



## **Victoria Baths Project Brief – Entrance display**

### **Background**

Manchester's Victoria Baths is widely recognised as Britain's finest historic municipal public baths. The building is remarkably intact and incredibly ornate with stained glass, decorative tiling, mosaic floors and stunning pool halls. It is Grade II\* listed, has been partially restored and operates currently as a heritage visitor attraction and events venue managed by Victoria Baths Trust on behalf of Manchester City Council. The building has a range of uses – open days, indoor markets, guided tours, weddings, food & drink events, photoshoots and film location work - and receives around 35,000 visits per year.

The long-term aim of the Trust is to fully restore the building, in stages, which will ultimately include having the Turkish Baths and a swimming pool in full operational use for the public.

### **Project description**

Whilst Victoria Baths has been open for both public and private events for a number of years, there is no space within the building where the vision, aims and achievements of the Trust are represented. A space has been identified which could be dedicated to that purpose and fill this significant gap in the Trust's communications.

The Females Club Room is a partially restored space measuring 3.8m wide by 6.65m long with a wall height of around 4m. It has natural light from a central rooflight within an open pitched roof. The room has a concrete floor at one end and a basic plywood floor for the remainder of its length. The walls are rough brick.

### **Brief**

The Trust seeks to appoint a project manager to oversee the creation within the Females Club Room of a display which covers these key areas, with the final content and messages to be agreed in the first part of the project:

- Basic facts regarding the building's history
- The Trust's aim to fully restore Victoria Baths
- Achievements to date in terms of restoration of the building
- Plans for future restoration
- How visitors can support Victoria Baths

This brief also seeks advice on the presentation of related areas within the building; the Females entrance hall and complementary history displays in other parts of the building to ensure the continuity of key design elements and messages.

### **Project budget**

The Trust has a budget in the region of £20,000 for this project. This includes all expenditure on the project including VAT, so the project manager fees, design, production and installation of the display. We don't plan to undertake any further renovation of the room itself.

We expect the appointed project manager to:

- Meet with a named Trust contact at the start of the project
- Maintain regular contact with the Trust contact
- Organise and deliver at least one, possibly two workshop meetings with an agreed group of VB interested parties (volunteers, staff, trustees) to discuss the form and nature of the displays to be produced
- Curate the content of the display to be produced, working closely with VB staff and volunteers; communicate with Trust staff and volunteers regarding images, objects and text to be included in the display
- Commission appropriate contractors for all the design elements and oversee their work, liaising with the Trust on this
- Provide advice and guidance on the layout and use of the Females entrance hall which leads to the display area
- Provide advice and guidance on the display of historical information elsewhere in the building
- Commission and oversee the creation and installation of the display, liaising with the Trust on this
- Ensure the final result complies with necessary health and safety and insurance requirements, as well as meeting best practice standards for exhibitions and interpretation

Victoria Baths Trust will have final approval of all design work. Note that the Trust expects to be invoiced directly for the design and installation of the display with invoices being approved for payment by the project manager together with the VB contact.

### **Timescale**

We want to appoint a project manager in January 2019 and aim to complete the project by the end of June 2019. The timescale is negotiable.

Responses to this brief are required by **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January** and we plan to interview candidates on **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January**.

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### **Key contact**

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