



THACKRAY MUSEUM OF MEDICINE

Become a Trustee
Museum professional

Candidate Pack
September 2024



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**





Welcome



Join our Board of Trustees and **help build a bright, sustainable future** for a museum that inspires new generations of health heroes and works with our local community to make the Thackray a place for everyone.

Edward Appleyard
Chief Executive

The Thackray Museum of Medicine is at a pivotal point in its history. In 2021 the Museum re-opened following a major capital investment project to refurbish its exhibition galleries and public spaces, which went on to receive recognition as a finalist both at ArtFund Museum of the Year and European Museum of the Year Awards, and more recently has been awarded a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant to ensure our future resilience and sustainability.

We are looking for a trustee in a leadership role from within the Museums sector to help us harness the power of these incredible achievements and support our strategic development at this catalyst moment.

Our ambitious and creative team are passionate about the power of the Thackray's collection and our spaces to do good – for the local community, for medicine, for sharing issues in contemporary society, for wellbeing, for inspiring future generations and much more.

Central to us achieving these great ambitions is the support, active engagement and participation of a forward-thinking and equally ambitious Board of Trustees.

Aligned with the support from our key funders – Arts Council England, National Lottery Heritage Fund and Thackray Medical Research Trust – you can help us deliver our goals and ensure that we work in an ethical, robust and efficient manner, whilst playing a vital role in helping to define the museum's future.

Help our Museum realise our full potential by joining us as a Trustee.

[Read the 2022/23 Annual Report >>](#)



From the Chair

The Thackray Museum of Medicine is a leading light in how museums in the 21st century can play an ever more important role in society today.

Be part of this journey and apply to join our active Board of Trustees.



In November 2019, I took on the role as Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Thackray Museum of Medicine. As a former GP myself, and as former Trustee for Leeds Rugby Foundation, the Thackray not only sparks my continuing commitment to medicine, healthcare and wellbeing, but moreover to community, to learning and to encouraging people from all walks of life to discover their own agency.

The Board is an active, agile and committed group of individuals representing a wide range of related sectors and with vital specific knowledge amongst us. Meetings are upbeat with lively discussion, and since I joined, the Museum has embarked on an incredible journey through capital development and establishing its place as a nationally and internationally-recognised organisation.

This journey continues as we now look to make the most of the generous investment made by National Lottery Heritage Fund, Arts Council England, the Thackray Medical Research Trust and others with a determined ambition to reach 100,000 visitors by 2030.

Joining the Board of Trustees is a great opportunity to input into this exciting future, to support the Museum's commitment to learning and to its community, and to remain relevant and representative in these ever changing times.

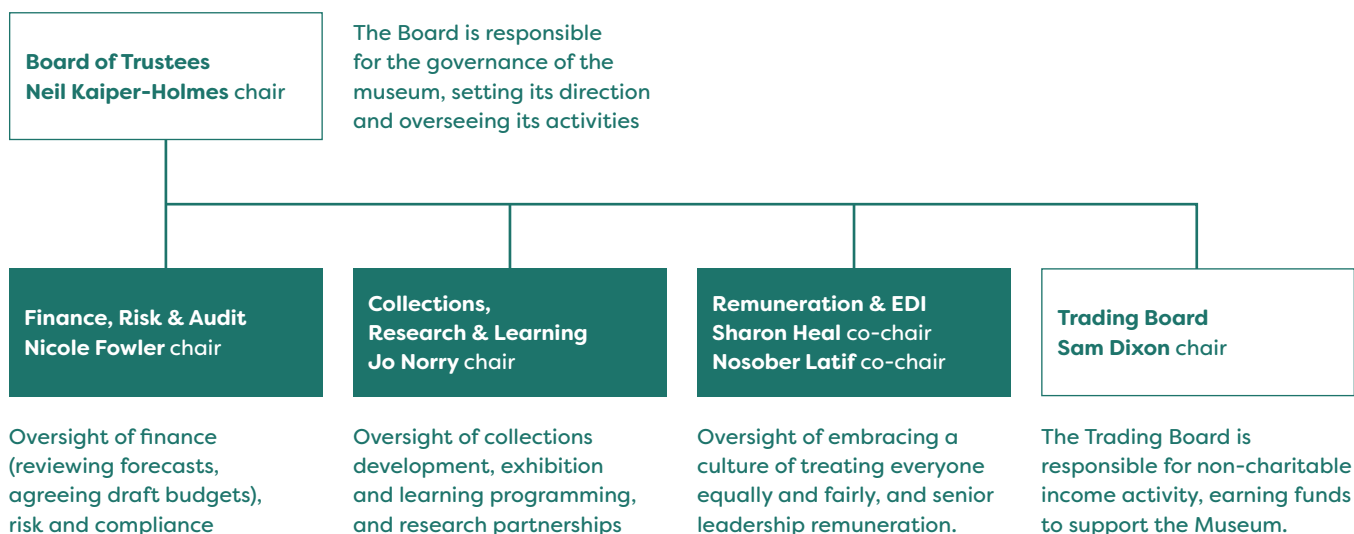
Help more people discover the Thackray, and consider joining us today.

