



**Foundling
Museum**

Chair at the Foundling Museum Appointment Brief



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Cover: On display at the Foundling Museum, *Trumpet Boy* (2010) by Yinka Shonibare MBE © Yinka Shonibare. Photograph by Dan Weill

Below: Brought together by Museum Trustee and Foundling Fellow, Lemn Sissay, OBE, 59



Welcome from Emma Ridgway

Director, Foundling Museum



Thank you for your interest in the role of Chair at the Foundling Museum.

The Foundling Museum is a contemporary museum established in 2004, with collections that stretch back to the 18th Century. I joined about a year ago, drawn to the Museum's distinctive focus on leading artists working to highlight children's social care, from the 1740s to today. It is a wonderful Museum, modest in scale, ambitious in scope, and abundant with future possibilities.

As an independent charity, the Museum is entering a dynamic new chapter. In the autumn, we secured the 999-year lease for the building and historical collection, thanks to our successful £4.6 million fundraising campaign. We are also completing our first year of Arts Council England NPO funding for 2023-27, which supports our ambitions to further expand our impact and to diversify the audiences that we reach. Our award-winning creative programmes for young care leavers continue to grow, along with our free artist-led workshops for local children in London and beyond, and our acclaimed contemporary exhibitions and events are hugely enjoyed by audiences. Yet we still have much we want to do. Building on the Museum's strong values and inspiring achievements, we are embarking on a bold five-year strategy focused on arts and social impact for 2024-2030.

At the Foundling Museum we believe creative action has the power to change lives and shape a better future. In the pages that follow you can learn more about the Museum's broad and impactful work. I hope this will interest you such that you consider the unique role you could play in contributing to the Museum's future.

We are looking for a Chair with integrity and tenacity, who can lead our Board of accomplished Trustees to oversee our vision and strategy. Our Chair will work in complementary partnership with me as Museum Director (CEO and Artistic Director). Together, we'll work to best serve the organisation; with our voices united externally, while enjoying mutual challenge internally. The Foundling Museum is dynamic and forward-looking, so we are seeking an open-minded individual capable of shaping the governance framework and external support to enable the organisation to thrive.

If you already know the Foundling Museum, I hope you will want to find out more. If you haven't come across us before, welcome! Either way, I am delighted that you considering the role of Chair, and we look forward to hearing from you.

The Foundling Museum is the only museum to celebrate care-experienced people, and all those who care for them. It is the only foundling hospital museum in the world that has an art collection donated by artists, and the only one to tell the story of the birth of creative philanthropy.



