



**Foundling
Museum**

Trustees, Foundling Museum Appointment Brief



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Cover: On display at the Foundling Museum, *Trumpet Boy* (2010) by Yinka Shonibare MBE © Yinka Shonibare. Photograph by Dan Weill

Below: Brought together by Museum Trustee and Foundling Fellow, Lemn Sissay, OBE, 59



Welcome from Emma Ridgway

Director, Foundling Museum



Thank you for your interest in being a Trustee at the Foundling Museum.

The Foundling Museum is a contemporary museum established in 2004, with collections that stretch back to the 18th Century. I joined about 18 months ago, drawn to the Museum's distinctive focus on leading artists working to highlight children's social care, from the 1740s to today. It is a wonderful Museum, modest in scale, ambitious in scope, and abundant with future possibilities.

The Museum has entered a dynamic new chapter as a wholly independent charity shaping a new vision. Last year, we secured the 999-year lease for the building and historical collection, thanks to our successful £4.6 million fundraising campaign. We also completed our first year of Arts Council England NPO funding for 2023-27, which supports our ambitions to further expand our impact and to diversify the audiences that we reach.

Our museum building is unique; constructed in the 1930s to house the most innovative art and design features from the 1740s Foundling Hospital, including the first public art galleries in Britain. With four floors to explore, we invite visitors to discover moving stories about love, loss, and care. At the heart of our work is our award-winning arts training program for young people who have been in care, along with arts and wellbeing activities for early years children, families, and local communities. Our acclaimed contemporary exhibitions and events are greatly enjoyed by audiences. However, we still have much we want to achieve. Building on the Museum's strong values and inspiring accomplishments, we are embarking on a bold five-year strategy focused on arts and social impact for 2025-2030.

At the Foundling Museum, we believe that creative action has the power to change lives and shape a better future. In the pages that follow, you can learn more about the Museum's broad and impactful work. I hope this will interest you and encourage you to consider the unique role you could play in contributing to the Museum's future.

If you already know the Foundling Museum, I hope you will want to find out more. If you haven't come across us before, welcome! Either way, I am delighted that you are considering the role of Trustee, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Welcome from **Sue Hoyle** Chair, Foundling Museum



This is a vital time to join the Board of the Foundling Museum. Since it was established twenty years ago, the museum has built a strong reputation for its historic collections and innovative programme of exhibitions, events, workshops and training. Now, we are poised to move into a new phase, achieving even greater impact and visibility as we tell the story of care-experienced people and those who care for them, and demonstrate the emotional power of the arts in achieving social change.

Our committed and enthusiastic Board of Trustees brings a wealth of skills, experience and perspectives, to serve and support the charity's aims and ambitions. In order to move forward with confidence, we have identified the need to recruit two new Trustees to join the Board in its shared efforts. One of the new Trustees will bring expertise in property management and premises, to help guide us in caring for our historic building and ensuring it is fit for purpose. We are also seeking a Trustee with experience in fundraising and income generation, who will help us strengthen and diversify the income needed to realise our vision, nurturing and building on our base of loyal supporters.

It is a huge privilege and a joy to be able to support such a dynamic and creative organisation. I do hope you will consider joining us.

The Foundling Museum is the only museum to celebrate care-experienced people, and all those who care for them. It is the only foundling hospital museum in the world that has an art collection donated by artists, and the only one to tell the story of the birth of creative philanthropy.



