docklands

Proposed London Museum archive paintings to be used: “This is London #1” and “This is London #2” by Mentor Chico