

Abbot Hall Art Gallery

Volunteer Gallery Steward

Role Information



Introducing Lakeland Arts

Lakeland Arts is one of the most remarkable arts and heritage organisations in the North and has an exceptional portfolio of attractions in an area of outstanding natural beauty. 2018 was the first full year of inscription of The Lake District as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Abbot Hall Art Gallery is a Grade I Listed Building in Kendal. The eighteenth century riverside mansion is a wonderful setting for our ambitious programme of temporary exhibitions and displays showing work of artists of national and international significance. Artists featured in major exhibitions over the past few years include Rembrandt, Canaletto, Barbara Hepworth, Graham Sutherland, Richard Long, Ben Nicholson, JMW Turner, George Shaw and Sean Scully.

The Museum of Lakeland Life and Industry boasts a collection of 25,000 objects telling the story of people who lived and worked in the Lake District. The Museum brings the collection to life

through exhibitions, period rooms and a Victorian street scene. Displays include objects relating to Arthur Ransome, author of *Swallows and Amazons* and Cumbria's farming heritage.

Blackwell The Arts & Crafts House is a stunning Grade I listed house overlooking Windermere. It is architect MH Baillie Scott's greatest house, retaining almost all its original decorative features, and it provides a perfect setting for historical and contemporary craft.

Windermere Jetty Museum of Boats, Steam and Stories will be a world-class museum displaying the nationally significant collection of boats that are all associated with Windermere. It will offer a range of activities for visitors including displays telling the history and stories of the boats and the people who built and used them, a publicly viewable conservation workshop, a boathouse with boats on the water and high-quality visitor facilities.

Voluntary Gallery Steward - Role Description

Overview

Our Gallery Stewards play a crucial role in the running of Abbot Hall Art Gallery. As Gallery Steward you will be key to helping our visitors get the most from their visit and will also provide extra security for the artworks on display.

What's involved?

- Our Gallery Stewards supervise one section of the gallery, providing assistance and information to our visitors.
- We actively encourage our Stewards to move around the room and engage with our visitors, however we will always ensure there is a chair available for anytime you wish to be seated.
- We encourage our Gallery Stewards to talk to, and engage with, our visitors and answer questions that they may have.

Will I be trained?

- When you first join the volunteering team, you'll receive training from a member of the gallery team, including security arrangements and fire evacuation.
- Our Curators offer volunteer training throughout the year - this is an opportunity to see a preview of our latest exhibitions and learn more about the art on display.

What can I expect?

- We currently organise our volunteer rota across two slots each day:
 - Mornings: 10.30am – 1.30pm
 - Afternoons: 1.30pm to 4pm (Winter) or 5pm (Summer)
- We plan our rota between 1 and 2 months in advance. Most of our volunteers like to plan their time in advance; however, we are also very grateful to those who are able to step in at short notice. You can sign up online, or by email.
- We ask that you treat your slots on the volunteer rota as a firm commitment. We appreciate that there may be times when you're unable to attend at the last minute (perhaps because of illness or a domestic emergency) – please let us know as soon as possible so that we can arrange alternative cover.

- Some volunteers are able to cover occasional days, whilst others are able to make a regular commitment (e.g. 1 slot per week). We hope that volunteers can give some time every month; however we try to take a flexible approach that suits each individual's needs.

What skills are needed?

- A friendly and welcoming approach to ensure our visitors get the most from their visit.
- A knowledge of art is helpful but isn't essential. We provide the information you'll need, as well as regular training about the artworks on display.
- As the 'face' of Abbot Hall Art Gallery you'll need to look presentable and be friendly and approachable.
- Being a Gallery Steward isn't physically demanding, however you'll need to be sufficiently mobile to be able to assist with the evacuation of the building in the event of a fire.

What are the benefits?

- Our Gallery Stewards have a very visible presence at Abbot Hall Art Gallery. There's a lot of satisfaction from helping our visitors enjoy their visit.
- Volunteering is a great way of meeting fellow volunteers and visitors.
- Our 'active volunteers card' entitles you and your immediate family free admission to Abbot Hall, Blackwell and Windermere Jetty.
- Your 'active volunteer card' also entitles you to a 50% discount in our cafes, and a 10% discount in our shops throughout the year.
- Free car parking at Abbot Hall on days when you're volunteering.