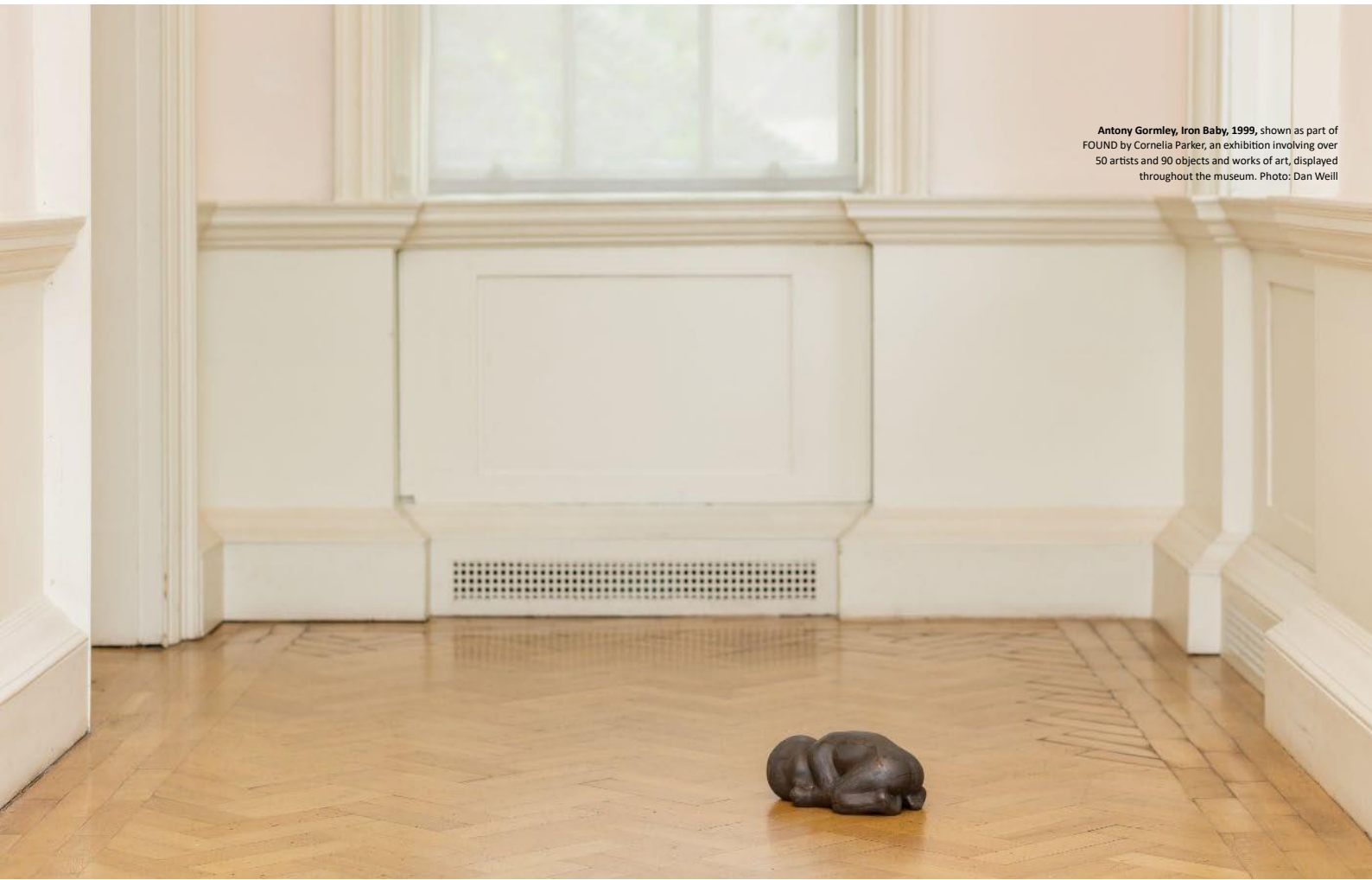
The Foundling Museum

Opened in 2004, the Museum sits on the site of the Foundling Hospital; the UK's first children's charity and first public art gallery. The Foundling Hospital began as a pioneering project centered on the belief that each one of us has a responsibility to help improve the lives of vulnerable women and children. Specifically, it was for 'foundlings', babies and children whose birth parents could not care for them due to circumstances beyond their control.

The original Foundling Hospital was a children's home located on what is now Coram's Fields, from 1741 to 1954. The ambition of excellence for the foundling children - including grand architecture, quality education, nutritious food and the arts - reflected the integrity of its founder, the campaigner Thomas Coram (1668 - 1751).

From the 1740s, artists made the Foundling Hospital London's most fashionable cause and destination, and the first public art gallery. Artist William Hogarth designed the coat of arms, children's uniforms, and initiated the art collection shown at the Museum. Composer George Frideric Handel conducted benefit concerts of Messiah in the chapel, and later writer Charles Dickens was a supporter too. Their compassion and generosity show that art transforms lives.

At the Foundling Museum and off-site, we work with outstanding contemporary artists, writers, and musicians to ensure that leading artists continue to be part of the story of care. Across the four floors of the 1930s building, formerly the headquarters of the children's home, we invite visitors to explore compelling historic and new stories of love, loss, and care.



Antony Gormley, *Iron Baby*, 1999, shown as part of FOUND by Cornelia Parker, an exhibition involving over 50 artists and 90 objects and works of art, displayed throughout the museum. Photo: Dan Weill

Our Collections

The Museum is responsible for the care and maintenance of two collections – the Foundling Hospital Collection and the Foundling Museum Collection, which includes the Gerald Coke Handel Collection. Together they encompass everyday objects used in the Foundling Hospital, documents, records, musical scores and librettos, photographs and oral history recordings, as well as significant works of art, clocks, furniture and historic interiors, many of which were created for the Hospital and donated by their makers.

