



DesignLab Nation Hull - Call out for designer/artist/maker

Hull Museums and Galleries are collaborating with designers and local schools as part of DesignLab Nation, a national school's programme led by the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. **We are looking to recruit an innovative designer/artist/maker to lead exciting design projects with Secondary school students and teachers based in the Hull area between September 2025 and August 2026.** This designer will work with up to three Hull/ East Riding based Secondary schools on exciting in-depth design projects. The design focus for the project will be to take inspiration from the Hull Museums and Galleries collections, particularly the **Streetlife museum**, and the V&A Collection, exploring the theme of 'home'.

In particular, the projects will explore the concept of home through the intersecting lenses of design and manufacturing, drawing inspiration from both the local Hull Museums and Galleries' collections and the V&A's national collection of design.

They **may** explore themes such as:

- the evolving meaning of 'home' over time and across diverse cultural and social contexts/ communities.
- reflections on Hull's rich design heritage, considering 'home' as a symbol of belonging, as well as examining the physical construction of home—highlighting, for example, the local caravan manufacturing industry, or 'home' as a self-curated collection of objects/ space/ people or contemplating 'home' in relation to travel, movement and community on a broader scale.
- Visions of future homes in response to climate challenges—acknowledging Hull's unique coastal environment and its relationship with water—and how new technologies might shape resilient and sustainable living spaces within this local context.

The selected designer will set a design challenge for students, which they will then work towards solving through four creative full day sessions. With support from museum teams from Hull Museums and Gallery and the V&A, the designer will plan a series of focussed workshops, highlighting key stages of a designer's journey

including finding inspiration, writing a brief, experimentation, prototyping, and presentation. Sessions should involve creative thinking, critical thinking, and collaborative activities, as well as interactive talks, demonstrations, and supportive feedback crits. Students and teachers will be encouraged to take inspiration from objects and collections at V&A and Hull Museums and Galleries. The final prototypes that students make at the end of the four days will go on display at the Streetlife Museum (or another Hull Museum & Galleries venue) in Summer 2026.

The selected designer will also be asked to support with several Teacher CPD and celebration events throughout the academic year, as well as participate in planning meetings and contribute to evaluation.

Criteria for designers

Essential:

- Works as a practicing designer/artist/maker who is passionate about design and Hull's design heritage.
- Able to inspire the next generation of designers, makers, and innovators, ready to encourage them to learn about and engage with contemporary design and industrial heritage.
- Experience in leading creative workshops with schools, young people, or similar groups.
- Able to make links between their own design practice and the collection at Hull Museums and Galleries. This may be through materials, technical processes, or design thinking/ approach. We are keen to work with designers from different areas of the design industry.
- Organised, and able to project plan and schedule accordingly.
- Able to champion sustainable design practice.
- Prepared to support evaluation, documentation, and reporting as required.
- Willing to undertake a satisfactory Enhanced DBS Disclosure will be required prior to taking up appointment of this role. Comply with Hull Museums and Galleries and V&A guidelines for safeguarding, health and safety and undertake training.

Desirable:

- Ideally works, lives, or has links to the Hull/ Humberside/ East Yorkshire area. Where possible the selected designer must be willing to travel regularly to and around the area over the course of the project.
- Has an up-to-date knowledge of the 2017 D&T syllabus.
- Experience in working with teachers/educators, and able to work with teachers to share skills and develop new approaches to teaching design.
- Awareness of differentiating teaching styles to communicate with a variety of students.

Designer Indicative Timeline

July/August 2025: Recruit designer

September 2025: Planning and preparation

October 2025: Teacher Development Strand CPD- 2 x full day sessions (=1 day at Hull Museums and Gallery & 1 day at V&A)

November 2025- July 2026: Project Delivery- 3 school projects- each with 4 sessions each (1 day V&A, 3 in Hull)

July 2026: Wider Teacher CPD delivery (TBC), End of project celebration/ Student Display

July/August 2026: Designer contributes to dissemination and evaluation

Fees

Teachers Development Strand- Early Autumn term 2025

Lead 2 x creative sessions @ £240 each= £480

Planning and preparation 2 x days @ £240 each= £480

School projects- Autumn 2025, Spring 2026 and Summer term 2026

3x DLN school projects

The fees for each school project are:

Lead 4 x creative session @ £240 each= £960

Planning and preparation 3 x days @ £240 each= £720

If you were to deliver all three school projects the total fee would be: Total: £5040.00

Regional CPD and Celebration- Summer term 2026

- 2 x £240 for the Lead Designer to lead a workshop at the Teachers Regional CPD, including 1 day planning= £480 – please note this event is tbc.
- 1.5 x £240 for the Lead Designer to lead a workshop at the Celebration event and contribute to the Student Display= £360

Overall total: £6840.00

Other Budget

- There will then be approx. £200 material budget for each school project and £50 per Teachers CPD/workshop.
- The designer will also be consulted on the budget for Teacher's Development Strand, Teacher's Regional CPD and Celebration Event/Student Display.
- For trips to the V&A, London the designer will have travel paid for them to support the visit. We are happy to review reimbursing for designers visiting schools or partner museums and creative organisations where necessary.

