



GARDEN MUSEUM

Treasurer Recruitment Pack

2026

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.

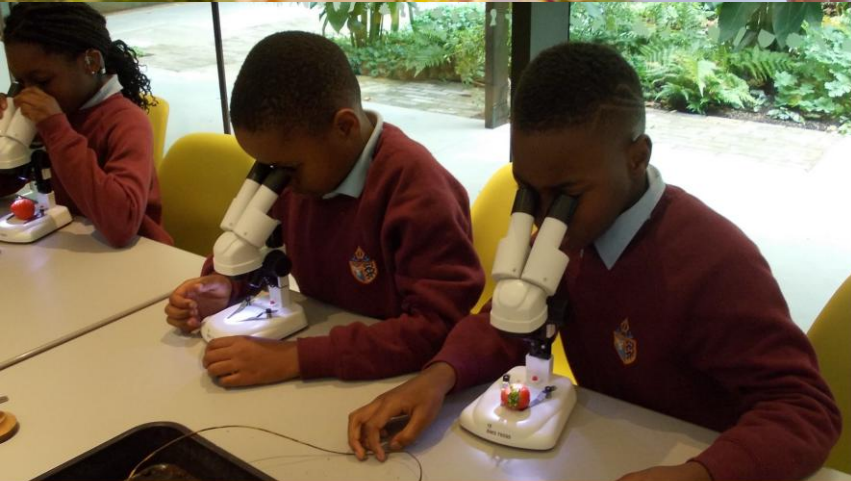
Image: The Garden Museum courtyard © Eva Nemeth





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



Treasurer main tasks

With other board members:

Strategy: to support the strategic leadership of the Museum by being a representative for finance at Board and Executive level. The Treasurer will provide leadership for the Board and Senior Management Team in the strategic aim of long-term financial security.

Oversight:

- to ensure that the activities, accounting, budgeting, policy and practices of the organisation are in keeping with its objects and aims
- to ensure that the Museum complies with the legal and financial requirements of a charitable organisation and its own governing documents.

Support: to challenge and support the Director and Senior Management Team in delivering the vision, mission, values and strategic plan of the Museum.

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 Essential Trustee](#) guidance.

Main duties

As Treasurer, hold specific responsibilities relevant to the role:

- Membership of the Executive Committee, overseeing and advising on the financial risks, challenges, health and resilience of the charity, reporting back to the full Board.
- Join the Investment Committee, chaired by Rupert Tyler, Garden Museum Chair.
- Provide a 'voice' for Finance at Board and Executive meetings.
- Act as a sounding board and provide guidance to the Director and Finance Director when required.
- Provide advice and guidance to the Board on matters of finance, audit and risk, enabling all trustees to exercise their responsibilities in these areas.
- Work with the Finance Director to ensure that the financial aspects of the forward plan and the annual budget are aligned with the strategy, resourcing and risk parameters and that assumptions are challenged and robust.
- Oversee the development and implementation of financial reserves and cost-management policies.
- Provide board-level liaison with the external auditors on specific issues such as the auditors' management letter, auditor remuneration and related board representations.
- Provide board-level liaison with CAF Bank regarding the Museum's loan facility.

Commitment

The anticipated time commitment is 1 day per month, inclusive of four Executive Committee meetings and 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.



Application Process

If you are interested in becoming our Treasurer 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

Chair of Trustees
Rupert Tyler

Board of Trustees
Jeremy Clay
Tania Compton
The Lady Egremont
Jason Gatenby
Edward McMullan
Bridget Pinchbeck
The Marchioness of Normanby
Lady Ritblat OBE
Jane Ruffer
Sir Charles Saumarez Smith
Edwina Sassoon
Bryan Sanderson CBE
Dr Charles Spicer
Tom Stuart-Smith

Joint Royal Patrons
His Majesty King Charles III
Her Majesty Queen Camilla

President
Alan Titchmarsh CBE VMH DL

Vice President
Mark Fane



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

