



'Cavalry Comics' project

Comic Development as part of Art Literacy Programme with Schools

Hadrian's Cavalry

Project Brief

The Hadrian's Cavalry project board are seeking to commission a comic artist/s to deliver an art and literacy project with four schools. This will add value to the Hadrian's Cavalry exhibition through encouraging engagement with this unique project, by creating a learning legacy, and by increasing the awareness of the participating partners' learning offer.

This commission is open to comic artists with experience of working with schools. Applications are also encouraged from more than one practitioner working in collaboration (e.g. an artist working with an editor, an education specialist, a collective or partnership).

1. Background to the Commission

Cavalry were the backbone of the Roman frontier garrisons and projected the power and splendour of Imperial Rome. Many cavalry regiments were recruited from the mounted elites of peoples and tribes across the Roman Empire. The magnificent parade armour of the cavalry troopers and their horses inspire awe and wonder today just as they did 2000 years ago.

Hadrian's Cavalry is a major exhibition distributed across 10 museums and heritage sites across the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site which extends for over 150 miles across Tyneside, Northumberland and Cumbria. The exhibition itself will focus on the theme of Roman cavalry and their key role on the Roman Frontiers in maintaining the security of the Empire. Whilst concentrating on the cavalry of the Hadrianic period, the exhibition will include earlier and later periods and equipment. Roman cavalry and part-mounted units were the elite of the auxiliary forces of the Roman army and an essential component of the frontier garrisons.

The exhibition will feature a spectacular and unique collection of artefacts including loans of Roman cavalry equipment from national and international museums, including the British Museum, National Museums Scotland, German and French museums and private collectors.

The exhibition will be supported by a programme of re-enactment events including a spectacular weekend in July when a full troop of 30 Roman cavalrymen will come together for the first time in 2,000 years to perform exercises and manoeuvres described by Hadrian himself.



Hadrian's Cavalry is funded by Arts Council England's Museum Resilience Fund and will provide a major focus for the 10 museums and heritage sites from Easter to September 2017. The exhibition opens on 8 April 2017 and closes on 10 September 2017.

The core partners are: English Heritage, Senhouse Museum Trust, Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums, Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust, Vindolanda Trust. The Northumberland National Park Authority is the accountable body.

2. The Brief

We are seeking to commission an artist/artists/collective to add value to the Hadrian's Cavalry exhibition by working with formal learners to create a comic that interprets Roman Cavalry. Through facilitated visits to the exhibition venues and taking inspiration from the objects on display, the comic will be written in collaboration with four local schools (four groups of around 35 children each). The schools will be selected through competition process (see Appendix 1). Each of the children taking part will complete an Arts Award Explore through their engagement.

The supplier will be expected to work with the four pre-selected local school groups. The supplier will prepare, deliver and manage:

- one introductory session per group at the respective school's premises to introduce comic creation techniques
- one session per group at one of the Hadrian's Cavalry partner exhibition venues
- one follow-up session per group at the respective school's premises

The comic will feature 4 chapters, one chapter to be produced by each group.

The 4 comic chapters will be:

- Looking good! (the equipment of cavalryman and horse)
- Who do you think they are? (exploring ethnicity of Roman cavalrymen and breeds of horse)
- Don't mess with me! (exploring, patrolling, policing and hunting down the enemy)
- Know your place! (forts, organisation and formations)

Once finalised, it is anticipated that the comic will be published as print and via partner websites as a resource for the future, and as a legacy.

The comic and its development will provide a platform to encourage engagement and participation with the project's partner venues over the period of the exhibition and beyond.

The supplier will be expected to compile the groups' artwork as web- and print-ready files for the publication designer.



The supplier will be expected to be able to demonstrate:

- Availability in June/early July 2017 to deliver the project
- A proven record of working with formal learners, ideally both in schools and outside the classroom
- A proven record of work as a comic artist
- An understanding of Key Stage 2 literacy targets and how comics can deliver these
- An understanding of the Arts Award process. The supplier will not be responsible for overseeing completion of each child's Arts Award nor the moderation, but they must be able to work with the project team to integrate this process into their sessions
- A commitment to creating excellent art
- An ability to manage and deliver projects on time and within allocated budget
- An interest in Romans and Hadrian's Wall

4. Timetable and Budget

The total commissioning budget is £10,000 covering all fees, development and costs, inclusive of travel and expenses.

There is a modest budget available for design and print of the comic publication (estimated print run x500). We recognise that some suppliers may also be able to supply this output. Please include costed proposals for design and print if you wish us to consider you for this in addition to developing the Hadrian's Cavalry comic with the schools.

Key deliverables will include:

- Overall management of the project
- Liaising with each of the four schools
- Liaising with the project management team
- Liaising with an appointed contact at the museum and heritage site venue
- Preparing each session
- Per each of the four pre-selected schools
 - One preparatory 'how to create comics' session in-school
 - One outside-the-classroom session at a participating Hadrian's Cavalry museum
 - One follow-up session in-school to pull together comic content



- Compiling the comic content/artwork for the publication designer

The Commissioning Process

We are sending this brief to appropriate networks. Interested parties are invited to submit a short proposal of interest (details below). One successful application will then be selected.

