  **Thames Connections Research Officer**

We are looking for a research officer to lead the start of our new exciting Thames Connections initiative. This will see Thames21 connect local communities with their section of the Thames and local urban waterways. Through this programme you will help deliver our aim to provide healthy rivers at the heart of community life in neighbourhoods within the London Boroughs of: Newham, Barking and Dagenham, Tower Hamlets, Greenwich, Southwark and Wandsworth*.* This research is funded by City Bridge Trust. We want representation in the wider community, in particular those that haven’t fully engaged with the river. Your community engagement and research will help develop an ongoing Thames Connections Programme.

You will talk to local community residents to gather their existing knowledge of the River Thames and overcome barriers to engagement. You will create a new community enthusiasm for their relationship with the River Thames through a bespoke programme of engagement activities that deliver a positive social impact for people, communities and the water environment.

The post holder will have: experience of working with local communities; be able to work confidently with a broad range of groups, volunteers and partner organisations such as Local Authorities, private and other public sector groups. You will need to prepare research and development papers, give presentations. You will need experience of working with BAME communities and have some understanding of the environmental and social issues explored in this initiative. Relevant qualifications are desirable.

The outcome of your one year of research and connection with communities will identify the full potential for River Thames community engagement with the aim of introducing a dedicated, long-term Thames Connections Project.

Thames21 recognises the positive value of diversity and we welcome and encourage job applications from people of all backgrounds

**Your responsibilities will include to:**

Deliver our research programme that will work closely with riverside communities and residents along the Thames in the London Boroughs of: Newham, Barking and Dagenham, Tower Hamlets, Greenwich, Southwark and Wandsworth along the Thames.

To attend community groups and meetings with residents about interests in the river; to understand their awareness of the River.

Then to deliver a range of bespoke activities that will increase opportunities, community benefits and perceptions of the Thames; will lead to a better understanding of the issues that affect the Thames; will encourage behaviour change to improve the river; and increase community well being with volunteering opportunities along the river.

Establish a Community Board to develop the programme. This group will be representative of London’s communities and will advise on progress and relevant opportunities.

Work with Port of London Authority, the target Local Authorities, Land Owners, Thames21 staff to ensure understanding of the programme and the opportunities available.

You will prepare progress reports and a final report outlining the project achievements and preparing for the next stages of the Thames Connections Project.

**We offer** Salary £25,000 - £28,000 pa Full Time 35 Hours a week, 12 Month Contract Flexible working from our offices or from Home and working in the Target Boroughs.

Thames21 have an ‘Auto Enrol’ Work Place Pension Scheme with NEST, 25 days paid annual leave are available pro rata plus public holidays. In addition, the Thames21 office is closed between Christmas and New Year. Mobile phone lap top are supplied for company use

For further information visit our web site or contact

**Thames Connections Research Officer**

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| Job Description |

**Salary:**  £25,000 - £28,000 per annum, 35 hours per week

**Contract length:** 12 months

**Location:** Working from the Thames21 offices, with the option for occasional home working

**Responsible to:** Senior Programme Manager: volunteering

## Purpose of the job

This programme is an exciting new initiative for Thames21 and is funded by the City Bridge Trust. Thames Connections is a one-year research programme that will identify the potential to bring the community and environmental mission of Thames21 closer to local communities and boost their connection with the River Thames.

Your role through connecting with community leaders and partner organisations, will be to create greater enthusiasm and community involvement with the River Thames. The success of this role may lead to an ongoing community Thames Connections programme.

By speaking to the local communities in diverse communities beside the River you will gather evidence from residents about their existing knowledge and relationship with the Thames, with the aim of establishing a new and positive ongoing relationship between Londoners and the River Thames. You will support this by developing a programme of bespoke engagement activities that deliver positive social impact for people, communities and environment along the Thames.

The focus of this research is to engage with diverse communities and cultural groups in the London Boroughs of Newham, Barking and Dagenham, Tower Hamlets, Greenwich, Southwark and Wandsworth to create new connections with residents who live within walking distance of the Thames.