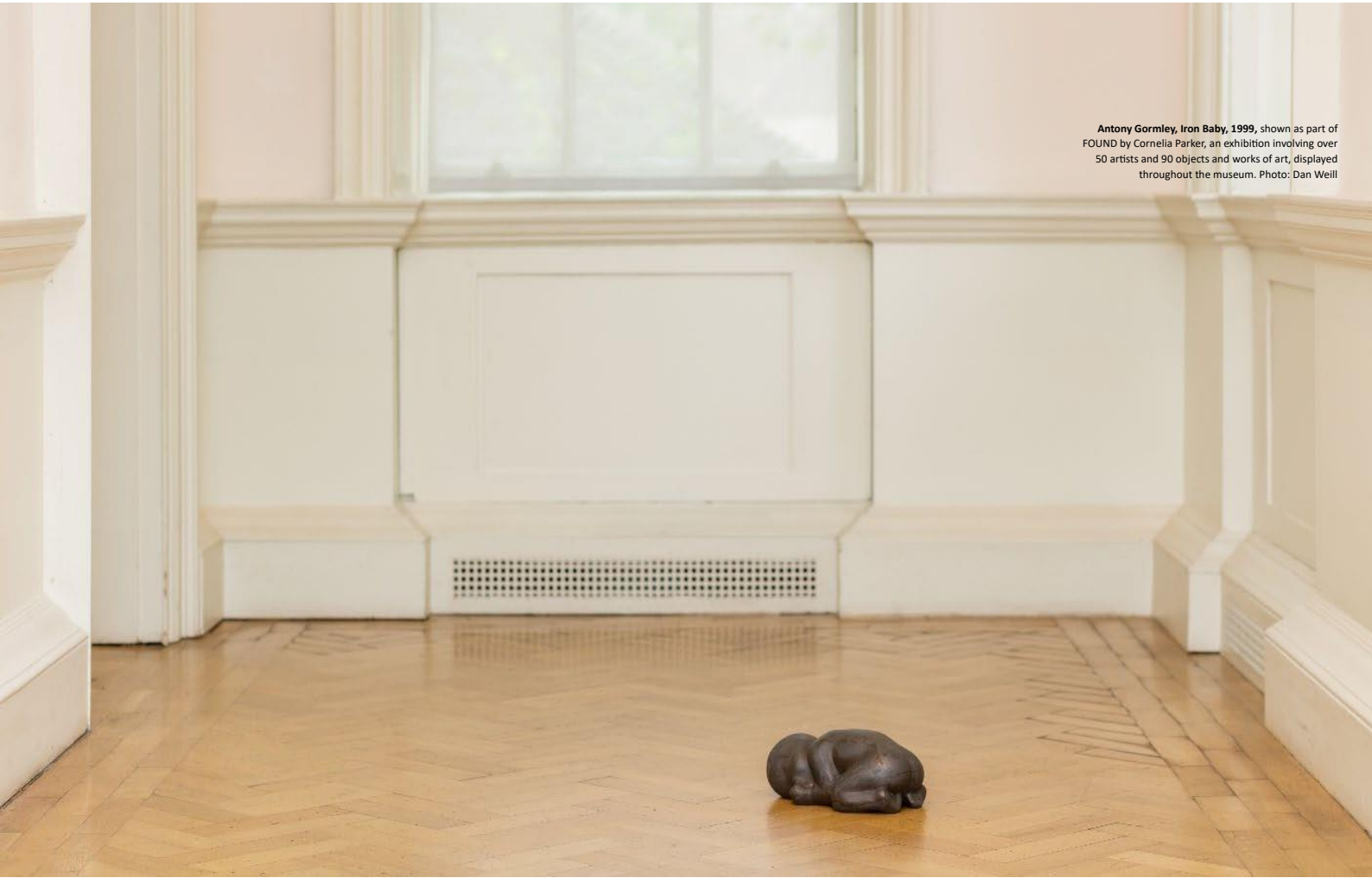
The Foundling Museum

Opened in 2004, the Museum sits on the site of the Foundling Hospital; the UK's first children's charity and first public art gallery. The Foundling Hospital began as a pioneering project centered on the belief that each one of us has a responsibility to help improve the lives of vulnerable women and children. Specifically, it was for 'foundlings', babies and children whose birth parents could not care for them due to circumstances beyond their control.

The original Foundling Hospital was a children's home located on what is now Coram's Fields, from 1741 to 1954. The ambition of excellence for the foundling children - including grand architecture, quality education, nutritious food and the arts - reflected the integrity of its founder, the campaigner Thomas Coram (1668 - 1751).

From the 1740s, artists made the Foundling Hospital London's most fashionable cause and destination, and the first public art gallery. Artist William Hogarth designed the coat of arms, children's uniforms, and initiated the art collection shown at the Museum. Composer George Frideric Handel conducted benefit concerts of Messiah in the chapel, and later writer Charles Dickens was a supporter too. Their compassion and generosity show that art transforms lives.

At the Foundling Museum and off-site, we work with outstanding contemporary artists, writers, and musicians to ensure that leading artists continue to be part of the story of care. Across the four floors of the 1930s building, formerly the headquarters of the children's home, we invite visitors to explore compelling historic and new stories of love, loss, and care.



