

# Brief for the delivery of Evaluation for the project Abyssinia: re-appraising a colonial era legacy of the King's Own Royal Regiment

## Summary of work

To evaluate the short-term outputs and medium-term outcomes of the Abyssinia Project. feeding back during the project to enable improvements while the project is being undertaken and also to produce a report at the end of the project that can inform the Trustees of the King's Own, staff at Lancaster City Museums and the MA/Esmee Fairbairn.

Organisation : Lancaster City Council (Lancaster City Museums)

Name of contact : Carolyn Dalton, Museum Development Manager.

Description of supply: Project evaluation

Value of contract: £6,000

Estimated length of contract: 12 months from December 2024

## Project Aims

The project aims to :

- locate, research, document, digitise (where appropriate) and ensure proper storage for the objects that came into the King's Own collections from the Abyssinia Expedition, as well as to place them online in a more accessible form and context than is currently the case.
- make connections and enter into dialogue with relevant organisations within the UK and overseas such as the National Museum of Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Embassy, the British Council as well as museums and museum organisations such as the Army Museums Ogilby Trust, the Museums Association and the National Army Museum and the Royal Engineers Museum (who have undertaken similar work in relation to General Gordon's Sudanese Campaign).
- work with experts to appropriately engage with relevant communities within this country e.g. the Ethiopian community in Manchester
- engage with the Decolonisation Network at Lancaster University and also the Lancaster Black History Group – both of whom are keen to support this project
- bring this work together into a re-interpretation/display of the area of the museum that addresses the Abyssinia Expedition

- work with Trustees and Lancaster City Museums to write a Restitution & Repatriation Policy for the King's Own Museum and also Lancaster City Museums.

## **Overview of Lancaster City Museums and the King's Own**

Lancaster City Museums are managed by Lancaster City Council. They comprise four Accredited Museums, Lancaster City Museum, Lancaster Maritime Museum, the Cottage Museum and the King's Own Royal Regiment Museum (which displays the collection of the King's Own Royal Regiment Museum Trustees under a partnership agreement).

Since 2018 the KORR Museum Trustees have been developing the role of the Trust with the assistance of the AIM 'Prospering Boards' programme. Their public vision statement is 'To be a leader in military and regimental museums, creating connection with stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things.'

The Trustees are fully behind the ambition of Lancaster City Museums to develop the City Museum site and widen and diversify their audiences. To this end they are starting to take an active, rather than passive, role in the development of the KORR Museum and wish to develop their skills and coherence as a team of Trustees, all of whom have been recruited for particular skills and knowledge that they bring.

Lancaster City Museums are actively working on programmes of work to increase diversity within their workforce, volunteers and audiences as well as to build upon the digital and in-person service that they deliver. This is with a view to a transformation of the museums service within the next 10 years. The City Museums vision for Lancaster is that 'This is a place where the past is part of a thriving future' with key impacts for measuring success of Engagement, Accessibility, Collaboration, Participation, Inspiration and Resilience.

## **The Abyssinia Project**

The Napier Expedition to Abyssinia was both a rescue mission and a punitive expedition against Emperor Tewodros II of Ethiopia by the British Indian Army. The 1st Battalion, King's Own Royal Regiment, was one of three British battalions deployed as part of the force. The Expedition saw 700 of Emperor Tewodros' soldiers killed and 1,200 wounded. Of the British forces only 20 men were injured and none killed. Emperor Tewodros committed suicide, and his palace was looted by the 33rd (Duke of Wellington's) Regiment.

The looted items were recovered from the soldiers and were auctioned off afterwards with the money being divided amongst the Regiments involved. The King's Own collection contains some of these items, many of which are related to the Ethiopian Orthodox (previously described as Coptic) church.

What we aim to do with this project is to take a significant step forward in terms of the King's Own in addressing the colonial-era legacy of the Regiment. As has previously been expressed, telling the regimental story in the context of the colonial-era is challenging. We hope that this project will help to provide a much-needed way forward for other small regimental museums.

The Trustees of the King's Own are very conscious of their responsibilities to not only the peoples of the Empire that the Regiment encountered, but also to the memory of the soldiers who served, many of whom committed acts of great bravery in serving their country. This is the specific challenge that regimental museums face as they look to address their activities in the colonial sphere. It is hoped that part of the legacy of this project will be to have found a way forward that respects all perspectives and attempts to address these challenging issues with fairness, honesty and courage.