## Main duties and responsibilities

1. Deliver our research programme that will work closely with riverside communities along the Thames.
2. Attend community groups and meetings to open the dialogue with residents about local perceptions, connections and interest in the river; this will build an understanding of the types of events that would encourage an awareness and appreciation of the Thames.
3. Gather the opinions and views from residents in the London Boroughs of: Newham, Barking and Dagenham, Tower Hamlets, Greenwich, Southwark and Wandsworth; this will enable the creation of a future programme of activities for Thames Connections.
4. Deliver a range of bespoke activities that will increase awareness about the Thames; will lead to a better understanding of the issues that affect the Thames; will encourage behaviour change to improve the river; and increase community well being with volunteering opportunities along the river.
5. Establish a Community Board to develop the programme. This group will be representative of London’s communities and will advise on progress and relevant opportunities.
6. Produce a report that collates the feedback, summarises the barriers, sets out methods for engagement and proposes a culturally relevant programme of activities that will engage a wider diversity of Londoners with the Thames.
7. Work with Port of London Authority, the target Local Authorities and Land Owners to ensure understanding of the programme and the opportunities available.
8. Work with the Thames21 team to raise awareness and respect for the River and water environment, including Thames river bank and foreshore health and safety issues.
9. Represent Thames21 at community and partnership meetings. Presenting the vision and aims of the programme to increase the reach of the programme.
10. Maintain clear records of progress, ensure all administration and statistical information is kept, and regularly upload information onto the Thames21 database.
11. Regular co-ordination with Thames21’s Communications Team to ensure key milestones are recognised and volunteer opportunities are publicised.
12. Work with the Fundraising Manager to make funding applications as relevant.
13. Attend Thames21 Team Meetings and liaise with Thames21 staff.

This job description cannot cover every issue or task that may arise within the post at various times and the post-holder will be expected to carry out other reasonable duties from time to time which are broadly consistent with other Thames21 activities and with those in this document.

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| Person Specification |

It is essential that in your application you give evidence or examples of your proven experience in each of the following criteria including the competencies.

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| **Experience , Qualifications & knowledge:** | **Essential** | **Desirable** | **Assessed by** |
|  |  | √ | Application |
| Experience of working with ethnic diverse communities | √ |  | Application & Interview |
| An ability to engage and enthuse a wide range of supporters | √ |  | Application & Interview |
| Able to work with a broad range of community groups, volunteers and partner organisations such as Local Authorities, private and other public sector groups. | √ |  | Application & Interview |
| Demonstrable knowledge, understanding and experience of environmental projects and the work of Thames21 |  | √ | Application & Interview |
| Demonstrable knowledge of working with disadvantaged communities | √ |  | Application & Interview |
| Working with a broad range of community and/or faith groups | √ |  | Application & Interview |
| Community participation and knowledge of equal opportunities issues |  | √ | Application & Interview |
| Working with a broad range of partners such as officers from statutory organisations, local government, the voluntary and private sectors |  | √ | Application & interview |
| Research and development of theories into a report |  | √ | Application & Interview |
| A degree or equivalent qualification in a relevant subject; or relevant experience |  | √ | Application & interview |
| Community participation and knowledge of equal opportunities issues | √ |  | Application & interview |
| Monitoring and keeping clear records, plus preparing reports |  | √ | Application & interview |
| An ability to engage and enthuse a wide range of supporters | √ |  | Application & interview |
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| **Skills and competencies:** |  |  |  |
| Competence with MS Word & Excel and use of IT for communication and uploading data onto the Thames21 database | √ |  | Application & interview |
| Full UK driving licence or legally entitled to drive in the UK and be competent with drive a van safely in London. |  | V | Application & interview |
| An ability to engage and enthuse a wide range of supporters | √ |  | Application |
| Ability to make formal presentations | √ |  | Application & Interview |
| Ability to produce clear written reports | √ |  | Application & Interview |
|  | √ |  | Application & Interview |

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

* 25 days paid annual leave are available pro rata plus public holidays. In addition, the Thames21 office is closed between Christmas and New Year.
* Thames21 operate a flexitime system of working.
* Thames21 have an ‘Auto Enrol’ Work Place Pension Scheme with NEST
* Laptop & Mobile phone for company use
* Childcare voucher scheme is available
* The postholder must be willing to travel sensibly throughout London.

**Deadline for completed application forms: Midday Monday 5th October 2020**

**Interviews will be held on: WC 12th October 2020**

Completed application forms should be emailed to: Michael.Heath@thames21.org.uk

Or posted to: Michael Heath, Personnel Manager,