Some of the most moving objects are the identifying tokens left by mothers with their babies in the Hospital's earliest years. Deeply touching too is the Foundling Voices oral history collection – testimonies of former pupils of the Foundling Hospital School in the twentieth century, the last generation of children to grow up there.

The Foundling Hospital Collection was donated by artists of all disciplines in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, to raise awareness and funds for the charity. The Foundling Museum is responsible for the historic collection and building, which are on a 999-year lease from the children's charity Coram. The Museum Collection

contains contemporary art and objects donated, commissioned and acquired, from 1700s to the present day, including work by Tracey Emin, Michael Craig-Martin, Ingrid Pollard, Wolfgang Tillmans, Cornelia Parker and Yinka Shonibare CBE.

The Gerald Coke Handel Collection is an internationally important library and archive. It comprises over 12,000 items from the eighteenth century to the present, and is a major research resource for the study of Handel and his contemporaries. It includes manuscript and printed music and documents, books, journals, libretti, sound recordings, artworks and artefacts, and an important collection of performance ephemera relating to Handel and his circle.

A highlight of the collection is Handel's autograph will; written in 1750, it was later supplemented by four codicils, including one dated 4 August 1757 which includes his bequest to the Foundling Hospital of 'a fair copy of the Score and all Parts of my oratorio called The Messiah'.

You can find out more about our Collections [here](#). To find out more about our Exhibitions and Displays please visit our [website](#).



Visitor in front of William Hogarth's *March of the Guards to Finchley, 1750*, listening to a historically accurate 3D soundscape, created by Martyn Ware for the exhibition *Hogarth & The Art of Noise*



Programmes & Public Engagement

Our exhibitions, commissions and creative projects generate new understandings of art and social history and tackle social issues to highlight the continuing relevance of our historic story. Collection displays combine historic art and objects from the Founding Hospital Collection and the Gerald Coke Handel Collection, with contemporary work. Temporary exhibitions, collection interventions and projects enable diverse voices to challenge historical narratives, particularly in relation to histories traditionally excluded from the mainstream.

Our curatorial programme generates strong media coverage; a growing profile, nationally and internationally; and a range of academic partners including Central St Martins, Birkbeck College, the Royal College of Art, and Goldsmiths. Current collaborative PhDs include, *Forgotten Foundlings: Black Lives and the 18th-Century Foundling Hospital*, with The Centre for Global Histories, University of Warwick.

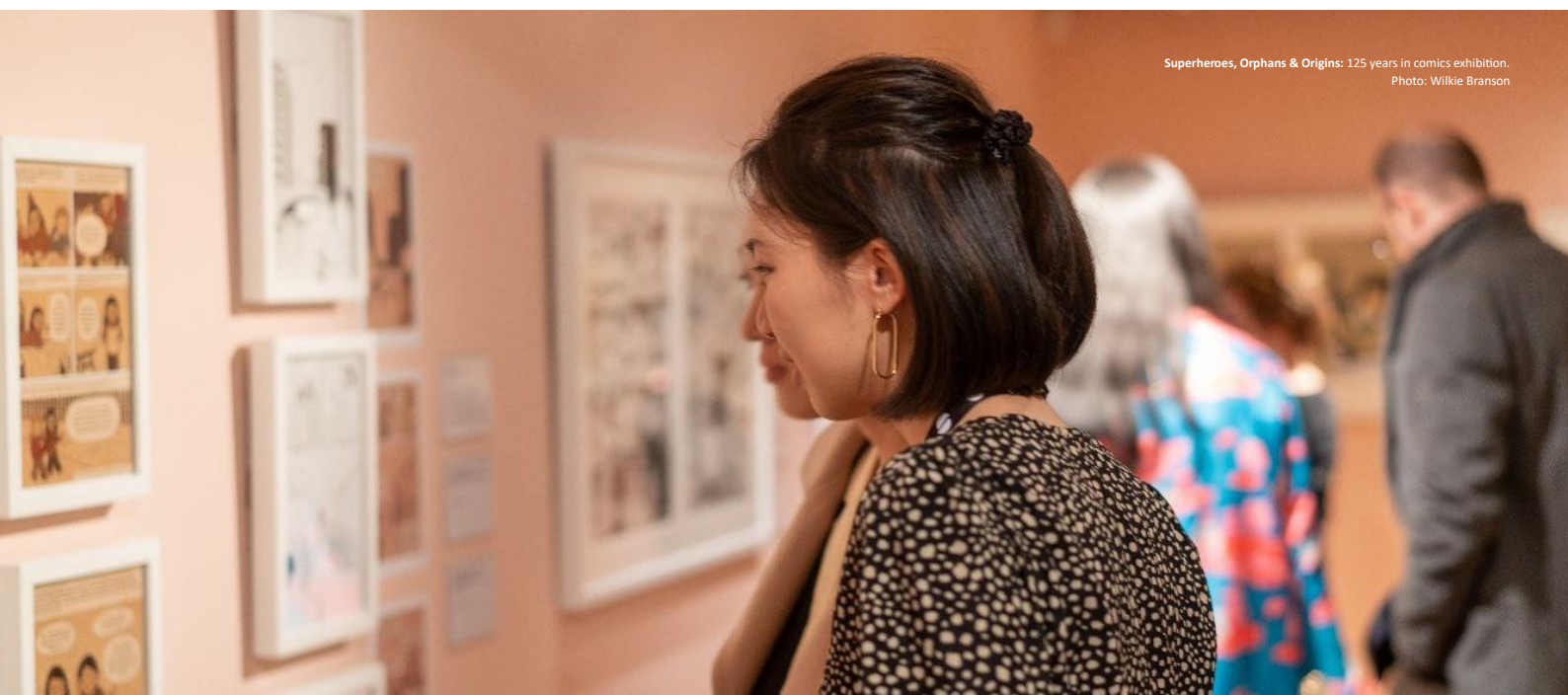
Left: The Covid Letters: A Vital Update, an exhibition created by Foundling Fellow, Jon Banger, curated by Jeremy Deller and featuring work by over 200 young people from across the UK.

