



BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS TRUST

CHARITY TRUSTEE AND NON-EXECUTIVE COMPANY DIRECTOR

Introduction

Birmingham Museums Trust (BMT) is governed by a Board of Trustees, and its commercial activities are the responsibility of a wholly-owned subsidiary company, Birmingham Museums Trading Limited (the Trading Company), governed by its own separate Board.

We wish to appoint a number of talented people to BMT's Board. You will ideally have board level experience and are a commercially and financially astute individual with the ability to make sound judgments and offer critical appraisal. To stand out, you will be able to demonstrate these attributes through a successful track record. We are looking for individuals who have one or more of the following qualities:

- knowledge and experience of working with charities
- experience in regeneration and development projects
- strategic partnership building
- income generation
- excellent networks and expertise in tourism and hospitality, media, retail, healthcare and wellbeing, civic museums, or visitor attractions
- a passion for Birmingham's past and future
- belief in and commitment to the values of Birmingham Museums Trust

The role of Trustee provides you with the opportunity to work alongside members of the management team to provide leadership and direction, ensuring the decisions taken by the Board are in the best interests of BMT, from both commercial and strategic perspectives. You will help to shape our business strategy and drive forward our performance.

The position is a voluntary one. Reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed. The Board meets during the day four or five times a year at BMT sites. Trustees will be expected to attend occasional evening events such as exhibition launches, networking, or donor cultivation events.

BMT relies on donations as a vital part of its income. Trustees are expected to lead by example and contribute annually at a level that is meaningful to them, for example becoming a [member](#) or [patron](#).

Background

Birmingham Museums Trust was set up in 2012 as an independent charity to manage the city's museum collection and venues on behalf of Birmingham City Council. We earn over 60% of our turnover from a range of sources: admission fees, membership subscriptions, trading and fundraising income. Our two main sources of public funding are Birmingham City Council and Arts Council England.

BMT has achieved its original aims during the first five years. Our visitor numbers have grown to over 1 million visits a year. Our audiences are becoming more diverse. Our trading company's performance has improved. It now yields a return of 25% on turnover of over £2m, making a substantial contribution to BMT and reducing its dependence on public funding.

The collection that is managed by BMT is of national importance and includes areas of international acclaim including the Staffordshire Hoard and the most important collection of Pre-Raphaelite paintings anywhere in the world. The responsibility of BMT concerns not just the curation and display of artwork and artefacts but also the upkeep, maintenance and development of Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, seven other display and heritage sites and a collection and storage centre. Beyond this, BMT has delivered and continues to deliver a range of notably successful projects and activities. The Collecting Birmingham project, the Change Makers programme, the Faith in Birmingham gallery and other co-curated displays and exhibitions have expanded the reach of our engagement to many more of the communities of this super-diverse city. The Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme, New Art West Midlands and other exhibitions have strengthened Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery's profile as a venue for contemporary art. We will be touring a major exhibition to eight venues in North America, raising the profile of Birmingham and its museums internationally. Fundraising for the new miniBrum gallery for under-eights at Thinktank is near completion.

Across all our venues, our dedicated teams are delivering more vibrant public programming and improving levels of customer service, as our Visit England scores show. Above all, we have forged lasting partnerships that we can build on for the future. All this has been achieved in interesting times.

Role Profile for Charity Trustee and Company Director for Birmingham Museums Trust (BMT)

Key functions:

1. To work with the Chair, Director, and senior management of BMT on strategic and business plans;
2. To ensure BMT establishes key objectives to deliver the agreed plans, identifies and assesses the risk of achieving them and regularly monitors performance to ensure appropriate corrective action can be taken, if necessary, in a timely manner;
3. To ensure BMT remains financially sustainable;
4. To use professional and personal knowledge, experience and relationships constructively to inform and challenge BMT's strategies and plans;
5. To represent BMT appropriately with national, regional or local bodies or individuals, to enhance the position of BMT;
6. To lead or participate in relevant sub-committees or task groups if required;
7. To ensure BMT complies with all relevant laws, regulation and guidance, and maintains high standards of corporate governance;
8. To ensure that robust and comprehensive controls and information systems are in place to provide reliable and timely information to the Board;
9. Abide by BMT's values and policies, including those on confidentiality, health and safety, equal opportunities and safeguarding.

In carrying out these functions, the Trustee will also:

- a. Act with integrity, complying fully with the [seven principles of public life](#) and the Charity Commission's [requirements for a charity trustee](#);
- b. Be supportive of the aims of BMT and its subsidiaries and keep informed as far as is reasonable of relevant developments in the sector;
- c. Ensure BMT operates in accordance with its objects as set out in its Articles;
- d. Ensure the Board acts at all times in the best interest of BMT and its beneficiaries.

Apply

For an informal exploratory conversation please contact Professor Ian Grosvenor or Dr Ellen McAdam via Sandra Starkey on 0121 348 8019 or sandra.starkey@birminghammuseums.org.uk

To apply please submit:

- 1) A copy of your CV, including your postal and email address and contact telephone number(s).
- 2) A concise covering letter outlining how your experience matches the requirements for this position and why you are interested in joining the Board of Trustees.
- 3) Please supply the contact details of two referees. Referees will not be contacted without your prior consent.

Please email the above to sandra.starkey@birminghammuseums.org.uk. Your application will be acknowledged.

The closing date for applications: 9:00am Monday 30 April 2018