



GARDEN MUSEUM

Trustee Open Call 2026

Recruitment Pack

About the Garden Museum

The Garden Museum is the only museum in Britain dedicated to gardens and to celebrate their place in history, art, design, and modern lives.

The Museum was founded in 1977 to rescue the derelict medieval/Victorian St-Mary's-at-Lambeth church from demolition, where father and son the John Tradescants, Britain's first great gardeners, are buried.

Our renowned exhibitions and events dig into art, architecture, plant science, food, floristry, sustainability, wellbeing and more, all through the lens of gardening. The Garden Museum is also home to the Archive of Garden Design, which preserves and provides access to the working records of leading British garden designers of the 19th, 20th and 21st century. We run four unique strands of education: our groundbreaking food learning programme, art sessions for local families, plant science for school children aged 5-18, and partnerships with Lambeth and London community groups.

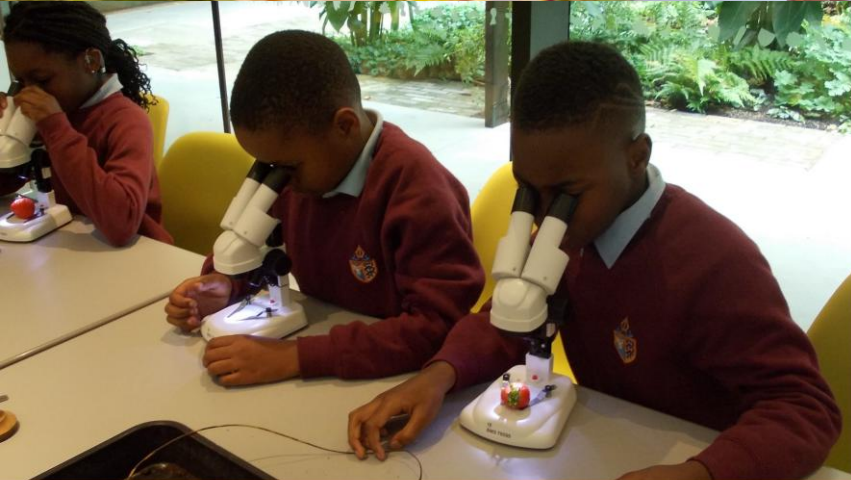
Image: The Garden Museum courtyard © Eva Nemeth





We are in the midst of two major capital projects: firstly a major £5m NLHF project to restore and revive Benton End (left), the former home and art school of artist plantsman Cedric Morris, and secondly Lambeth Green, a new park for horticultural training outside the museum walls.

We are an independent museum. In 2022 we were welcomed by Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation, reflecting the calibre of our educational and public programmes, but this income only represents 4% of our annual turnover. As a result everything we do is entirely funded through our cafe, venue hire, admissions, retail and fundraising. In 2023 we began building an Endowment to protect the Garden Museum for the future.



Being a Trustee

Being a Trustee is a fantastic way to support the Garden Museum and shape its future. Our Board is made up of 15 individuals whose skills and experiences help us to deliver our mission: to tell the stories of people, plants and gardens, inspiring change and debate, and supporting creativity and wellbeing for all. Our Trustees champion the museum, our work and aims, and support the team of over 40 members of staff.

Being a Trustee provides exciting opportunities for professional and personal development. Trustees can expect to develop their networks in heritage, horticulture, and the cultural sector, and foster a close working relationship with the rest of the Board and the museum team.

Images (top to bottom): British Flowers Week © Graham Lacdao; Science learning at the Garden Museum © Garden Museum, and visitors enjoying our Ark gallery © Garden Museum



Role

We are seeking a new Trustee to join the Garden Museum's Board of Trustees and **offer perspectives and knowledge which are currently underrepresented.**

While Trustees play a role in all aspects of the museum, we are specifically seeking candidates with experience in one or both of the following areas:

- To help us to better reflect our Lambeth and London audiences. The Garden Museum has spent the last 15 years researching and sharing the stories of Black gardeners in Britain, and we wish this theme to continue to be central to our future.
- To bring fresh perspectives and ideas. Since reopening in 2017 we have increasingly welcomed a younger, often city-dwelling, and digitally-focused audience, and we would like this audience to be better represented on our Board of Trustees.

Applicants may have valuable experience from working in gardening, charities, heritage, media, etc., but this is not essential.

Commitment

The anticipated time commitment is one day per month, inclusive of four annual Board Meetings (which take 2.5 hours each, with a further 2 hours for preparation required). Meetings are usually held at the Garden Museum. A usual term for a Trustee is five years, and Trustees may serve for two terms.

Our Trustees are our greatest advocates, and we hope that our Trustees may be happy to represent the Board at exhibition openings and events a few times per year. However, we realise that this is not always possible, and is not obligatory.

Remuneration

Trustee roles, as defined by the Charities Commission, are unpaid, voluntary positions. However, Trustees are entitled to claim expenses from the Museum related to taking part in Board business, e.g. travel to meetings.





Trustees main duties are:

- To ensure that the Garden Museum is carrying out its purpose as set out in our constitution
- To ensure that the Museum complies with all relevant regulations, such as those set out in charity law, company law and employment law
- To be responsible for forward planning, policy-making, agreeing targets and constant evaluation of the Museum's work
- To ensure the Museum's resources, including finances, are well-managed (a sub-committee of the Board, the Executive Committee, is appointed to oversee the Museum's finances in detail)

The Board of Trustees are legally responsible for the charity. If you would like to read more about what being a Trustee of a charity involves, please see the government's 'The Essential Trustee' guidance [here](#).

We expect Trustees to be creative, strategic thinkers, who can challenge and support us. You must work well in a team and be a good communicator.

Application Process

If you are interested in becoming a Trustee please email a CV and covering note (of no more than 2 pages) to recruitment@gardenmuseum.org.uk by 10am on Monday 23rd November.

If you have any questions about your application, or would like to speak to someone before applying, please email Roz Clapham, HR Manager, at roz@gardenmuseum.org.uk.

We anticipate interviews will be held in December but can be flexible for the right candidate. The successful applicant will be welcomed to the Board in the March 2027 meeting.



Garden Museum Board of Trustees

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Rupert Tyler

Board of Trustees
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A visitor to the permanent collection © Garden Museum, BJ Deakin