Right: Family workshop led by a graduate of the museum's training programme for young care-leavers, *Tracing Our Tales*.

Exhibitions & Displays

Creating a dialogue between the past and the present, to draw out the contemporary relevance of our historic story, is central to our exhibitions and collection displays. Recent examples include:

- ***The Mother & The Weaver:*** Art from the Ursula Hauser Collection, a landmark exhibition occupying the whole museum, featuring artists including Louise Bourgeois, Marlene Dumas and Pipilotti Rist.
- ***Finding Family,*** explored the idea of family through visual art from the 17th Century to the present day, curated in collaboration with the National Gallery and poetic responses from our trainees.
- ***Tiny Traces: Black & Asian children at London's Foundling Hospital,*** an exhibition drawing on our collaborative PhD student's research, including artwork by Zarina Bhimji, Hew Locke, Kehinde Wiley.
- ***Radical Empathy:*** large-scale photographs by Akytom, inspired by the poetry of Yomi Sode.
- ***Superheroes, Orphans & Origins:*** 125 years in comics: the first exhibition to explore orphaned, adopted, fostered and found characters in comics from around the world.
- ***Fighting Talk:*** one boy's journey from abandonment to Trafalgar, an exhibition exploring the life of 18th century foundling, George King, based on his previously unseen memoir.
- ***Ships' Tack:*** a display and commission by Ingrid Pollard, reflecting on George King's story in relation to Empire, trade and the Navy.
- Six commissioned portraits of seven former pupils of the Foundling Hospital, made by artists Jillian Edelstein; Mahtab Hussain, Eileen Perrier, David Moore, Ingrid Pollard and Wolfgang Tillmans: the first portraits of any of the 25,000+ children who went through the Hospital between 1741-1954.
- ***Quentin Blake:*** Gifted, an exhibition of 24 large-scale drawings donated by Blake, with commissioned responses from poets Opefoluwa Sarah Adegbite, 4 Brown Girls Who Write, Jackie Kay, Michael Rosen, Yomi Sode, and Ben Westwood.
- ***The Covid Letters:*** A vital update: an exhibition by designer and DJ Sports Banger, curated by Jeremy Deller, featuring over 200 works made by children in lockdown, in response to Boris Johnson's letter to UK households at the start of the pandemic.



