

I Introduction

Gairloch Heritage Museum (GHM) is seeking to appoint a consultant to develop a strategy for Gaelic, which will inform the development and interpretation of the collection when the museum relocates to the former Anti Aircraft Operations Room (AAOR) in Spring 2019. Whilst the AAOR is well suited to museum use because of its stable environmental conditions, a considerable amount of work is required to repair the AAOR and adapt the building for museum purposes. It is estimated that the construction project will cost c.£1.9m excluding VAT. The project has secured a Round 1 approval from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and GHM is currently undertaking development work to work up the scheme for submission of a Round 2 application to the HLF in August 2016. Part of this phase of work includes funding for the development of a strategy for Gaelic.

2 Current Gaelic resources at the museum

The Gaelic resources at the museum owe much to the profound interest in Gaelic of the former curator Roy Wentworth. The Gaelic collection, which includes 450 recordings, is considered by Professor Hugh Cheape of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to be "exceptional from a Scottish museum point of view". It is invaluable evidence of the artistic heritage of the area, in particular the bardic tradition of Gaelic music, song, poetry and storytelling. It is also unequalled as a record of Wester Ross Gaelic, with its unique vocabulary and place-names. It offers an important research facility for Gaelic scholars.

3 Opportunities at the AAOR

The move to the AAOR creates the opportunity to expand and develop the museum's exhibition and activities and to maximise the use of the museum's Gaelic resources.

Some of the opportunities already identified by the museum include:

- A themed display focussing on Gaelic culture and the story of the Gael through everyday objects e.g. the cas chrom, incorporating recordings in English and Gaelic
- A presentation on the local bards
- Establishing a Gaelic policy for the museum with regard to both language and culture
- Interpretation in English and in Gaelic
- Use of new technologies and social media to connect with Gaelic audiences
- Gaelic loans box
- A Gaelic folk lore listening point
- Partnership working with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to develop a programme of activities which promote the Gaelic language. (The GHM has a Memorandum of Understanding with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig)
- An oral history project to secure Gaelic memories, particularly with regard to local knowledge about the collection
- Development of the Gaelic archive as a learning resource, to make it more accessible for study, teaching and learning at home and abroad
- Continuation and expansion of Gaelic language classes
- Continuation and expansion of activities with the Gaelic toddler group / pre-school, primary school and High School
- Building closer relationships with other museums in the Gaidhealtachd e.g. Ullapool and Applecross

This list should not be seen as exclusive and the consultant would be expected to identify other opportunities for GHM to develop its Gaelic resources.

4 Development of a strategy for Gaelic

GHM currently has a strategic plan for 2011-16, which refers to cultural heritage but not specifically to Gaelic. This plan is due for review in 12 months and this is an opportunity to incorporate specific aims and objectives relating to Gaelic.

The purpose of this contract is to develop a strategy for Gaelic within the context of the existing strategic plan, taking into account the current position of Gaelic in Scotland and how the opportunities presented by the move to the AAOR would fit within the local, regional and national policy context and support future applications for funding.

It is envisaged that the report should include the following:

- Overall situation of Gaelic in Scotland
- Overview of local data
- Statement of significance on the importance of the collection to Gaelic language and culture to the greater Gairloch parish
- Opportunities for Gaelic within the Gairloch parish and how they link with national policy objectives
- Identification of linkages to national objectives and fit with the priorities and development objectives of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, UHI, Historic Scotland, Creative Scotland, Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise
- Identification of opportunities for funding to support GHM in the development and implementation of its strategy for Gaelic

5 Person specification | skills and experience

GHM is seeking a consultant fluent in Gaelic (oral and written) with a knowledge of Wester Ross, and a demonstrable interest in history, heritage, education and learning.

It is essential that the consultant is familiar with the strategic policy background for Gaelic and has established contacts with key stakeholders, and crucially, an understanding of the opportunities available to GHM for funding towards the development of its Gaelic resources.

It would be desirable to have previous experience of museum development and working with communities.

6 Programme

The draft report should be available by the end of November 2015 and the final report should be completed by Friday 18 December 2015.

7 Budget

There is an allowance of £1,500, plus reasonable travelling expenses for this contract.

8 Further information | key contacts

GHM Chairman | Roy Macintyre | roy.macintyre@gmail.com

GHM curator | Karen Thompson | curator@gairlochheritagemuseum.org

Project manager | Mia Scott | mia@miascottassociates.co.uk

9 Deadline for submissions

Submissions, which should include your proposed methodology and your CV, should be sent by post or email to Gairloch Heritage Museum by 12 noon on Friday 25 September.

Gairloch Heritage Museum, Achtercairn, IV21 2BP 01445 712287
info@gairlochheritagemuseum.org