



MANCHESTER HISTORIES

Connecting people through histories and heritage

Job Title:	Champs Camp Archive Project Community Archivist
Organisation:	Moss Side Boxing and Athletics Association
Locations:	Phil Martin Centre, 137 Princess Road, Moss Side Manchester, M14 4RE Manchester Histories, Samuel Alexander Building, University of Manchester Manchester, M13 9PL
Responsible to:	Manchester Histories CEO
Salary:	£30,500 per annum. Full time, 36 hours per week.
Contract:	Fixed term contract for 18 months. 1 September 2025 – 28 February 2027
Working Arrangements:	Flexible working. Some evening and weekend work required.
Holiday:	32 days per year

Purpose

Champs Camp was the first successful Black boxing gym in Britain, with Phil Martin, its founder, the UK's first Black boxing trainer, manager and promoter. Martin revolutionised British boxing during the 1980s and 1990s, introducing new ways of training and transforming the lives of thousands of young men and boys across Greater Manchester in the process. He deliberately challenged the public association of Moss Side with guns and

gangs, helping to produce UK and World champions and make Manchester a centre of the sport.

This project will preserve and make publicly accessible the records of a hugely significant but largely unknown episode in UK Black history. Its legacy will be the preservation of a unique and extensive archive of film, photography, and posters, the collection of a wide-ranging oral history, and the production of a permanent digital archive, accessible to anyone including educators, activists and the wider community.

The role

This role is funded by a National Lottery Fund grant and is run by a partnership of the Moss Side Boxing and Athletics Association (MSBAA) and Manchester Histories, with support from staff at the University of Manchester in History and the Research Data Management Support Service. The role will be located at both MSBAA and the University of Manchester and managed by the Manchester Histories team.

MSBAA is a small charity which runs the Phil Martin Centre in which Champs Camp is located. Its charitable aims, established by Martin in 1988, are to organise and provide facilities for physical recreation in the interest of social welfare for young people in and around Moss Side in Manchester, with a specific emphasis on education and training for young people of Black and minority ethnic origins and/or underprivileged economic backgrounds. Since Martin's death in 1994, the charity has continued to operate Champs Camps for a range of users, with a continuing focus on the physical and social welfare of young people in the Moss Side area. The Champs Camp project will shine a light on our activities and raise the profile of Champs Camp, attracting increased public interest and encouraging more young people to take part in our activities. MSBAA has looked after the Phil Martin and Champs Camp archive for 30 years and is operated by a group of committed trustees. The Chair of MSBAA, Maurice Coore, is a former British light heavyweight champion from Moss Side who both trained and was a trainer at Champs Camp and who now runs the Phil Martin Centre which houses Champs Camp, as a volunteer. He will be part of the delivery team for the Champs Camp project, facilitating the community archivist's liaison with individuals who can help identify the subjects, places and dates of film, photography and posters in the archive.

Manchester Histories is an award-winning charity that works collaboratively to reveal, share and celebrate Greater Manchester's diverse histories and heritage. They connect people to explore the past and shape the future through histories and heritage. Manchester Histories are proud to celebrate the diversity, creativity, ingenuity and social principles of the people of the 10 Greater Manchester districts. Our engagement with histories and heritage empowers people, both as creators and audiences, by recognising and valuing their stories.

They develop work in partnership with communities, academics, volunteers, artists and organisations, so our work manifests itself in response to the people we work with and for. As a result, Manchester Histories creates work that is innovative, creative and different. Manchester Histories also deliver a year-long public and community engagement programme and host the biennial Manchester Histories Festival.

The University of Manchester is the UK's largest single site university, with outstanding facilities and the widest range of courses. It is highly respected across the globe as a centre of teaching excellence and innovative research. With 25 Nobel Prize winners among its current and former staff and students, it has a history of world firsts and brilliant discoveries, from splitting the atom to giving the world graphene. The University is committed to world-class research, an outstanding learning and student experience, and social responsibility. It is the only university in the world to rank in the top ten for social and environmental impact in every year of the *Times Higher Education* Impact Rankings. This project will draw on expertise from Professor Hannah Barker of the History Department and staff from the University's Research Data Management Support Service. The University of Manchester will be providing access to the Figshare for Institutions research data repository which will host the project's digital outputs and the fully resourced research data management support service as part of its research support for Barker. An oral history of Champs Camp will be carried out by Barker to collect the stories and memories of those involved in Champs Camp and who knew Phil Martin and which will form part of the Champs Camp Archive.

Main Job Tasks

- Overseeing the digitisation of the Champs Camp photo and poster collection; the creation of high-quality reproductions of images to be displayed at the gym with the originals stored in safe conditions; and the digitisation of the film archive currently stored on VHS tapes. All digitisation work will be undertaken by commercial providers and training in film editing will be provided by staff at the North West Film Archive.
- Cataloguing the photo, poster and film archive as well as the oral history outputs to create the metadata needed to adhere to FAIR principles for online digital data.
- Uploading the Champs Camp digital archive to the University of Manchester trusted research data repository using Figshare for Institutions to ensure that all project materials (digitised photographs and films, audio files of oral history interviews and text transcriptions) are publicly available, findable and properly described.

- Being an active member of the Champs Camp project steering committee.
- Liaising with the team producing the new Champs Camp website to act as an ultra-user-friendly landing stage to link to the extensive digital archive (ensuring easy access and sustainability of a large digital asset).
- Liaising with the team producing a short (5-7 minute) film on the history of Champ's Camp, available on the project website and used in project publicity and engagement.
- Assisting other members of the team to engage with local communities via a series of boxing history and archive encounters at Champs Camp aimed at young people and two open weekends at the Phil Martin Centre.
- Liaising with the teams responsible for publicising and evaluating the project.
- Any other duties as required to deliver the Champs Camp project.

Person Specification

Essential

- Professional archivist with post graduate qualification in archive management or equivalent experience (at least 2-3 years working in relevant archive roles)
- Proven understanding of community archive outputs (both physical and digital)
- Proven ability to work collaboratively with community groups, building trust and relationships within short-term projects
- A high level of computer literacy and the proven ability to work with online repositories (detailed knowledge of Figshare is not required, training will be provided by the University of Manchester's Research Data Management Support Service)
- Excellent time management and organisation skills
- Proven experience of working to project deadlines and outcomes
- Proven excellence in working effectively with a variety of project stakeholders
- Exceptional verbal communication skills, with the ability to enthuse stakeholders
- The ability and willingness to travel to workshops and to work occasional evenings and weekends as and when required
- A team player who openly communicates about your work and looks for opportunities to maximise integrated working

- An ability to follow instructions but also to work on your own initiative to get things done, managing priorities as appropriate for the needs of the organisation
- An organised and professional approach to your work
- A calm, confident and friendly persona

Desirable

- A genuine passion for Black and community history
- A knowledge of boxing and its history
- Experience of working on community projects

Manchester Histories strives to understand, respect and champion diversity in all its forms and believes in embracing diversity within our workforce and practices. We welcome and encourage job applications from people of all backgrounds.