Superheroes, Orphans & Origins: 125 years in comics exhibition.
Photo: Wilkie Branson

Social Impact

The Museum's intimate scale and remarkable story enables it to develop long-term creative relationships that have a real impact on young lives. Its pioneering, artist-led work is delivered through key strands:

- Children in care and care-experienced young adults: creative workshops, training and employment that improve self-esteem and self-confidence, support successful independent living, a return to education, improved employment prospects, and improved mental health
- Early years: working with our partner nurseries and primary schools to tackle the education attainment gap, through fortnightly creative workshops and regular parental involvement.
- Families: free, high-quality workshops and resources, open to all, that also provide a progression pathway for local disadvantaged families participating in our early years programmes
- Mental health: working with Camden MIND to support local residents with diagnosed mental health conditions, through prescribed creative workshops
- We are sector leaders in creative programming for looked after and care-experienced young people. Tracing Our Tales, our paid training programme for 18–26-year-olds with experience of the care system, has a track record of improving trainees' mental health, boosting their self-esteem and self-confidence, and enabling them to deliver Museum workshops, return to education and secure employment. In 2022, Tracing Our Tales won the Museum & Heritage Award for Learning Programme of the Year.
- At the Museum we have a 12-month post for a care-experienced young person, designed to overcome barriers to a career in the Museums and heritage sector;

You can see interviews with participants on our trainee programme [here](#).



Foundling Fellows

Leading artists, musicians, writers and activists join the life of the Museum and create a project that animates the relationship between creativity, philanthropy and social action, particularly in relation to young people. Fellows include Jackie Kay, Quentin Blake, Grayson Perry, Cornelia Parker, Michael Morpurgo, Jacqueline Wilson, Sam Lee, Lemn Sissay, Jackie Kay, Lily Cole and Sports Banger.

Our Foundling Fellows are ambassadors for our work, the Foundling Fellowship is given biennially to three creative individuals whose work resonates with the visionary, creative philanthropy of Thomas Coram, William Hogarth and George Frideric Handel. Each of our Fellows creates a project that brings our historic story to life and contributes to the work of the Museum.

Soup for 100, an annual event created by Foundling Fellow, Richard Wentworth, where creative people interested in children's welfare, gather to exchange ideas over a meal prepared and served by museum staff. Photo: Dan Weill



Royal Patronage

In 2019, Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales became Patron of the Foundling Museum, having first visited in 2017. The patronage recognises the Museum's unique work to transform the wellbeing and life chances of vulnerable children and young adults, through creative collaboration with artists.

In 2022 and 2023, the Princess visited with The Prince of Wales, to meet sector leaders, foster parents and care-experienced adults and young people, to hear about the challenges facing care-leavers, their mental health, and the high rates of homelessness among young people leaving care.

"I am incredibly proud to be the Patron of the Foundling Museum, an organisation which has delivered pioneering creative programmes and life-changing support to families and young people for twenty years. Their ground-breaking work to support each care-experienced young person to fundamentally change the future direction of their lives is one that means the world to me.

"Importantly, it shows that it is never too late to make a difference, and that by providing the right support, we can enable those who have faced real difficulties to overcome their challenges and achieve their goals. The Museum's work opens the door to new opportunities for vulnerable children and young people, connecting them with artists and developing skills which they can take into their adult lives. By helping them to undertake this journey, we can create positive, lasting change that benefits our society as a whole.

- **HRH The Princess of Wales,
Summer 2023.**



Sustainability

We have ambitious plans to increase our local, national, and international profile.

As a charity the Museum has a strong and developed network of active supporters amongst individuals, trusts and foundations, an engaged Chair and Board of Trustees and Vice Presidents. You can find out more about our governance and Board [here](#).

We are agile and entrepreneurial in our approach to fundraising and have established a number of successful and innovative strands of income generation. The Museum benefits from the advice and support including an Investment Committee and a separate Trading Company, which donates its profits annually to the Museum.

Right: Pupils from a partner nursery taking part in a twice-monthly creative workshop.
Left: Members of Chineke! Youth Orchestra performing. Photo: Dan Weill



Our New Chair

Context

The current Chair of the Foundling Museum, Larissa Joy OBE, in post since 2015 and has come to the end of her term. The Board of the Foundling Museum is now looking for an exceptional candidate to join as Chair, to build upon and further develop all that has been achieved so far.