Timescale / Key dates

Proposals to be developed and submitted by:
Friday 31 March 2017

Commission contract:

Start : 17 April 2017
End : 30 September 2017

Work with school groups and site visits:
June/early July 2017

Publication (Print and Web):
1 September 2017

Exhibition runs:
8 April - 10 September 2017

5. What to do next

Please submit a proposal with the following information by email to the Project Management Team lisa.keys@minervaheritage.com copied to nigelmillsheritage@gmail.com in pdf format:

- Your name, email address and contact phone number (please nominate a lead applicant if applying as a group or partnership)
- Link to lead applicant's website (optional)
- A short statement of interest outlining your process and approach (max. 500 words)
- A short outline project budget
- A short outline timetable
- Links to up to 3 examples of relevant projects (which must include examples of comic art work. Examples can be provided through video or still images)
- A short CV for the lead applicant (one side A4)

The deadline for proposals is Friday 31 March 2017 at 17:00 GMT



6. Proposal assessment

Proposals will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Quality (70%):

- Relevant skills and experience
- Proposed process and timetable
- Approach to the work including details/suggestions of artist/s and details of the Arts Award adviser

Cost (30%):

- Breakdown of costs including day rates and numbers of days

Please email any enquiries to:

Lisa Keys, Hadrian's Cavalry Project Management Team, on lisa.keys@minervaheritage.com



Appendix 1 – School competition advert

Hadrian's Cavalry - 'Cavalry Comics' Project

Do you like Romans?

Do you like comics?

Would you like your school to be part of the unique 'Cavalry Comics' project?...

All **FREE OF CHARGE**?

If the answer is yes, please read on...

Hadrian's Cavalry www.hadrianscavalry.co.uk is a unique project that is bringing Roman cavalry artefacts together for an exhibition across 10 museums along Hadrian's Wall. Roman cavalry artefacts from Hadrian's Wall will be on display alongside those from the British Museum, National Museums Scotland, museums in France and Germany as well as those from private collections.

The main funder of the project is Arts Council England.

Participating museums and heritage sites are:

- Arbeia Roman Fort and Museum (South Shields)
- Segedunum Roman Fort, Baths and Museum (Wallsend)
- Great North Museum: Hancock (Newcastle upon Tyne)
- Roman Vindolanda (Bardon Mill, near Hexham)
- Roman Army Museum (Greenhead, Northumberland)
- Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery (Carlisle, Cumbria)
- Senhouse Roman Museum (Maryport, Cumbria)

English Heritage venues:

- Corbridge Roman Town and Museum (Corbridge, Northumberland)
- Chesters Roman Fort and Museum (Chollerford, Northumberland)
- Housesteads Roman Fort and Museum (Haydon Bridge, Northumberland)

The project is looking for 4 schools to take part in this unique project through the medium of comics!

What do you get?

An all-expenses-paid **i.e. FREE** chance to:

- Visit one of the museums and heritage sites taking part in the exhibition to see some of the special Roman cavalry objects from around the Roman Empire. Transport cost included.
- Find out about Roman cavalry through a free tour by a Roman expert.
- Find out about and learn comic-making techniques from a comic artist.
- Create a comic (in your school) on a Roman cavalry theme (inspired by their museum visit!) with a comic artist.
- Have your work published as a hard-copy and web-based comic as a legacy for the project. Each child will receive a free hard copy.
- Undertake and complete an Arts Award Explore. Moderation administration and fee included.



Criteria for competition entrants

You must be:

- available for at least two-three contact-days in June/early July (dates to be arranged following competition)
- willing to visit a participating Hadrian's Cavalry museum (expenses paid!)
- a Key Stage 2 group that is no larger than 35 pupils
- willing to undertake and complete an Arts Award Explore
- enthusiastic and willing to learn!
- a school located within 10 miles (either side) of Hadrian's Wall

How to enter

This offer is only open to **4 school groups**.

We invite school groups to develop entries that are either...

- **A one 2-minute video/audio**
- **Two x sides A4 (can include words and pictures)**

...that explains **why they should be chosen to work with a comic artist to produce a comic about the Roman cavalry**.

The entry must:

- Be produced by the pupils that will take part if successful. Entries must be supported and submitted by teaching staff.
- Be submitted by email (or via large file-transfer website) to lisa.keys@minervaheritage.com
- Be submitted by Friday 31 March at 17:00pm.
- Adhere to the entrance criteria.

Entries will be assessed by the Hadrian's Wall Education Forum, whose members are learning staff based at each of the exhibition venues.

Please email any enquiries to:

Lisa Keys, Hadrian's Cavalry Project Management Team, on lisa.keys@minervaheritage.com