The Project Officer Eyob Derillo has been working on this two year project for the last year. Eyob brings a great deal of personal expertise to the project as a museum and library professional, with an extensive experience in collections and community engagement. He has curated several exhibitions and contributed to the curatorial work of the Asian and African Collections Department at the British Library in London since 2013. He is also a PhD candidate at SOAS University of London, where he is researching concepts and the practice of Ethiopian 'magic' medicine and divination within an African Christian context.

Since the project has commenced, new items in the collection have been uncovered and documented and further understanding has been gained. The project is now at the stage where community engagement with the collections is due to commence and we are actively working to prepare items for the website.

Further information on the project can be found [here](#).

### **Brief Description of Work**

1. To develop an evaluation plan for the project using the project logic model to report back on outputs and outcomes.
2. To evaluate the different activities being undertaken by the project, producing interim findings that can be used while the project is still live and then a report at the end of the project.
3. The evaluation should ideally use various forms of evaluation that should involve (but not be limited to) various forms of surveying, face-to-face conversations/interviews and online analysis. The project budget can cover some translation, should that be required.
4. The end of project report should give
  - a summary of the project,
  - a report on delivery of the outputs and medium-term objectives for the project,
  - what didn't work and why,

- an understanding of why people engaged and what they learned or experienced
- an assessment of what needs to be done to achieve the long-term outcomes as outlined in the project logic model.
- provide clear conclusions and recommendation to help learning.

### Outputs required

1. To produce a minimum of one interim and one final report for the 'Abyssinia project' as outlined in the Brief Description.

### Contract management

Tasks	Expected completion
Application submission closes	30 November 2024
Award of contract (Lancaster City Council)	5 December 2024
Design evaluation model	14 December 2024
Undertake evaluation and produce interim (June/July) and final reports	31 December 2025

### Budget and Payment schedule

The anticipated budget is £6,000, which must not be exceeded and which must include all expenses, but which can be exclusive of VAT.

Payment to be made in staged payments. Payment terms are within one month of invoice.

Stage	Payment
Contract start up	£1,000
Interim report	£2,000
End of contract	£3,000

### Award criteria

We are looking for a consultant with a track record of evaluating museum/heritage or cultural projects that are engaging with challenging or contested heritage and particularly those which are colonial era legacy/decolonisation projects.

A proposal for undertaking the work should include :

- A methodology for the work outlining
  - Your method for collecting research data – how will you approach each element?
  - How you would assess steps needed to achieve longer term outcomes
  - How would you ensure that the evaluation reflects the visitors/users/participants?
- A proposed timetable including budget breakdown and milestones
- Examples of relevant work

A copy of the Project Logic Plan is attached

A copy of Lancaster City Council's standard T&Cs is attached

### **Criteria for assessing proposals**

#### Quote evaluation and award criteria

The Council does not undertake to accept the lowest or any quotes.

Each quote will be checked initially for compliance with all requirements of the invitation to quote

Quotes will be evaluated against the award criteria set out below.

Quotes will be evaluated on both a cost (30%) and quality (70%) basis to determine the most advantageous Quote.

Any proposals in excess of £6,500 will not be eligible.

<b>Criteria for assessing quality</b>	<b>Weighting (out of 70)</b>
1. Methodology and methods appropriate to the requirements of the brief	25
2. What experience can the contractor demonstrate in order to successfully deliver the contract?	30
3. Experience of team members and how many days at what daily rate would they be undertaking the work?	15

Pricing will be ranked in order of costs. Each submission will be reviewed separately, with the lowest price awarded the maximum 30%.

The table below illustrates an example of how pricing is scored out of 30% as a proportion of the highest:

<b>Quote</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
Total price	50,000	60,000	65,000
Price % ratio	100%	83.33%	76.92%
Total price % available	30%	30%	30%
Total Price % awarded	30%	25%	23.08%

Proposals will be assessed by : the Carolyn Dalton, Museum Development Manager (Lancaster City Council) , Eyob Derillo, Project Officer, Abyssinia Project

### **Submissions**

Response should be by CV and covering letter.

Responses should be submitted to Carolyn Dalton at [cdalton@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:cdalton@lancaster.gov.uk)

### **Freedom of Information**

The Council may be obliged to disclose information provided by applicants in response to this invitation to quote under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, all subordinate legislation made under this and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ("the Freedom of Information Legislation").