BABY COMPUTER VOLUNTEER

Closing date: 23.00 on 8 February 2023

Interview: 17 February 2023

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OUR MISSION AND VALUES:

At Science Museum Group (SMG), we make it our mission to Inspire Futures. Our talented and dedicated colleagues are guided by five values that encapsulate simply what we’re all about:

- We **think big**, pushing the limits of what’s possible.

- We challenge ourselves to **reveal wonder**.

- We use our passion, expertise and creativity to **share authentic** stories.

- We aim to **ignite curiosity** in our audiences and our colleagues.

- We take pride in being **open for all**.
BABY COMPUTER VOLUNTEER

Department: Curatorial
Location: Science and Industry Museum
Supervisor: Thomas Lean (Curatorial)

Type: Volunteer Role
Hours: Flexible - 1 slot per week
Start Date: TBC

ABOUT THE ROLE:

The Science and Industry Museum is devoted to inspiring our visitors through ideas that change the world, from the Industrial Revolution to today and beyond. As part of the Science Museum Group we aim to Inspire Futures. Think Big and Share Authentic Stories.

This role is based within the Revolution Manchester Gallery, a busy and lively gallery which is the first port of call for most of our diverse visitors. The gallery introduces some of the major stories of the Museum and is home to our working replica of the 1948 Manchester ‘Baby’ computer, the world’s first stored-program computer. The Baby is the direct ancestor of the millions of computers that make our modern world run. Arguably, the modern computer age started here in Manchester when Baby ran its first program in 1948.

This is a unique opportunity to work with one of the Museum’s star objects. Your role will involve introducing our visitors to the Baby computer replica and talking with them about the world-changing story of early computing in Manchester. You will learn about the historical significance of the Baby computer and will use this knowledge and your communication skills to bring this exhibit to life. Developing your understanding as part of a dedicated team, you will also have the opportunity to learn how we maintain and operate the Baby Computer replica, run programs on it for visitors, and help us keep this piece of history alive.

WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING:

- Engage museum visitors with the story of Baby and early computing in Manchester
- Explain how the Baby computer works and learn to demonstrate it to visitors
- Have the opportunity to develop your skills and learn more about the Baby computer from our experienced volunteers
- Respond to basic visitor enquiries or signpost to staff as appropriate
- As a volunteer you’ll learn about our Health and Safety Policies, procedures, and risk assessments, allowing you to take care of your own personal safety and that of others.

WHAT YOU BRING TO THE TEAM:

You will definitely ...

- Have excellent verbal communication skills
• Enjoy communicating with a wide range of people
• Be enthusiastic about learning more about the history of the Baby computer
• Be proactive and have a positive attitude
• Be able to follow instructions
• Be able and willing to volunteer unsupervised and as a member of a team
• We ask all our volunteers to show inclusive behaviours, valuing everyone’s contribution, and promoting a culture of openness
• Be available to support in this role one day per week

It would be good if you ...

• Have an interest in or experience of Information Technology or Computing
• Have an interest in History, the History of Manchester, or History of Technology
• Have an interest in or experience of Electronics or Engineering
• Have an interest in Science Communication or STEM Engagement

**SOME THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW:**

• To volunteer in this role, you must be 18 or over.
• If successful, we’ll request a basic criminal record check. We’ll arrange and process this for you and will cover all the costs.
• Any issues raised in a criminal record check will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
• We are legally required to ensure all volunteers from overseas have the right to volunteer in the UK, so please check your visa before applying.
• SMG is unable to act as a sponsor organisation if you do not have a visa that allows you to volunteer.

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**HOW TO APPLY!**

Interested? We welcome your application. You can apply for this position by simply sending an email to: volunteering@scienceandindustrymuseum.org.uk and requesting a short application form.

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**HOW WE CAN SUPPORT YOU:**

• We’d love to hear from you. If you have any questions about the role, please contact Thomas Lean (Associate Curator) at Thomas_Lean@ScienceAndIndustryMuseum.org.uk or 0161 696 7812

• If you need assistance to complete your application or attend a selection event, for example due to a disability, or would like to talk to us about what we can do to support you through this process, please call 0161 696 7774 or email volunteering@scienceandindustrymuseum.org.uk
• Find out more about what it’s like to volunteer with us, answers to frequently asked questions and how to find our offices (including when attending interviews) please check our webpage at: https://www.scienceandindustrymuseum.org.uk/about-us/support/volunteering

• We are working hard to understand our organisation better and to foster a culture that recognises and values different backgrounds, mindsets, skills, experience, knowledge, and expertise. By having greater diversity, we believe that we will be a stronger and better organisation and ultimately will be able to inspire more futures. We therefore welcome applications from all backgrounds.