

Islington Irish – 100 Year Celebration

Brief for Project Coordinator

October 2021

1 Client

The London Borough of Islington (LBI) wishes to hire a freelance Project Coordinator to assist in the delivery of a series of events in March 2022 to commemorate 100 years of the Irish in Islington.

2022 marks a century of Irish independence and coincides with the mayoralty of Cllr Troy Gallagher, the first Irish-born Mayor of Islington.

2 Aims

The role is part of Islington's Heritage Service and the post holder will work directly with members of the Heritage Team, key departments within the council as well as partners including the London Irish Centre (LIC) to deliver a series of cultural events in mid-March 2022.

A preliminary programme of events includes:

- Learning activities – school workshops etc. to celebrating the Irish contribution to Islington and beyond
- A ceilidh in an appropriate space (possibly Islington Assembly Hall)
- A “Back to the Galtymore” evening event
- A series of live activities in Navigator Square, Archway, on St Patrick's Day
- Oral histories. This will be a prototype for a wider project to sit with the oral history collection in Islington Archives
- Outreach activities including walks and talks (in aid of the Mayor's charity)
- A number of Irish-themed events

Target Audience

The priority audiences for the project are:

- Islington Irish community and families, including second and third generation
- National Curriculum key stage 1 and 2 pupils

- Wider Islington residents with reference to celebrating Irish contribution to Islington and beyond

3 Background and overview of project

According to the most recently available census data (2011), there are over 8,000 people who identified as white-Irish in Islington, which is higher than in any other part of London. However, this figure is down by approximately 2,000 people from the previous census (2001), owing to an aging population.

We recognise that census figures do not represent the volume of people who are British but have proud Irish heritage and who feel a cultural connection with Ireland. We believe that there is a great appetite in the borough to engage in Irish heritage.

In 2017, LBI named the new square in Archway 'Navigator Square' after the navvies who built the national transport infrastructure, including Archway Bridge, in Britain. Since then, Navigator Square has been the centre of St Patrick's Day celebrations in the borough. The 2022 celebrations will develop this to create a legacy to reinforce the square as a monument to the Irish contribution.

We can see examples of the Irish influence and legacy in Islington in a variety of ways:

- Councillors: Mayor Troy Gallagher (Bunhill), Diarmaid Ward (Holloway), Mick O'Sullivan (Finsbury Park), Osh Gantly (Highbury East) and Una O'Halloran (Caledonian).
- At times in its history, the nursing staff at the Whittington Hospital was 85% Irish.
- Many well-known Irish writers, politicians and people from the creative arts have resided or worked in the borough. These include Michael Collins, Sinéad O'Conner, Sinead Cusack, Ninette de Valois, Oliver Goldsmith, Patrick Kavanagh and Shane MacGowan. Eurovision winner Dana was born in Islington.
- Countess Constance Markievicz, the first woman ever elected to the UK parliament was detained in Holloway Prison.
- Oscar Wilde and Eamon de Valera were both held in Pentonville Prison. Roger Casement was detained and executed in Pentonville Prison.
- Live Irish music has played in pubs around Islington. Among these venues were the Favourite and the Victoria in Holloway, where musicians regularly performed traditional Irish music. The Archway Tavern was another well-known location for Irish music and bands.

4 Requirements of the Project Coordinator

- Working with the Islington Heritage, to coordinate and manage agreed events. This will be done in partnership with organisations including the London Irish Centre, Islington Assembly Hall, local schools and other participating venues.
- Manage external contractors, maintain and develop relationships with venues, cultural partners, local council departments, ward councillors.
- Community heritage development - promote the goals of the project, recruit interested participants and volunteers.
- Careful coordination of all aspects of the project (e.g. recognising the different requirements of live events / recruiting participants for oral histories).
- Budget development and management of project funds.
- An interest/knowledge in Irish culture and heritage is desirable.

5 Competencies Required

Experience:

1. Event management.
2. Developing community-centred projects. Community heritage project experience is desirable.
3. Working with a variety of internal and external stakeholders.
4. Working in a public facing role, previous experience with a local authority or arts/heritage organisation is desirable.
5. Managing contractors, short term service providers and volunteers.
6. Managing budgets, record keeping and spending.

Abilities:

1. Work on own initiative, to set and meet deadlines and to work as part of a team.
2. Relate to people of all ages, from a variety backgrounds and from diverse social and cultural groups.
3. Marketing skills including digital and print publicity.
4. Good communication skills, both written and verbal.
5. Organisation of live events.
6. An understanding of community development projects, their goals and outcomes.

6 Timetable

The Islington Irish Project Coordinator will work contractually from the beginning of October 2021 until the end of April 2022.

7 Reporting Arrangements

The Islington Irish Project Coordinator will liaise directly with the Client (LBI Heritage Service) and will:

- Keep the Client informed of progress on the project and the need for additional information. Inform the Client immediately of any likely delays or problems.
- Attend meeting(s) as appropriate with stakeholders and the Client, including informal presentations of work in progress.
- Present draft material to the Client for approval (or amendment/revision) prior to any public consultation exercises.

8 Remuneration

The Islington Irish Project Coordinator will be paid a set fee of £15,000 for the duration of the contract.

For further details and to apply please contact:

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To apply: please send a CV and covering letter, outlining your suitability by responding to the competencies required in **Section 5**.

Closing date for applications is Sunday 10th October at midnight, with interviews scheduled to take place on Friday 15th October.