

THE BRITISH MUSEUM

British Museum Trustee Appointment March 2010

The British Museum would like to invite applications for a Trustee position.

Role Description

The British Museum was founded by Parliament in 1753 with the purpose of enabling citizens, of both Britain and the world, to understand the world.

The British Museum holds the greatest collection representative of human cultural achievement, ancient and modern, in the world. The Museum is a space 'not only for the 'learned and curious' but also 'for the benefit of the general public' – a centre of research and inquiry at all levels. It is a forum for the expression of many different cultural perspectives and a place to increase understanding of the cultural connections and influences linking Britain and the world.

The Museum has an operating budget of approximately £55 million and employs around 1000 people. 5.5 million visitors see the collection in London each year, and through an expanding programme of loans, touring exhibitions and media initiatives, the Museum has a UK and worldwide reach unprecedented in its history.

Since its foundation, the Museum has been governed by a Board of Trustees who hold for the benefit of humanity, present and future, a collection representative of all the world's cultures. They are responsible for ensuring that the collection is housed in safety and used for worldwide public benefit. The Trustees embody and represent the public interest within the Museum.

The British Museum Act 1963 establishes that the Trustees should be twenty-five in number. The Museum aims to draw its Trustees from as broad a range of people as possible, to ensure the Board comprises of a diverse, international group, representative of the worldwide nature of the collection vested in them and their global responsibilities.

The Trustees provide vision, direction, control and accountability in fulfilling the Museum's public purpose. They uphold the highest levels of probity, financial stewardship and corporate performance.

For more information about the British Museum and for a list of current Trustees, please visit *The Museum* section of our website: www.britishmuseum.org.

Essential Criteria

- Successful candidates will demonstrate:
- An understanding of and commitment to the objectives and work of the British Museum.
- Experience of strategic decision making or the ability to acquire it.
- An understanding of and interest in the role of Trustees in cultural institutions.
- A commitment to supporting fundraising activity.
- Excellent communications and representational skills.
- The ability and commitment to allocate sufficient time to the role.

- *Media* - media expertise, in particular, journalism, to help with the Museum's advocacy work.

Desirable

In addition to these core criteria, candidates may bring knowledge or experience in the following area which will support the Museum in taking forward its strategic objectives over the next five years:

Finance – an understanding of corporate and public finance.

Time Commitment

The Board meets four times a year. Successful candidates may also serve on a Committee or an Advisory Group, each meeting approximately 3 times a year. Additional time will be required to study papers, attend events at the Museum and to represent the Museum at other functions.

Location of Meetings

Board and Committee meetings are usually held at the Museum.

Remuneration

The post is unpaid, but travel expenses can be claimed.

Term of Appointment

Four years.

How to apply

For further details and an application form please contact Cassie Brown on cbrown@britishmuseum.org / 020 7323 8241

This appointment is made by the Prime Minister on recommendation by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Appointments are made on merit, following a fair and transparent process and are regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

The British Museum endorses DCMS's statement on promoting an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from people regardless of gender, age, marital status, disability, religion, ethnic origin, political opinion, sexual orientation, or whether or not you have dependents.

Closing date 15 March 2010

Interviews

Interviews will be held on Tuesday 20 April 2010.

Useful websites:

<http://www.culture.gov.uk>

