

SOUTH KEN CULTURE QUARTER

South Kensington Zero Emissions Nature Positive (South Ken ZEN+) Programme Manager

Salary: £55-60,000 per annum (fractional delivery will be actively considered)
Contract: Contract until end of September 2029
Location: South Ken Culture Quarter office, Natural History Museum
Hours: Five days per week
Reporting to: Director

Overview:

This is an exciting opportunity to take on the stewardship of a unique, multi-award-winning capacity-building programme which responds to the climate and biodiversity crisis. [South Ken ZEN+](#) is a collaboration between [22 world-leading cultural, scientific and educational organisations](#) in South Kensington, London. The programme aims, through collaboration and economies of scale, to foster a global exemplar of a zero-emissions and nature positive neighbourhood.

About South Ken Culture Quarter:

The Exhibition Road Cultural Group is a small charity, funded via subscription by its member organisations. [South Ken Culture Quarter](#) is our public-facing profile and name. Our South Ken ZEN+ Programme is currently funded by the Royal Commission for 1851.

Our Members share more than geography – they have a shared heritage and mission – founded as a legacy of the Great Exhibition of 1851 for the purpose of promoting excellence and participation in arts and science for the benefit of society. We work together to ensure the world's original cultural district is thriving, welcoming and enjoyable for all who visit, work, live and study here. This district is a crucible for change which uses its combined creativity and expertise in science and the arts to inspire, innovate and showcase the possible.

South Ken Culture Quarter's Vision is "A welcoming and inclusive place where continuing generations can nourish their curiosity, discover and share inspirational experiences through the arts, sciences and innovation, and help shape a neighbourhood that is greener, healthier and built to last."

About South Ken ZEN+

Started in 2022, South Ken ZEN+ is a multi-award-winning programme of activity which cuts across all SKCQ members in South Kensington. The Climate and Biodiversity Crisis is vast, and demands transformation from us at every level. South Ken ZEN+ brings our members together to address shared challenges, break down silos, share learning and create economies of scale. It seeks to support all SKCQ member organisations, irrespective of their size, complexity or maturity in matters of sustainability.

Having evaluated the first phase of activity, the programme is maturing into its next stage with a clear strategic aim. Guided by the SKCQ Vision, the two major projects to lead forward in this new stage of the programme are:

- Improvements to make the public realm of the Culture Quarter that support biodiversity, address climate change and improve the experience for all who use it.
- Continue work towards reducing neighbourhood-wide emissions, including work towards formation of a Strategic Energy Partnership.

The Role:

The role sits in the small SKCQ team of four, currently based in offices at the Natural History Museum, and works closely with immediate colleagues and teams across all SKCQ Member organisations.

The Programme Manager has sole responsibility for managing and coordinating the programme of activities under South Ken ZEN+. This is a proactive, strategic coordination and engagement role whose purpose is to enable collaborative working towards projects making a lasting positive impact to the neighbourhood. They will bring their expertise in climate-resilient and biodiverse public realm and/or heat and energy networks to the role, working alongside the SKCQ Director, who will lead on fundraising, alongside Executive level communication with the member organisations, local authorities, GLA and national government.

We know we can do more and do it more quickly if we work together. The South Ken ZEN+ Programme Manager is the key to this. They will contribute fresh ideas, successfully influence and inspire, and develop and deliver projects from inception to completion. They will also engage a wide range of audiences and work closely with subject matter experts from across the membership and beyond.

Other information

This is a contract role for a fixed period until the end of September 2029 with flexibility to work at home some days. The South Ken Culture Quarter office is currently at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington.

You will have a basic entitlement of 25 days holiday each year in addition to bank and public holidays. SKCQ also offers a pension contribution of 8% of salary (if you contribute at least 5%).

As part of this role, you will have the opportunity to visit the cultural venues in South Kensington and to experience their extraordinary programme of temporary exhibitions. You will also be offered professional development opportunities.

All offers of employment made are conditional and subject to satisfactory receipt of references.

Application process:

To apply please send a CV and a cover letter (maximum of two pages) detailing why you are interested in this role and how you have the skill and experience we require.

The closing date is 23.59 on Sunday 4 October 2026.

Please send your application by email to recruitment@exhibitionroad.com

First Stage Interviews will be held in the week commencing Monday 19 October 2026.

For an informal discussion or for further information please contact Dan Feeney, Interim Director at dan@exhibitionroad.com.