Purpose of Post

The Chair of the Foundling Museum is responsible for governance, leadership of Trustees, and working with the Museum Director to support and contribute to the strategic direction of the Museum.

The Opportunity

This is a very exciting opportunity to Chair one of the most special and impactful cultural organisations in the UK. A Museum with a rich history and world class programme, the Foundling Museum continues its founding principles of supporting children and young people, especially those who have been touched by the care system.

The Chair of the Foundling Museum will be expected to work with fellow Trustees to form an effective, accountable governing body for the Foundling Museum, ensuring that it keeps to its charitable objectives.

The Chair will lead for the Board in working with the Museum Director to provide strategic vision for the Museum. They will demonstrate an appreciation and understanding of the role and purpose of the Museum and its unique collection and share the commitment to diversity and equality in relation to both audiences and employment practices.

They will be conscious of their role in relation to the longer-term sustainability of the Museum and its Collections. They will provide support to the Museum Director, and the staff in the pursuit of the overall objectives of the organisation. They will be an ambassador of the organisation, prepared to represent the Museum among a diverse stakeholder community and will be an active contributor to the fundraising activities of the Museum.

Fundraising Trustee

In addition to the Chair role, we are also looking to recruit a Fundraising Trustee, whose role will be to support the Foundling Museum with fundraising and development. Please let us know if this is something you're interested in discussing.

Role Description

Responsibilities will include:

- Providing effective leadership to the Board, ensuring it fulfills its obligations in helping to formulate and regularly review the strategic aims and objectives of the Museum;
- Ensuring the financial stability of the Museum and the proper investment of funds in accordance with its stated aims and objectives and relevant legislation;
- Safeguarding the assets of the Charity;
- Ensuring that there is a robust business plan in place and that the financial affairs of the Museum are properly run and maintained;
- Working with Trustees to ensure that the organisation functions within the legal and financial requirements of a charitable organisation and strives to achieve best practice;
- Ensuring regular and timely meetings of the Trustees with the provision of accurate, timely and clear information for the Board to include properly organised agendas and accurate minutes;
- Ensuring that arrangements for corporate governance are effective and reviewed annually;
- Making sure that a full, formal induction and development programme for Trustees is in place;
- Advising Trustees at any time of their role, responsibilities and duties, or on matters affecting their Trusteeship;
- Developing a constructive and supportive relationship with the Museum Director through regular communication and meetings, providing support and advice as appropriate in a non-executive capacity;
- Acting as an Ambassador for the Museum and supporting the Museum Director in representing the Museum to key stakeholders when required; and
- Promoting the organisation to a wider audience of potential donors and beneficiaries.

Person Specification

- A passion for the arts and an appreciation of the transformative nature of culture within society;
- Excellent strategic skills, vision and the ability to provide leadership to the Board in the fulfillment of their responsibilities;
- Ability to chair meetings effectively and to ensure the contribution of Trustees both individually and collectively to sound decision-making;
- Tact and diplomacy, with the ability to listen and engage effectively;
- Experience working within charity law/practice, financial management, governance;
- Strong networking capabilities with excellent communication and relationship building skills;
- Willingness to assist with fundraising with an understanding of the fundraising environment in which the Museum operates;
- Commercial/business skills;
- A strong and visible commitment to, and enthusiasm for the Museum and its strategic objectives;
- Knowledge and understanding of the wider arts sector in the UK, and the current challenges and opportunities the sector faces; and
- Good mentoring abilities, able to provide both support and challenge to the Museum Director and her senior team.

Terms of appointment

The Chair serves a three-year term and is eligible for re-appointment for a further three-year term.

The role is unremunerated, although reasonable expenses may be claimed.

There are four Board meetings per year, all of which take place at the Foundling Museum in London

The Chair is also expected to attend openings and other events on a regular basis, have regular meetings with the Museum Director and spend sufficient time with other staff members and players informally to develop and maintain an understanding of the charity. The Chair role also involves representing the Museum at various events and meetings with key stakeholders.

The time commitment is expected to be around 2-3 days a month.

How to apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to The Foundling Museum on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at www.saxbam.com/appointments using code **PARARC**.

Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the online equal opportunities monitoring* form.

The closing date for applications is noon on Wednesday 27th March 2024.

* The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.





**Foundling
Museum**

Saxton Bampfylde