Neil Kaiper-Holmes
Chair of Board of Trustees



Organisation Overview

Trustee Board & Committees



Administration





About the museum



The Thackray Museum of Medicine is the **UK's largest independent medical museum,**

and a place that inspires people with the passion and purpose of medicine and healthcare – past, present and future.



Situated in the bustle of a lively East Leeds inner-city community, and adjacent to St James's Hospital – Europe's largest teaching hospital – the Museum showcases innovation and collaboration in medical endeavour through its collection of over 50,000 objects and some 25,000 written works, covering all aspects of the history of medicine.

An Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) since 2019, the Thackray has undergone a dramatic redevelopment, investing over £4m in its eleven new galleries, and transforming the Museum's public spaces with a new café, shop, community engagement hub (the Core), learning space (the Nerve Centre) and conferencing and events facilities.

Open to the public year-round, seven days a week, the Museum's exhibitions and programmes are built on the foundation of democratising the collection and co-curating with our community. Medicine touches the lives of all humankind, and the museum uses its collection as a focal point to share stories through people from all parts of society, past and present.

Find our more at thackraymuseum.co.uk





About the role

Help form and support our ambitious plans and see them come to life.



What's the commitment?

Taking an active interest in the Thackray and its activities is central to being a successful Trustee, and engaging Trustees in conversation and our governance is primarily achieved through our quarterly Board meetings. These are in February, May, July and October and alternate between being at 8.30–10.30am or 5–7pm, to have as little impact on our Trustees' working hours as possible.

We also ask that each Trustee additionally joins one or more sub-committee. For our Museum-professional Board member, you will be asked to join the Collections, Research and Learning sub-committee in the first instance. In time, you may be asked to join the EDI & Remuneration committee or Finance, Risk and Audit committee subject to time commitments.

What can I gain from the experience?

Being able to contribute to positive change for a charitable organisation and create impact is one of the best experiences of being a Trustee. You will help form and support ambitious plans that the Executive put in place, in conversation with the Trustees, and see them come to life.

As a Museum professional, you will gain wider sector experience and have the opportunity to see how this museum operates, as well as the Thackray gaining valuable insight from your own museum experience.

You will also gain the opportunity to further build your own professional networks.

Training and support

It is not expected that you will have any experience of being a Trustee.

As part of your induction, we will introduce you to the Thackray's governance model and how our organisation works, and if they are unfamiliar to you, we will look at the Charity Governance Code and seven principles of public life. Depending on your level of experience, we can provide you with training opportunities to help you fulfil your role as a Trustee and enable you to get as much out of your contribution to the Thackray as possible.

You will have the opportunity to connect with other Board members who can advise you on queries you have with the potential to have a board 'buddy' or mentor when you start, and opportunities for one-to-ones with the Chief Executive and exec team.

Expenses

Because of the kind of charitable organisation that we are, we cannot pay Trustees. However, we can cover expenses which may include things like travel to board meetings. Training and development opportunities will also be funded by the museum.



Programme Snapshot

Exhibitions



You Choose until February 2025

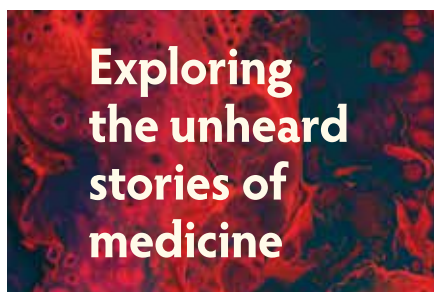
What if we could 3D print our own medicines? How could AI help us spot disease earlier? What if you had a digital twin who could test treatments for you? From bionic eyes to artificial tongues, we've worked with leading experts to try out eye-catching tech that can unleash your imagination.



Dressing Disability until October 2024

Self-expression, identity and representation are explored through conversations about disability aids, accessible clothing and participation in the arts. Curated by Amelia Silver, 2022/23 Curating for Change Fellow at the Thackray, in collaboration with poet and model Enas Saeed and fashion influencer Lucy Jane.

Talks



Insights Annual lecture series

Our annual Insights series explores the lives touched by medical innovations both past and present, and is designed to spark debate around subjects large and small whilst exploring the advances that have shaped the way we look after ourselves, and each other. Every session delves into eye-opening topics that offer a different take on current public debates.

Community



The Core Always on

Numerous groups use and visit our community space – The Core – free-of-charge as part of our commitment to local people across Harehills, Burmantofts, Gipton and Chapeltown. From wellbeing activities, to volunteer groups, to social change organisations, to support networks and events for young people ... we support a wide variety of community partners all year round.

