

3-Month Resident Theme Options & Delivery Timeline

Compensation: £450 total (£150 per output month), paid across the residency. **This is outcome-based pay for delivering the agreed outputs below, not an hourly rate.** Residents are engaged on a freelance basis only.

Deadline: 2nd November 2026 **Residency start date:** 8th February 2027 **Applications to:** lab@museumethnographersgroup.org.uk

Standard delivery structure (applies to all themes)

Every theme follows the same staggered rhythm, giving each output a full month of runway rather than compressing everything into tight weekly windows. As part of the engagement, residents are encouraged to keep their outputs as creative as possible.

- **Month 1:** Background/reflective research begins for the first blog.
- **End of Month 2:** First blog published (minimum 800 words).
- **Month 2:** In parallel, the second output is developed across this month. An interview is suggested as a starting point (The format is flexible. This can be a conversation between two practitioners, a conversation with the resident, or another approach the resident proposes to suit their interests, skills, or access). Creative processes and outputs are encouraged.
- **End of Month 3:** Second, reflexive blog (the interview or alternative output) published (minimum 800 words).
- **Early–Mid Month 3:** Optional event, if the resident chooses to run one, timed so its findings can feed into the resource.
- **Before residency end (Month 3):** Resource delivered, drawing together both blogs and (if held) the event into an action- or advice-based piece (minimum 1,500 words) that museums, practitioners, or students can use directly.
- **End of Month 4:** Resource edits actioned and published on the Digital Lab resource page.

Note: Month 4 covers editorial turnaround and publishing only; residents are not expected to do further work during this time. The resource is developed in parallel with the other outputs throughout the residency, not started only once they're finished, so it can be delivered before the residency itself ends.

Theme options

1. Democratising the Museum: Working towards accessibility and reachable spaces

Reaching working-class and under-accessed populations in museums.

- **Blog 1** (published end of Month 2, min. 800 words): reflective/background research on approaches to democratising museum access
- **Blog 2, reflexive** (published end of Month 3, min. 800 words): a suggested starting point is a conversation between practitioners at two different museums about their approaches and lessons learned; residents are welcome to propose an alternative that suits them.
- **Optional event** (Early–Mid Month 3): roundtable discussion or zine-making session with the public.
- **Resource** (min. 1,500 words, action/advice-based): delivered before residency end; edited and published end of Month 4.

2. On Improvisation, Passion and Organic Collaboration: Exploring MEG's Archive

An internally-focused theme exploring MEG's own history and archive.

- **Blog 1** (published end of Month 2, min. 800 words): reflective/background research on improvisation and organic collaboration in MEG's development.
- **Blog 2, reflexive** (published end of Month 3, min. 800 words): a suggested starting point is a conversation with MEG's current chair and a previous chair; residents are welcome to propose an alternative that suits them.
- **Optional event** (Early–Mid Month 3): a collaging session using MEG archive material, or a show-and-tell from the archive.
- **Resource** (min. 1,500 words, action/advice-based): delivered before residency end; edited and published end of Month 4.

3. To Not Forget Our Lived Experiences: DIY and repurposing practices in personal and community archive-making

Improvising and repurposing tools for community and personal archival heritage projects.

- **Blog 1** (published end of Month 2, min. 800 words): reflective/background research on community and personal archival heritage practice.
- **Blog 2, reflexive** (published end of Month 3, min. 800 words): a suggested starting point is a conversation with a community archival project; residents are welcome to propose an alternative that suits their interests or access. Creative processes and final outputs are encouraged.
- **Optional event** (Early–Mid Month 3): a practical skills workshop on building personal archives.
- **Resource** (min. 1,500 words, action/advice-based): delivered before residency end; edited and published end of Month 4.

4. Tracing Tails and Reverb: Creative Practices and Advice on Provenance Research

Exploring the practical and creative sides of object biography and provenance research, tracing the echoes an object leaves through the archive long after its original context is gone.

- **Blog 1** (published end of Month 2, min. 800 words): exploring provenance research methods and emerging creative practices in the field.
- **Blog 2, reflexive** (published end of Month 3, min. 800 words): a suggested starting point is a conversation with a provenance practitioner on practical, hands-on advice for conducting provenance research; residents are welcome to propose an alternative that suits them. Creative processes and final outputs are encouraged.
- **Optional event** (Early–Mid Month 3): a workshop on provenance research, ideally co-led with the resident's interviewee.
- **Resource** (min. 1,500 words, action/advice-based): delivered before residency end; edited and published end of Month 4.

5. Between Octopuses, Owls, and Ferrets: The Unseen Labour and Hidden Costs of Getting Into the Heritage Industry

Exploring the often-invisible labour and access barriers facing underrepresented role-holders across the sector, from front of house to conservation, handling to volunteering, and what it actually takes to get in and stay in.

- **Blog 1** (published end of Month 2, min. 800 words): reflective/background research on care, precarity, and access barriers in heritage work.
- **Blog 2, reflexive** (published end of Month 3, min. 800 words): a suggested starting point is a conversation with an underrepresented role-holder (front of house, conservator/handler, or volunteer) on life history and industry access; residents are welcome to propose an alternative that suits them.
- **Optional event** (Early–Mid Month 3): a community discussion table for people working and volunteering across museums.
- **Resource** (min. 1,500 words, action/advice-based): delivered before residency end; edited and published end of Month 4.

All resources feed the MEG Digital Lab resource page and are designed to be usable by museums, practitioners, or students. Timelines are indicative and can flex by roughly a week either way in dialogue with the coordinator.