



50 Years and Beyond: Embedding Community Voices

Brief for historical performance / costumed interpreters

‘Museum of Oxford’s 50TH Birthday Party’ Family Event Day

Date	Saturday 25 October 2025
Hours	10:30 – 16:00
Budget Amount	£3500 inc all VAT, travel and expenses
Contact	Kate Toomey, Museum & Heritage Learning Manager ktoomey@oxford.gov.uk

Background

In 2025 the Museum of Oxford is celebrating its 50th anniversary year. We want to celebrate this milestone with our visitors by holding an event day that will be fun and engaging for our varied audiences as part of our 50th anniversary programme, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Overview of Museum of Oxford

Oxford City Council’s Museum of Oxford (MOX) offers access to the rich heritage of the city for the benefit of Oxford people and the wider public. It’s the only museum in Oxford specifically dedicated to telling the story of Oxford and its people. Through collection items, video, audio, and interactive displays, the museum offers visitors insight into what makes Oxford such a special place in which to live, work and study. Our vision is to be an accessible, community-led space for collaborative, inclusive conversations about Oxford's rich heritage and its place in our city's history.

Located inside Oxford’s Grade II* listed Town Hall, the museum features co-curated displays, engaging interactives, vibrant designs and accessible spaces which focus on the town's history, with a particular focus on its industrial, social, community and civic aspects. The Museum of Oxford works closely with Oxford’s communities to co-curate the stories we tell: we’re a museum by the people of Oxford, for the people of Oxford. Our learning and engagement programmes for schools, older adults, families and the wider community aim to connect the people of Oxford with their shared heritage.

Originally opened in 1975, and redeveloped in 2021, this year the Museum is celebrating 50 years of sharing Oxford’s stories and October 2025 is 4 years since we opened our brand-new people-focused galleries. To mark this anniversary, we have received funding by the National Heritage Lottery Fund to engage Oxford’s communities in celebrating their heritage and our city’s rich history. The **50 Years and Beyond: Embedding Community Voices** programme will include a new special exhibition as well as a series of events throughout 2025.

Find out more: www.museumofoxford.org

Summary of Event

A family event which brings the museum galleries and spaces alive with performance and activities throughout the day, in celebration of the Museum of Oxford’s 50th birthday. The target audience will be local families from Oxford and surrounding areas, but there will also be visitors from the wider area and international tourists.

We anticipate that the event will take place across the whole museum, comprising:

- In the galleries (ground floor): - two exhibition galleries where the costumed interpreters will mainly be based, alongside volunteer stewards, audio guides and free gallery trails.
- In Museums Makers & Learning Studio (basement spaces): - creative activities led by the museum team.

Event Requirements

To design and deliver an engagement event which provides historical interpreters based on characters from the time periods covered by the Museum galleries and/ or the 'People of Oxford' who feature in the displays (seen in the image below). A minimum of 4 interpreters performing on the day, and you can apply as an individual or as part of a consortium performing together.

We are keen for the event to be representative of the audiences we want to attract and therefore a diverse range of characters (and interpreters) should be considered. Performances by historical interpreters should be accessible, fun, engaging and inclusive.

We are happy to consider other activities and performances in addition to the costumed historical interpreters which may complement the event requirements. There may be an opportunity to programme these at specific times during the event in other spaces. This could include, for example, other types of performance (e.g. music) or interactive history-inspired family workshops. Please include these suggestions and costs in your response.

To apply for the brief, please submit the following:

- Full details of what can be provided and a breakdown of costs, including all expenses.
- How the activities you are suggesting link to our museum and its galleries and where they may happen in our spaces
- Please include suggestions of specific programmed activities that could take place and their costs if relevant
- If you are applying as an individual or an organisation/consortium.

Please note if you are applying as an individual, we would expect the costs to be less than the total amount available for the brief as we would be selecting more than one individual to work together to meet the requirements of the brief.

Your submission should be emailed to:

Kate Toomey, Museum & Heritage Community Learning Manager: ktoomey@oxford.gov.uk

by the **deadline of 5pm on Monday 12 May 2025**

'People of Oxford'



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