Programme Manager Responsibilities:

Project & Programme management

- Overall planning and coordination of the South Ken ZEN+ programme. Working closely with the SKCQ Director, this post will service the Programme Sub-Committee, convene and manage delivery groups, round tables, training and all programme comms.
- Support the SKCQ Director in reporting to SKCQ Board, partners and funders, identifying decision points and milestones and ensuring momentum on the South Ken ZEN+ strategy.
- Convene South Ken ZEN+ partners to define actionable plans to progress emissions reduction and public realm adaptation and improvement work in the area.
- Project manage constituent projects as required

Project and Business Case Development:

- Work with SKZ+ delivery groups and external partner networks to identify projects focused on delivery on the strategic aim of emissions reduction through heat and energy partnerships; develop related briefs, business cases, governance and resource plans responding to the programme's strategic aims.
- Work with the SKCQ Director to identify relevant public realm interventions, including "test and learn" opportunities, including commissioning of relevant research to inform activity.
- Work with the SKCQ Director to seek out, identify and secure funding opportunities; develop and submit funding proposals.

Stakeholder engagement and Communications:

- Work with the SKCQ Director to build Senior Executive support for shared projects, clearly communicating the benefits of action, and risks of inaction.
- Manage relationships with key stakeholders – both internal and external to SKCQ.
- Be the lead point of contact on SKZ+ and proactively grow the SKZ+ network.
- Represent SKCQ and South Ken ZEN+ externally.
- Proactively seek engagement, partnerships and advocacy opportunities beyond the SKZ+ network (for example with the Climate Toolkit or the London Anchor Institutions Network).
- Work with the Projects & Marketing Assistant to keep the SKZ+ website up-to-date, issue regular newsletters, and maintain SKCQ mailing lists.

Events & Training:

- Utilise SKCQ member expertise and external knowledge networks to meet the member sustainability needs around knowledge growth
- Assess best means to support the SKZ+ Carbon Literacy Training programme, quality assurance of training and evaluation to ensure that high standards of certification are maintained. Liaise with the SKZ+ CLT trainers' network to ensure continuity of delivery and maintenance of skills.

Budget and contract management:

- Manage annual programme budget
- Prepare grant applications, and reporting.
- Prepare briefs and end-to-end tender processes for external contractors/consultants as required.
- Manage contractors

Monitoring and reporting:

- Monitor and report progress against the programme Theory of Change and Evaluation Framework.
- Draft, coordinate and present reports for stakeholders and funders.

Risk management:

- Identify project/programme risks, develop a mitigation plan and ensure that the SKCQ Director, SKZ+ Sub-Committee and Board are aware of project risks.

Other duties as directed by the Director to meet the demands of the South Ken ZEN+ programme

Current Projects include:

- SKZ+ Heat & Energy Project
- Placemaking & Urban Greening
- SKZ+ Carbon Literacy Training oversight
- Great Exhibition Road Festival (annually in June)

(Information on the above can be found on the www.southkenzen.org website)

Skills and Experience:

Essential

- Proven project and programme management experience and ability to deliver a wide range of projects with competing deadlines and demands, including ability to respond to changing circumstances at pace.
- Experience of either environmental sustainability or public realm change programmes.
- Experience of preparing funding applications and drafting work specifications, briefs, appointing and managing contractors.
- Strong interpersonal skills, confident engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, and able to convene, facilitate and influence.
- Highly effective communicator with strong verbal and written communication skills, and demonstrable experience of tailoring content for the needs of different audiences.
- Experience of producing written information for reporting and creating material for internal and external engagement.
- Experience and understanding of working with Local Authority stakeholders.
- Fundraising and Business case development experience.
- Team worker with the ability to work independently and a willingness to find solutions.
- Effective problem-solving skills.

Desirable

- Experience delivering similar programmes in the charity/not-for-profit sector.
- Direct experience in the management of environmental sustainability programmes, addressing sustainability issues in a large cultural organisation or Higher Education institution, local authority or an organisation with SKCQ membership.
- Experience of managing partnership projects with multiple organisations and stakeholder groups, including projects focused on organisational change.
- Knowledge of environmental legislation and policy context in London, UK and globally. Connection to the sustainability sector and ability to keep up to date with significant developments.
- Knowledge of the energy, facilities management and construction sectors.
- Numerically competent with good analytical skills and the ability to evaluate data, construct logical arguments, experience of managing budgets.

Further Reading:

- [South Ken ZEN+ Introductory Video](#)
- [South Ken ZEN+ Phase 1 evaluation \(2023-2025\)](#)
- [South Ken ZEN+ Phase 2 Theory of Change](#)