

TOUCHSTONES
ROCHDALE

COMMUNITY

COLLECTIONS

Development Panel
Information Pack



part of
yourtrust



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
ROCHDALE
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Registered in England, No: 6052980. Registered Charity: 1118610

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 in 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 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 people from the local community 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 made up of members of staff from Touchstones and people from the community. They meet every 2 months at the Arts and Heritage Resource Centre to discuss how we can best develop the collections to ensure that the objects we collect tell stories about local people and places. It is important that we continue to grow the collections so that in the future we have a good understanding of Rochdales history and the different people who lived 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 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 have been developed since the 1870's for local people, which means that all the work we do must be engaging and interesting for our 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 who live in Rochdale borough and would like to learn more about collections and the work we do at Touchstones. You must be over 16, be able to attend the meetings and take part in the programme. 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.

In addition to the panel meetings there are also research trips and creative skills development workshops as part of the programme. All expenses are paid for, we just ask that you attend.



Programme Schedule Agenda - April 2026-2027

Please see the calendar below for the full programme of meetings and workshops scheduled to take place this year. Where dates have not yet been decided these will be discussed with the group in advance to find one that works for everybody.

Date	Time	Agenda
Wednesday 25 March 2026	6pm	CDP webinar Learn more about the Collections Development Panel, how to apply and ask any questions ahead of applying.
Wednesday 29 April 2026	5-7pm	Introductory meeting In this meeting you'll learn more about Touchstones, what we do as an organisation and understand more about how the Collections Development Panel works. You'll have the opportunity to learn about the collections, take a tour of the collections Resource Centre where all of the objects and artworks are stored as well as meet other panel members and staff from Touchstones who sit on the panel ahead of the first meeting. This is a great opportunity to get a feel for how the meetings will work and how we make decisions on what to accept into the collections.
Saturday 2 May 2026	TBC	Casual day out – place of visit TBC Join us on a relaxed visit to a museum or gallery where you can get to know staff from Touchstones and other panel members before the meetings start. All transport costs as well as lunch will be provided.
Tuesday 12 May 2026	4pm 5-7pm	Tour of Touchstones Collections Development Panel meeting
June 2026	TBC	Visit to Glasgow To tie in with Glasgow International and visit to the women's library - this will include a nights stay over to get the most out of the opportunity (expenses will be paid). Learn more about the exciting at Glasgow Womens Library before visiting Glasgows biggest contemporary art festival the Glasgow International.
Tuesday 7 July 2026	5-7pm	Collections Development Panel meeting
Tuesday 8 September 2026	5-7pm	Collections Development Panel meeting

Programme Schedule

Agenda - April 2026-2027 cont.

Date	Time	Agenda
Saturday 12 September 2026	TBC	Artist workshop Learn a new creative skill in this artist led workshop.
Tuesday 20 October 2026	5-7pm	Collections Development Panel meeting
Tuesday 12 January 2027	5-7pm	Collections Development Panel meeting
February 2027	TBC	Artist studio visit
Tuesday 9 March 2027	5-7pm	FINAL Collections Development Panel meeting and evaluation workshop

How to apply?

We will be hosting an online webinar where you can learn more about Touchstones and the project, as well as meet some of the team, before you submit your application.

Wednesday 25th March 2026 - 6pm

Click the link to join -

<https://teams.microsoft.com/join/388446659502?p=EQ2pbDFCRBILiVZ4sU>

Meeting ID: 388 446 659 502 / Passcode: Jg3Xg6ds

To apply please complete the short application form [here](#). The closing date for applications is **Friday 10 April 2026 at 12pm**

Contact

If you have any questions about the project or the application process please contact:

Helen Beckett - Collections and Exhibitions Manager

helen.beckett@yourtrustrochdale.co.uk