Programme Overview

Creative education has the power to change and shape young people's lives for the better, and today, the creative industries are worth over £10 million per hour to the UK economy. However, design education across the UK is in crisis and a damaging skills gap is increasingly apparent.

The V&A's national schools programme- **DesignLab Nation**- aims to inspire the next generation of designers, makers and innovators across the country, and to help young people develop the 21st century skills for the workplace of the future including **critical thinking, creativity and collaboration**. This programme uses regional partnerships with museums and designers to support and deliver in-depth design projects to secondary schools, support teachers and raise the profile of creative education through developing local D&T networks.

In recent years, we have witnessed a dramatic decline in uptake of creative subjects by students at GCSE level, with D&T suffering a staggering drop of 67% since 2010. As creative education deteriorates among young people, who are being encouraged to narrow their focus on subjects included in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), so too does the provision of D&T teacher training, with the number of design- specialist teachers in the country down 32% since 2010. Combined, these issues are leading to a drastic skills shortage, which is already being felt by the UK's creative industries. As the world's greatest museum of art, design, and performance – a '*schoolroom for everyone*', as described by its founding Director, Henry Cole – the V&A has an essential role to play in the nation's creative education.

"It has been one of the most rewarding experiences that I have had in my decade or so of teaching"

Participating Teacher

"DesignLab Nation has made me more aware about the different ways one problem can be solved"

Participating Student

"Having access to the arts in school is good for attainment, good for job prospects, and good for the creative talent pipeline."

Tristram Hunt,

V&A Director

DesignLab Nation, part of the V&A national schools programme is forging new partnerships between regional museums, their local secondary schools, and creative industries. Targeting regions of the country where creative industries have historically thrived yet the current need to improve D&T provision is particularly acute, our expert learning practitioners work closely with regional organisations to deliver in-depth design projects inspired by their nearby industries and industrial heritage.

School Projects

In each participating region, the V&A partners with a museum and a professional designer. Together, we deliver in-depth design projects to local secondary school groups. Projects consist of 4 full day creative sessions led by a designer and museum experts at V&A and regional museums. Students are asked to respond to a design challenge and work through all stages of a design journey (including finding inspiration, writing a brief, experimentation, prototyping, and presentation). Sessions involve creative thinking, critical thinking, and collaborative activities, as well as interactive talks, demonstrations, and supportive feedback crits.

Regional museums are asked to recruit schools that they have not recently engaged with, and which are based in areas with above average levels of income deprivation or/and have low levels of cultural engagement. We ask schools to select one D&T group from their school with students (KS3 or KS4, approx. 25-32 students) who would most benefit from this experience, in particular those on the Pupil Premium scheme. This programme is fully funded for all schools who take part. This programme supports the teaching of the Design and Technology (D&T) GCSE, which launched in September 2017.

Teachers Development Strand

For DLN Year 9 in Hull we are planning to run a Teachers Development Strand, working with local teachers to co-design project plans and resources. This will consist of two CPD workshops with museum staff from Hull Museums and Gallery, the V&A and the designer. These workshops will include exciting research trips to Hull Museums and Galleries and the V&A, South Kensington in London. We aim for these workshops to support with teachers continued professional development including gaining critical thinking, creative thinking, and collaboration skills ahead of delivering projects with students in the Autumn 2025, Spring 2026, and Summer 2026 term.

Teachers regional CPD

In each region each academic year we plan to host a continuing professional development (CPD) session for regional networks of teachers who haven't taken part in DesignLab Nation to expand the reach of the programme.

Celebration Event/Student Display

In each region each academic year we plan to host a celebration event with all participating schools to highlight achievements. The focus of this will be a Student Display of work.

To apply:

Please email a recent CV and covering letter (250 words max) outlining your suitability for the role to: David Alcock david.alcock@hcandl.co.uk (Learning Manager, Hull Museums and Galleries) & Melissa Whittaker m.whittaker@vam.ac.uk (National Schools Producer - DesignLab Nation) by midnight on **30/7/25**. Shortlisting will take place between **31/7/25 - 4/8/25**

On **4/8/25** candidates will be contacted, and shortlisted candidates will be invited to an online interview on **28/8/25**

Candidates invited for interview will need to **prepare a 5-minute presentation** taking us through **an overview of your ideas** for a **Design Challenge** and a **brief activity plan** which you would be prepared to lead students through to help them realise the challenge during a 4-day project, including visits to the Hull Museums and Galleries and the V&A, South Kensington.

Thank you for your interest in this opportunity.

OFFICIAL



OFFICIAL



**Hull Museums
& Gallery**