Exhibition Staging & Installation

Invitation for Expressions of Interest

About Turquoise Mountain:

Turquoise Mountain a charity established in 2006 at the behest of HRH the Prince of Wales. With programmes in Afghanistan, Myanmar and the Middle East, our aim is to preserve and regenerate historic areas and communities with a rich cultural heritage and to revive traditional crafts, and to create opportunities for jobs and skills development. Since 2006, we have worked with local communities to restore 150 historic buildings, train over 6,000 artisans, treat almost 120,000 patients, graduate hundreds of talented artisans from training programmes, and generate over $7m in international sales from clients like Kate Spade to London’s Connaught Hotel. Our country teams have now helped establish over 50 small businesses in Afghanistan, Myanmar, and the Middle East, supporting a new generation of artisan entrepreneurs who will not only drive economic development, but also preserve their unique cultures and traditions. Turquoise Mountain has also curated major international exhibitions around the world, from the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha to the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

Background:

Turquoise Mountain is working to support Syrian artisans and enable the preservation of craft traditions for generations to come. Via a month-long combined exhibition and series of events in London, Syria: Craft and Culture [working title] will celebrate Syrian heritage and showcase the finest of Syria’s artistic traditions today on a global platform. The exhibition will be held at Leighton House Museum in London, opening on 10th September 2020.

The exhibition will reimagine a room in a traditional Damascus home, exploring the different aspects of craftsmanship used for generations to create these masterpieces, and their relationship to contemporary design and high-end interiors today. The visitor will experience five spaces, each dedicated to the story of an individual Syrian craft, showcasing techniques, materials and heritage – reinterpreted by artisans and designers for contemporary audiences and buyers today.

The exhibition will be enhanced by staging that supports the narrative of the existing storylines and themed areas, the masterpiece ‘hero’ objects and interiors dressing, and the existing spaces
and features of Leighton House Museum. The pieces will include larger scale furniture items, along with homewares, carpets and soft furnishings. The aim is to enhance the contemporary pieces with visual cues and multimedia elements that introduce their historic precedents and context with grace and subtlety, drawing on existing content already compiled, and identifying sources for any final additions.

**Scope of Work:**

**Exhibition Staging**

Devise and oversee the overall plan and layout for the staging backdrop and plan for the exhibition content, hero pieces and dressing, including:

- placement, installation and secure presentation of all pieces, including larger-scale furniture items, in a public space
- planning, placement and delivery devices for all AV content and lighting
- placement and printing for all printed panels and labels
- logistics planning, installation and take-down and onward storage requirements for all pieces in the exhibition

Devise multi-media enhancements to the spaces and displays that enhance the sensory and immersive experience of the exhibit, including sounds, theatrical lighting, and film footage.

Take into account fragrances for spaces available from exhibition partners as a key part of the storylines and atmospheres.

**Exhibition Installation and Delivery**

Deliver the overall installation of exhibition AV backdrops, display panels and labels, and other content, in close coordination with Turquoise Mountain and Leighton House teams.

Oversee and ensure proper installation of all exhibition pieces and dressing for the full exhibition in a timely manner.

Oversee operational delivery of the exhibition, including UK logistics, collation and installation of the exhibition items, interiors dressings, multi-media backdrops, printed displays and any other content.
Oversee exhibition take-down and appropriate disbursal of temporary features and dressings, and movement to storage of any exhibition larger items and retail stock.

Ensure all elements of the exhibition display meet the necessary health and safety requirements for visitors and groups of all ages, and comply with RBKC Council requirements for care and conservation of a historic building. Ensure all security devices for all pieces on display as necessary for public access.

Coordinate with Turquoise Mountain teams in the UK and Jordan as required throughout the delivery of the exhibition.

Expressions of Interest:

We are now inviting Expressions of Interest from qualified exhibition design and build companies based in London.

Please submit a covering letter, descriptions of previous work and experience – highlighting in particular projects that may be comparable to this scope of work – and confirming availability for the work in the necessary timeframes.

Submissions to be marked ‘Exhibition Design & Installation’ and sent by midnight on Friday 28th February 2020 to vacancy@turquoisemountain.org

Any queries ahead of the submission deadline to be addressed to the same email.

Once expressions of interest are received, further information will be provided to interested parties, to develop a full proposal. Final selection will be made at the latest by 31 March 2020, for work to start immediately.