

rb&hArts Volunteering Programme

Duration of volunteering: 6 months minimum – Ideally 4-6 hours a week.

We are looking for new volunteers to support the delivery of the arts programme at Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust, the largest specialist heart and lung hospital in Europe, supporting people from all over the UK living with the most complex and serious cardiothoracic conditions.

rb&hArts is delivered through Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals Charity. It is charitably funded to bring the benefits of the arts to support in and outpatients. We aim to increase levels of wellbeing, enhance the patient experience and improve the healthcare estate through the arts. It first began in 2002 and now, in a typical year, they run 250 workshops with over 5,000 people taking part.

Requirements

Two references, willingness to undertake DBS application along with attending a training session on hospital protocol, safeguarding and infection control. Before any contact with clinical settings all volunteers *must* receive clearance from our Occupational Health (OH) department; this will involve confidentially providing OH with your medical/vaccination history and may mean needing to receive appropriate vaccinations.

Volunteering Duties

This is a new and exciting opportunity for anyone looking to gain first-hand experience working in an arts and health setting, with community groups and individuals. rb&hArts runs an exciting programme for patients with weekly sessions led by professional artists in singing, music-making, dance and craft. We are looking to recruit a band of friendly, personable volunteers with some simple creative skills to share. Projects we require assistance for include:

- **Crafternoons;** monthly sessions where patients, relatives and staff try and learn new skills such as knitting, drawing or painting every month at each hospital. We aim to expand this project by offering volunteers creative skills training from professional artists which can then be shared by volunteers to patients in a 1-2-1 or small groups which can be delivered across the hospitals
- **Musicians in Residence;** professional musicians play live music on adult surgical wards on Monday afternoons (Harefield) and evenings (Royal Brompton) although timings subject to change. We need volunteers to accompany the musicians and assist with patient evaluation/feedback and to document the project. Similar assistance may be needed for our Singing for Breathing groups as well.
- **Fundraising;** we hold regular fundraising events including art-markets, bake sales and pub quizzes often in collaboration with our corporate sponsors South Kensington Estates. These small scale events often require assistance with enthusiastic, positive energy to raise funds for our work and to promote our projects.
- **Art Collection Audit;** we hold a vast collection of 1200 pieces of artworks. We need help auditing and digitising the collection which will involve inspecting artworks, taking measurements, photographing and data entry.
- **Exhibitions;** we manage two gallery spaces and host around 10 art exhibitions a year. Artwork we show ranges from the work of staff and patients to new and established artists. We need assistance with the curation, installation and take down of shows as well as sourcing and planning new exhibitions.

In exchange for your time we offer a thorough induction into delivering and evaluating arts and health projects in clinical and community settings, as well as opportunities to learn new creative skills for healthcare settings.

To apply: Please email (arts@rbht.nhs.uk) a short paragraph about why you are interested in volunteering with rb&hArts and what projects you'd be particularly keen to work on. Applicants should be aware that processing DBS, training and OH can take up to 6-8 weeks due to capacity. For an informal chat or if you have questions please contact us on 020 7352 8121 x 4087 or the email above. Please get intouch with your interest no later than 28 February 2018.