Antony Gormley, *Iron Baby*, 1999, shown as part of FOUND by Cornelia Parker, an exhibition involving over 50 artists and 90 objects and works of art, displayed throughout the museum. Photo: Dan Weill

Our Collections

The Museum is responsible for the care and maintenance of two collections – the Foundling Hospital Collection and the Foundling Museum Collection, which includes the Gerald Coke Handel Collection. Together they encompass everyday objects used in the Foundling Hospital, documents, records, musical scores and librettos, photographs and oral history recordings, as well as significant works of art, clocks, furniture and historic interiors, many of which were created for the Hospital and donated by their makers.

Some of the most moving objects are the identifying tokens left by mothers with their babies in the Hospital's earliest years. Deeply touching too is the Foundling Voices oral history collection – testimonies of former pupils of the Foundling Hospital School in the twentieth century, the last generation of children to grow up there.

The Foundling Hospital Collection was donated by artists of all disciplines in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, to raise awareness and funds for the charity. The Foundling Museum is responsible for the historic collection and building, which are on a 999-year lease from the children's charity Coram. The Museum Collection

contains contemporary art and objects donated, commissioned and acquired, from 1700s to the present day, including work by Tracey Emin, Michael Craig-Martin, Ingrid Pollard, Wolfgang Tillmans, Cornelia Parker and Yinka Shonibare CBE.

The Gerald Coke Handel Collection is an internationally important library and archive. It comprises over 12,000 items from the eighteenth century to the present, and is a major research resource for the study of Handel and his contemporaries. It includes manuscript and printed music and documents, books, journals, libretti, sound recordings, artworks and artefacts, and an important collection of performance ephemera relating to Handel and his circle.

A highlight of the collection is Handel's autograph will; written in 1750, it was later supplemented by four codicils, including one dated 4 August 1757 which includes his bequest to the Foundling Hospital of 'a fair copy of the Score and all Parts of my oratorio called The Messiah'.

You can find out more about our Collections [here](#). To find out more about our Exhibitions and Displays please visit our [website](#).



Visitor in front of William Hogarth's *March of the Guards to Finchley, 1750*, listening to a historically accurate 3D soundscape, created by Martyn Ware for the exhibition *Hogarth & The Art of Noise*



Programmes & Public Engagement

Our exhibitions, commissions and creative projects generate new understandings of art and social history and tackle social issues to highlight the continuing relevance of our historic story. Collection displays combine historic art and objects from the Foundling Hospital Collection and the Gerald Coke Handel Collection, with contemporary work. Temporary exhibitions, collection interventions and projects enable diverse voices to challenge historical narratives, particularly in relation to histories traditionally excluded from the mainstream.

Our curatorial programme generates strong media coverage; a growing profile, nationally and internationally; and a range of academic partners including Central St Martins, Birkbeck College, the Royal College of Art, and Goldsmiths. Current collaborative PhDs include, *Forgotten Foundlings: Black Lives and the 18th-Century Foundling Hospital*, with The Centre for Global Histories, University of Warwick.

