

British Museum Trustee Role Specification

Cultural and public life

Background

The British Museum - Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the British Museum has statutory duties under the British Museum Act 1963 and Museums and Galleries Act 1992 for the general management and control of the Museum and for the appointment of the Director.

The Director accounts to the Board for:

- The management of the Museum and its staff; and
- The achievement of the Museum's strategies and annual plan and the observance of the policies of the Board

The Director is the Accounting Officer for the purposes of reporting to the responsible Government Department.

The Aim & Role of the Board

The Aim of the Board is to hold for the benefit and education of humanity, present and future, a collection representative of world cultures ("the Collection"), and ensure that the Collection is housed in safety, conserved, curated, researched and exhibited.

The Trustees:

- Consider and approve a policy framework which covers the roles and responsibilities of the Board and the Director;
- Consider and approve strategies for incorporation within the Annual Plan and to achieve the Museum's Aim;
- Hold the Director to account for the exercise of his delegated authority and the delivery of the Annual Plan;
- Are focused on those tasks reserved to the Board as the guardian of the Museum's interest;
- Act as high level advocates for the Museum in support of its aims and objectives

The Museum is an "exempt charity" for the purposes of the Charities Act 1993

Time Commitment

Four Board meetings per year. Other sub-committee meetings, seminars, advisory panels and strategy workshops as necessary. Some additional time will be required to study papers, attend events at the Museum and other representational engagements. Likely total time commitment 1-2 days per month.

Location of Meetings

Board meetings are held in Central London.

Remuneration

The post is unpaid, but travel expenses can be claimed

Term of Appointment

Four years.

The Role

Along with the full range of trustee responsibilities for shaping the future of the Museum, the chief responsibilities of this trustee will be:

- Engage effectively with the cultural and public life of the Nation through appearances and presentations in a variety of media in support of the Museum's aims and objectives
- Act as a high profile advocate for the Museum's ambitious future programme of activities

The Person

A prominent, nationally recognised person engaged with the cultural and public life of the nation who has:

- A high level of achievement and national public profile in the arts underpinned through established expertise in a particular area
- Experience of and strong links with a variety of media on a range of levels
- Strong communication and presentation skills