British Museum Friends Advisory Council

Invitation for applicants

The British Museum Friends would like to invite applications to fill up to four current vacancies on the advisory council (“the Council”) to the British Museum Friends. The Council aims to ensure it represents the diversity of the current Membership community.

Successful applicants will be joining Council at a particularly busy time for the Museum and will be asked to represent the views of the wider Membership body on many new initiatives.

‘This is an exciting moment for the Museum as we are planning to renew our displays, develop our narratives and renovate the building. We want to live up to our ambition to be a local, national and global museum for all, and make sure the British Museum truly belongs to everyone.’

Hartwig Fischer, Director

Background

The British Museum was founded in 1753 and was the first national public museum in the world. From the beginning it granted free admission to all ‘studious and curious persons’.

The British Museum Friends (originally the British Museum Society) was founded in 1969 with the aim of supporting the Museum in its work. The British Museum Friends pay an annual subscription in support of the Museum’s work. In return they receive a range of benefits including free unlimited access to exhibitions, an exclusive range of events including lectures and tours, use of the Members’ Room and regular communications including the British Museum Magazine.

Following a governance change voted through in December 2012, the British Museum Friends are governed by the Trustees of the British Museum (acting as
the Trustees of the British Museum Friends) and assisted by the Council selected from among the wider Membership body.

The role of the Council is to advise on the best way of fulfilling the Charity’s aims of supporting the work of the British Museum whilst ensuring an excellent quality of experience for all Members.

The Council is chaired by Clarissa Farr, who is also a Trustee of the British Museum. There are a maximum of 23 remaining members of the Council, who are selected from the Membership. A Deputy Chairman is elected from this number.

**Essential criteria**

All successful candidates will demonstrate:
- an understanding of, and commitment to, the objectives and work of the British Museum
- an understanding of, and interest in, the role of volunteers in cultural institutions
- a commitment to supporting fundraising activity
- excellent communications and representational skills
- the ability to work effectively as part of a team
- the ability and commitment to allocate sufficient time to the role

All candidates must be current Members of the British Museum Friends.

**Time commitment**

The Council meets three times a year and occasional video conference calls. Additional time will be required to study papers, attend Members’ events (Council Members are asked to introduce 1-2 Members’ lectures a year) at the Museum and to engage in email correspondence between meetings.

**Location of meetings**

Board and Committee meetings are usually held at the Museum, generally on Monday afternoons. Where possible the Museum will work to allow Council Members unable to come to the Museum to participate in the meetings remotely.

**Remuneration**

The post is unpaid.

**Term of appointment**

Four years.

**Selection process**

Applications will be reviewed by the Nominations Committee, which consists of the Chair, the Head of Membership, other members of the Council and Membership team as agreed.
Candidates will be invited to an interview at the British Museum. Successful applicants will be invited to attend the next Council meeting where they will be officially designated as a Council member.

In making its final decision, the Nominations Committee will also take account of the need to maintain Council diversity particularly in terms of age and geographic location.

**Interviews**

Interviews will be held on Monday 3 October 2022.

**How to apply**

Applicants must complete an application form available online at [britishmuseum.org/membership/advisory-council](http://britishmuseum.org/membership/advisory-council)

Please return completed forms to the Membership Office by post (British Museum Friends, British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG) or by email (friends@britishmuseum.org) by **Monday 12 September 2022**.

If you have any questions about the British Museum Friends Advisory Council or your application, please email these for the attention of Mikyoung Pearce, Membership Sales Manager via friends@britishmuseum.org