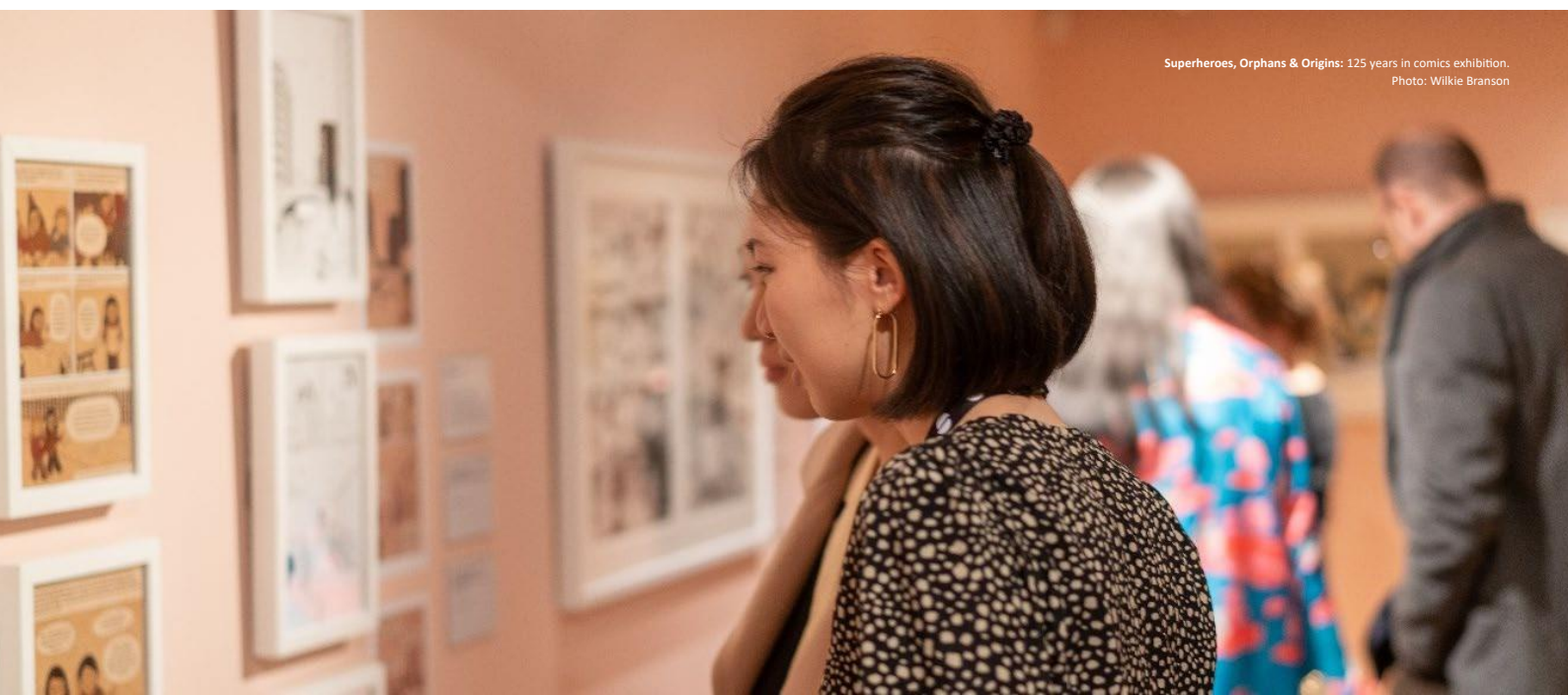
Left: The Covid Letters: A Vital Update, an exhibition created by Foundling Fellow, Jon Banger, curated by Jeremy Deller and featuring work by over 200 young people from across the UK.

Right: Family workshop led by a graduate of the museum's training programme for young care-leavers, *Tracing Our Tales*.

Exhibitions & Displays

Creating a dialogue between the past and the present, to draw out the contemporary relevance of our historic story, is central to our exhibitions and collection displays. Recent examples include:

- ***The Mother & The Weaver:*** Art from the Ursula Hauser Collection, a landmark exhibition occupying the whole museum, featuring artists including Louise Bourgeois, Marlene Dumas and Pipilotti Rist.
- ***Finding Family,*** explored the idea of family through visual art from the 17th Century to the present day, curated in collaboration with the National Gallery and poetic responses from our trainees.
- ***Tiny Traces: Black & Asian children at London's Foundling Hospital,*** an exhibition drawing on our collaborative PhD student's research, including artwork by Zarina Bhimji, Hew Locke, Kehinde Wiley.
- ***Radical Empathy:*** large-scale photographs by Akytom, inspired by the poetry of Yomi Sode.
- ***Superheroes, Orphans & Origins:*** 125 years in comics: the first exhibition to explore orphaned, adopted, fostered and found characters in comics from around the world.
- ***Fighting Talk:*** one boy's journey from abandonment to Trafalgar, an exhibition exploring the life of 18th century foundling, George King, based on his previously unseen memoir.
- ***Ships' Tack:*** a display and commission by Ingrid Pollard, reflecting on George King's story in relation to Empire, trade and the Navy.
- Six commissioned portraits of seven former pupils of the Foundling Hospital, made by artists Jillian Edelstein; Mahtab Hussain, Eileen Perrier, David Moore, Ingrid Pollard and Wolfgang Tillmans: the first portraits of any of the 25,000+ children who went through the Hospital between 1741-1954.
- ***Quentin Blake:*** Gifted, an exhibition of 24 large-scale drawings donated by Blake, with commissioned responses from poets Opefoluwa Sarah Adegbite, 4 Brown Girls Who Write, Jackie Kay, Michael Rosen, Yomi Sode, and Ben Westwood.
- ***The Covid Letters:*** A vital update: an exhibition by designer and DJ Sports Banger, curated by Jeremy Deller, featuring over 200 works made by children in lockdown, in response to Boris Johnson's letter to UK households at the start of the pandemic.