[Read our Journal >>](#)



Role description

TRUSTEE OF THE THACKRAY MUSEUM OF MEDICINE

September 2024

Position type	Voluntary
Responsible to	Chair of the Board of Trustees
Commitment	Minimum three-year term Attendance at Board meetings (quarterly) Attendance of at least one sub-committee (quarterly) Participation in other activities related to the role
Location	Thackray Museum of Medicine, Leeds LS9 7LN
Closing date	Sunday 17 November 11.59pm

Trustees of the Thackray Museum of Medicine act as guardians of purpose, ensuring that the museum makes strategic decisions that are in the best interest of the community, the museum's vision and its positioning.

General Responsibilities

- Ensuring that the museum is constantly working towards the objectives outlined in the governing document
- Actively engaging with Board meetings, consulting with the rest of the Board to facilitate constructive debate
- Contributing actively to the Board, giving firm strategic direction on all areas of corporate governance and compliance
- Advising the Chief Executive on decisions relating to the constant development of the museum's offer
- Safeguarding the museum's brand identity and values, both internally and externally
- Govern the museum effectively by scrutinising charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations
- Scrutinising all administrative aspects of the organisation
- Using your specific skills, knowledge or experience to help the board of trustees reach sound decisions

The Museum expects its Trustees to fulfil the following

- Have a willingness to actively contribute to one or more sub-committees
- Help ensure decisions are guided by ethical considerations
- Be committed to the museum and its purpose
- Bring about new and innovative ideas, strategic or otherwise
- Be ready to take accountability for decisions made
- Have an awareness of developments in a sector or sectors relevant to the museum
- Allow the necessary time to be an effective trustee (i.e. typically attending quarterly Board meetings, participating in one or more sub-committees and Task and Finish groups and attending major events – between 6 to 12 days' commitment per year)
- Hold no significant potential conflicts of interests



Person specification

Museum professional trustee

PERSON SPECIFICATION	Essential	Desirable
Skills, knowledge and experience		
Practicing museum professional	●	
Working in a strategic capacity	●	
Understanding of how charities operate		●
Understanding the wider culture sector		●
Partnership working	●	
Interpreting specialist collections in a cultural or artistic context		●
Team player, able to contribute to a group with collective accountability	●	
Have fairness, independence of mind, integrity and good judgement	●	
Governance experience		●
Able to articulate ideas persuasively	●	
Passion for inspiring future generations	●	
Passion for representation	●	
Commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	●	
Lived experience / protected characteristics		
From a Bangladeshi, Black African, Black Caribbean, Indian, Pakistani or mixed background		●
Being, working with, or living with D/deaf or D/disabled people		●



How to apply

Our shortlisting is **anonymous** and we want to make the application process as easy and as open as possible, so you can apply in three ways ...

- 1 Fill in an application form (details below) *or*
- 2 Send us a CV and supporting letter up to 2 pages *or*
- 3 Send us a CV and supporting video or audio of up to 10 minutes

You need to do this by **Sunday 17 November 11.59pm**

APPLICATION FORM



Go to the form here – <https://forms.gle/vwtUJbvfbACrkqTj9> – or scan the QR code.

You will be asked to provide your personal details, complete an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion form, and respond to the prompts listed below. Only your answers to the prompts are shared with the shortlisting panel, they will not see any other information about you.

SUPPORTING LETTER, VIDEO or AUDIO

Your letter, video or audio should respond to the prompts below, and address the points in the person specification. Please send along with your CV to judith.knox@thackraymuseum.org. We will send you an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion form to fill in too. We will do our best to protect your anonymity in materials you provide when our shortlisting panel see them, such as redacting personal details like your name.

PROMPTS FOR ALL APPLICATIONS

Employment / achievement history

Please provide a summary of your employment history, including your current or most recent employer. Note that information you provide here will be seen by the recruitment panel – you may wish to consider whether or not this impacts your anonymity.

Interest and motivation

Please tell us why you would like to be a Trustee of the Thackray Museum of Medicine.

Relevant expertise and experience

Please use this section to respond to the role description and person specification in the Trustee recruitment pack, and refer to your own relevant expertise and experience where possible.

Qualifications and memberships

Please use this section to list any relevant qualifications, board-level positions or memberships.

Additional information

Please use this space to provide any other supporting information

–

The Thackray is actively committed to promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. We are a Disability Confident employer (registration number DCS036392) and welcome applications from all sections of the community.



Questions?

If you would like to speak to the Chief Executive prior to making an application, please email judith.knox@thackraymuseum.org

creativity
Freedom
Chaos
Insecurity

**THACKRAY
MUSEUM OF
MEDICINE**

141 Beckett Street
Harehills, Leeds LS9 7LN

thackraymuseum.co.uk

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MEDICAL RESEARCH TRUST

