



# Community Collections Development Panel Information Pack

**ToUchstones**  
Rochdale

part of  
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## COMMUNITY COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT PANEL: INFORMATION PACK

### What do we mean by collections?

Touchstones is a local arts and heritage organisation that exhibits and cares for the cultural heritage collection for the Rochdale Borough. This collection includes artworks, local history archives and a diverse range of objects from Ancient Egyptian artefacts to things relating to Rochdale's rich industrial history.... And everything in between! We have over 100,000 objects and over 2,500 artworks in the collections. It's our responsibility to look after them on behalf of the people of the Rochdale borough so that they can be enjoyed by our local community through exhibitions, events and activities, research and digital projects.

## **What are we asking you to take part in?**

We are looking for 5 members of our local community in the Rochdale borough to join our Collections Development Panel for 1 year. After that year other people will be given the opportunity to join the panel.

The Collections Development Panel is currently made up of members of staff from different departments at Touchstones. They meet every 2 months at the Arts and Heritage Resource Centre to discuss how we can best develop the collections to ensure that they represent the people who live in the borough. It is important that we continue to grow the collections so that in the future we have a good understanding of the history of Rochdale and the different people who live here. These discussions include –

- Making decisions about donations we get offered – these donations most often come from members of the public who might have an interesting object or artwork relating to Rochdale that they want to give to the collections.
- Thinking about how we can develop the collections so that they truly represent the people of Rochdale. Whose voices are missing from our collections? How can we make sure these people and their stories are included?
- How we can best use the collections to make Touchstones a place where people want to visit and get involved – this could be through events or exhibitions. What would people like to see from the collections?

## **Why is it important that we include local community members on the panel?**

Although Touchstones cares for the collections they are actually owned by the people of Rochdale, which means that all the work we do must be engaging and interesting for our local community. That is why it is important for you to have a say in what we do with the collections and what we should be collecting. We want to know what is important to you!





### Who are we looking for?

We are looking for people from the Rochdale borough community who would like to learn more about collections and the work we do at Touchstones. There is no age restriction however, we ask that you are able to attend the panel meetings (dates are below). These meetings usually take place in the morning. You do not need to have any previous knowledge of collections or museums to get involved. There will be a series of workshops and introductions to learn more about Touchstones and the collections, as well as meet other members of the team, so if you're interested please get in touch, even if it's just to ask some more questions.

We have some funding to pay you for attending the Collections Development meetings – this would be a payment of £18 per meeting + any travel expenses to get to the Arts and Heritage Resource Centre. Meetings typically last between 1 and 2 hours. We will also organise some research visits to understand more about how other museums are working with their communities around collections development.

In addition to the panel you will also have the opportunity to take part in collections skills workshops and get involved in other projects taking place at Touchstones. These are all voluntary opportunities and you have no obligation to get involved if you don't want to but we really welcome involvement by members of the community.

### Meeting Dates –

- Monday 15th April 2024
- Monday 3rd June 2024
- Monday 5th August 2024
- Monday 7th October 2024
- Monday 2nd December 2024
- Monday 27th January 2025

### Contact information –

Please do not hesitate to get in touch, we love talking to people and will always be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Email: [Helen.beckett@yourtrustrochdale.co.uk](mailto:Helen.beckett@yourtrustrochdale.co.uk)

Telephone: **01706 924493**

**We look forward to hearing from you and welcoming you to our collections team.**