Superheroes, Orphans & Origins: 125 years in comics exhibition.
Photo: Wilkie Branson

Social Impact

The Museum's intimate scale and remarkable story enables it to develop long-term creative relationships that have a real impact on young lives. Its pioneering, artist-led work is delivered through key strands:

- Children in care and care-experienced young adults: creative workshops, training and employment that improve self-esteem and self-confidence, support successful independent living, a return to education, improved employment prospects, and improved mental health
- Early years: working with our partner nurseries and primary schools to tackle the education attainment gap, through fortnightly creative workshops and regular parental involvement.
- Families: free, high-quality workshops and resources, open to all, that also provide a progression pathway for local disadvantaged families participating in our early years programmes
- Mental health: working with Camden MIND to support local residents with diagnosed mental health conditions, through prescribed creative workshops
- We are sector leaders in creative programming for looked after and care-experienced young people. Tracing Our Tales, our paid training programme for 18–26-year-olds with experience of the care system, has a track record of improving trainees' mental health, boosting their self-esteem and self-confidence, and enabling them to deliver Museum workshops, return to education and secure employment. In 2022, Tracing Our Tales won the Museum & Heritage Award for Learning Programme of the Year.
- At the Museum we have a 12-month post for a care-experienced young person, designed to overcome barriers to a career in the Museums and heritage sector;

You can see interviews with participants on our trainee programme [here](#).



Foundling Fellows

Leading artists, musicians, writers and activists join the life of the Museum and create a project that animates the relationship between creativity, philanthropy and social action, particularly in relation to young people. Fellows include Jackie Kay, Quentin Blake, Grayson Perry, Cornelia Parker, Michael Morpurgo, Jacqueline Wilson, Sam Lee, Lemn Sissay, Jackie Kay, Lily Cole and Sports Banger.

Our Foundling Fellows are ambassadors for our work, the Foundling Fellowship is given biennially to three creative individuals whose work resonates with the visionary, creative philanthropy of Thomas Coram, William Hogarth and George Frideric Handel. Each of our Fellows creates a project that brings our historic story to life and contributes to the work of the Museum.

Soup for 100, an annual event created by Foundling Fellow, Richard Wentworth, where creative people interested in children's welfare, gather to exchange ideas over a meal prepared and served by museum staff. Photo: Dan Weill



Royal Patronage

In 2019, Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales became Patron of the Foundling Museum, having first visited in 2017. The patronage recognises the Museum's unique work to transform the wellbeing and life chances of vulnerable children and young adults, through creative collaboration with artists.

In 2022 and 2023, the Princess visited with The Prince of Wales, to meet sector leaders, foster parents and care-experienced adults and young people, to hear about the challenges facing care-leavers, their mental health, and the high rates of homelessness among young people leaving care.

"I am incredibly proud to be the Patron of the Foundling Museum, an organisation which has delivered pioneering creative programmes and life-changing support to families and young people for twenty years. Their ground-breaking work to support each care-experienced young person to fundamentally change the future direction of their lives is one that means the world to me.

"Importantly, it shows that it is never too late to make a difference, and that by providing the right support, we can enable those who have faced real difficulties to overcome their challenges and achieve their goals. The Museum's work opens the door to new opportunities for vulnerable children and young people, connecting them with artists and developing skills which they can take into their adult lives. By helping them to undertake this journey, we can create positive, lasting change that benefits our society as a whole.

- **HRH The Princess of Wales,
Summer 2023.**



Sustainability

We have ambitious plans to increase our local, national, and international profile.

As a charity the Museum has a strong and developed network of active supporters amongst individuals, trusts and foundations, an engaged Chair and Board of Trustees and Vice Presidents. You can find out more about our governance and Board [here](#).

We are agile and entrepreneurial in our approach to fundraising and have established a number of successful and innovative strands of income generation. The Museum benefits from the advice and support including an Investment Committee and a separate Trading Company, which donates its profits annually to the Museum.

