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Timeless Treasures – Creative Practitioner Brief

Summary

Working title: Timeless Treasures – What is treasure?

Museum of Chelmsford is excited to offer the opportunity for a freelancer, artistic company or collective to lead on the design and delivery of a community co-curated activity centred around the Great Baddow Coin Hoard based in Great Baddow and at the Museum.

Imagine uncovering a hidden treasure that not only connects us to our rich history but also paves the way for future exploration and cultural enrichment. The Great Baddow Coin Hoard is a remarkable collection that tells the story of our past, offering participatory, inclusive and educational opportunities that can benefit our community socially, culturally and create a legacy.

Join us in this journey to unlock the potential of the Great Baddow Coin Hoard!

Artist commission: £6,000

About the Project

Central to Museum of Chelmsford's mission: 'a shared history and identity for Chelmsford' the acquisition of the Great Baddow Coin Hoard—a remarkable discovery of 933 gold coins dating back to 60-20 BC—is crucial in achieving this goal.

As Britain's largest recorded Iron Age coin hoard, it fills a significant gap in our local history, allowing us to explore not only the artifacts themselves but also their connection to the Catuvellauni Tribe and their burial on Trinnovante Tribe land. Understanding these links enhances our collective narrative, enriching Chelmsford's heritage within the broader context of Iron Age history.

This project aims to foster themes of what is 'treasure', local identity, diversity, and ultimately generates a profound sense of belonging, connection, and pride among residents. By placing local communities and



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youth at the forefront of cultural programming and decision-making, we are fostering a culture of curiosity where everyone can contribute to and benefit from our shared heritage.

In summary, this project is not merely about preserving artifacts; it is about nurturing vibrant cultural connections that celebrate our diverse stories while addressing inequalities in access and encouraging a sense of belonging. It is an investment in our community's future—one that will inspire generations to come.

The Brief

The role requires a freelancer, artistic company or collective who are skilled, knowledgeable and experienced in using their creative practice for curious enquiry and community engagement. The project will take place in two locations, the village of Great Baddow and Museum of Chelmsford.

We would like you to:

- Deliver arts-based workshops that both inform the community of the hoard and inspire them to think about their own treasures and what treasure means to them. These workshops should result in a physical 'treasure' outcome which may be, but not limited to a loan of an object, a painting, a poem or a piece of craft.
- Engage at least four key groups/organisations as part of the project. The anticipated groups are, Home Instead, Great Baddow Library, and the Great Baddow Scouts.
- Deliver workshops in community venues, Museum of Chelmsford or outdoors as applicable. You will be assisted by a member of the team to contact the community partners and book venues.
- Design, plan and install the outcomes of the workshops into the Great Baddow coin hoard temporary exhibition alongside a curator.
- Make sure any loaned or created treasures are accurately recorded and able to be linked back to the owner.



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- Encourage community participation in workshops and help enhance knowledge of local archaeology and history.
- Encourage engagement with Museum of Chelmsford by attending other events and taking part in other planned activities.
- Source and use materials in a sustainable way to support Chelmsford City Council's vision to become carbon neutral by 2030.

Aim and Objectives

- Work with several different community groups within Great Baddow to interpret the hoard and the word 'Treasure'.
- Lead several workshops for the community of Great Baddow to create their own 'treasures' to display within the exhibition.
- A creative output inspired by or directly taken from the community workshops to be planned, installed and displayed in the temporary exhibition.

Who are we looking for

You will need to have a:

- High quality, relevant creative practice with history of working with young people and adults.
- Strong collaborative attitude to your work, in order to co-create experiences with a variety of community groups and consult with partners.
- Proven track record of delivering inspiring and creative workshops that captivate and engage.
- An understanding of health and safety, equal opportunities, and safeguarding procedures relating to work with young and vulnerable people.
- (Optionally) An interest in archaeology.



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Expected Project Timescales

Workshops: August 2025 – December 2025

Outcome Ideas Finalised: January 2026

Install: June 2026

Total budget

The total budget for this work is: £9,200 (exc VAT) inclusive of a £6,000 artist commission.

This total should include all fees for preparation, admin, participatory art workshops, materials, transport for both you and the community, venue hire, construction and installation costs. The costs should also include repair, renewal and upkeep during the exhibition period.

Artists copyright and ownership of the work

The artist will be the owner of the copyright to the design of the final treasures and will share display and photographic rights with Chelmsford City Council.

Application process

All applicants must submit the following:

- An expression of your interest in this project and why your skills are most suited to meeting the brief. This could be in a written (maximum 500 words), visual or audio format. Your proposal should briefly outline your practice, how you feel it relates to the project and outline your initial ideas for how you would approach the community workshops. Tell us about what creative experience you have and consider what creative tasks you might include to help create the 'treasure'. Please ensure all descriptions are clear and in an accessible language.



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- A copy of your most recent CV.
- Samples of previous work that you feel relate to the project.
- Community work references although optional would be helpful.
- Proof of DBS and safeguarding knowledge plus proof of public liability insurance or an indication that you will have public liability insurance if you are the selected candidate.

Application Timeline

- Deadline 2nd June
- Shortlisting 9th June
- Interview at Museum of Chelmsford 17th June
- Commission/start date July 2025

Any questions please contact curatorial.enquiries@chelmsford.gov.uk.