Right: Pupils from a partner nursery taking part in a twice-monthly creative workshop.
Left: Members of Chineke! Youth Orchestra performing. Photo: Dan Weill



Our New Trustees

Context

Following the recent appointment of Sue Hoyle as Chair, the Foundling Museum is now looking for two Trustees to join the Board, to build upon and further develop all that has been achieved so far. The Board are looking to appoint candidates with specific expertise in two key areas; Fundraising & Development, and Property Management.

The Opportunity

This is a very exciting opportunity to join the Board of the most special and impactful cultural organisations in the UK. A Museum with a rich history and world class programme, the Foundling Museum continues its founding principles of supporting children and young people, especially those who have been touched by the care system.

Fundraising & Development Trustee


The Trustee with expertise in fundraising and development will offer strategic guidance to support the Foundling Museum's efforts in securing financial resources and nurturing key relationships. With a proven background in fundraising, either at board, executive or advisory level, the Trustee will contribute to shaping high-level fundraising strategy covering all aspects of income generation, including major gifts, corporate partnerships, grants, and patron engagement. The Trustee will provide valuable advice on revenue diversification strategies, helping to broaden the Museum's patronage and support its long-term sustainability. Strong communication and networking skills will be essential, alongside the ability to engage effectively with a diverse range of stakeholders, including individual donors, foundations, and government bodies. Familiarity with development campaigns, events, and an understanding of the cultural or nonprofit sector would be an asset.

Property Management Trustee

The Trustee with expertise in property, estate and heritage asset management will provide strategic oversight in guiding the Foundling Museum's property and infrastructure initiatives, supporting the executive in identifying and developing detailed proposals for specific projects. They will also advise on the custodianship of the Museum's building, contributing to high-level discussions around planning, legal considerations, and the overall direction of property projects, while offering advice on securing project finance and navigating the political and regulatory environment. They will play a key role in ensuring effective financial oversight, supporting the executive navigate the management of commercial contracts, and advising on risk management throughout the development process.

Role Description

Responsibilities of Trustees include:

- Contributing to the effective leadership to the board, ensuring it fulfills its obligations in helping to formulate and regularly review the strategic aims and objectives of the Museum;
 - Ensuring the financial stability of the Museum and the proper investment of funds in accordance with its stated aims and objectives and relevant legislation;
 - Safeguarding the assets of the Charity;
 - Ensuring that there is a robust business plan in place and that the financial affairs of the Museum are properly run and maintained;
 - Working with fellow Trustees to ensure that the organisation functions within the legal and financial requirements of a charitable organisation and strives to achieve best practice;
 - Developing a constructive and supportive relationship with the Museum Director through regular communication and meetings, providing support and advice as appropriate in a non-executive capacity;
 - Acting as an ambassador for the Museum and supporting the Museum Director in representing the Museum to key stakeholders when required; and
 - Promoting the organisation to a wider audience of potential donors and beneficiaries.
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Person Specification

- A passion for the arts and an appreciation of the transformative nature of culture within society;
- A willingness to both represent and act as an advocate for the Foundling Museum in the public arena;
- Strong communication skills and the ability to contribute to Board-level discussion and wider policy and strategy development;
- Tact and diplomacy, with the ability to listen and engage effectively;
- Strong networking capabilities with excellent communication and relationship building skills;
- Willingness to assist with fundraising with an understanding of the fundraising environment in which the Museum operates;
- A strong and visible commitment to, and enthusiasm for, the Museum and its strategic objectives; and
- Knowledge and understanding of the wider arts sector in the UK, and the current challenges and opportunities the sector faces.

Terms of appointment

Trustees serve a three-year term and are eligible for re-appointment for a further three-year term.

The role is unremunerated, although reasonable expenses may be claimed.

There are four Board meetings per year, all of which take place at the Foundling Museum in London

Trustees are also expected to attend openings and other events on a regular basis, have regular meetings with the Museum Director and spend sufficient time with other staff members and players informally to develop and maintain an understanding of the charity.

The time commitment is expected to be around 1-2 days a month.

How to apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to The Foundling Museum on these appointments.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at www.saxbam.com/appointments using code **PARARD**.

Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the online equal opportunities monitoring* form.

The closing date for applications is noon on Wednesday 13th November 2024.

* The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.





**Foundling
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Saxton Bampfylde

