

Birmingham Botanical Gardens Horticulture Trustee Vacancy

Birmingham Botanical Gardens is looking for a new Trustee with professional horticulture experience to join our important charity at a significant time.

Our Project: We have been awarded over half a million pounds from the National Lottery Heritage Fund – with the potential to secure a further £4.4 million – to restore our four historic, listed glasshouses.

The Grade II* gardens were founded in 1829 and continue to be managed by the Edgbaston based horticultural charity. Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG) has received a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to develop plans for a £14 million ‘Growing our Green Heritage’ project. The project aims to restore the historic glasshouse ranges, as well as developing additional visitor and community resources, to create a place of horticultural excellence and outstanding green space.

As a Trustee, you will play a vital role in this project and shaping the future and the direction of the Gardens, which are a much-loved part of Birmingham’s landscape and heritage, and a significant botanical resource.

We are looking for an enthusiastic, passionate, and experienced candidate with a range of skills, who is happy to help deliver our charitable aims and overall vision for BBG. The successful candidate will assist in the responsibility and oversight of running our charity.

About

Birmingham Botanical Gardens Opened in 1832, Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG, registered charity number 528981) is one of just two independent charitable botanical gardens in the UK. Spread across 15 acres, just one mile from Birmingham City Centre, BBG consists of over 7,000 formally documented plants, making it the largest and most diverse botanic collection in central England.

BBG’s heritage is woven into Birmingham’s history – once the most important manufacturing town in the world – and the site welcomes over 180,000 visitors each year.

As well as the gardens, which are a green sanctuary within the city, the charity also provides a unique educational resource for learning about plants, conservation, and the environment. We welcome visits from nurseries, schools, and colleges, as well as organised groups, and run adult workshops including photography, nature and wildlife, and heritage and cultural courses.

As an independent charity, we rely on the support of visitors, donors and grants, as well as generating income from our trading arm, hosting weddings and special events and

providing catering. This support ensures that we can maintain our Victorian glasshouses and our 15-acres of wonderful gardens, and also enables us to develop new educational projects for the Birmingham community.

A diverse botanical world that enhances all our lives: our mission is to support plant biodiversity and an understanding of its importance to the natural environment through conservation, education, engagement, and enjoyment.

Our Team

BBG employs 35 full-time members of staff and is supported by a wonderful team of 50 volunteers who contribute across all areas of the Gardens' activities. This team is led by Chief Executive, Sara Blair-Manning and the Gardens Management Team.

Governance of BBG is led by a Board of Trustees who meet at least 4 times a year, with subcommittees, including those for Horticulture, Finance and Marketing and Events. There is also trustee representation on the Project Board. The current Chair is Sue Beardsmore. [Click here to view our current board of 10 trustees.](#)

Your Role as a Trustee

Birmingham Botanical Gardens is looking for a new Trustee with experience in horticulture and the experience to contribute to our major project development, as well as ensuring that the charity complies with its governing document and our legal and financial compliance as a registered charity.

Main Duties and Responsibilities for all Trustees

All Trustees at BBG are expected to commit to the equivalent of two days per month to the role and have a core set of duties and responsibilities:

- Ensure that BBG pursues its objectives as defined in its [governing document](#) and shows a continued commitment to BBG's vision, mission and values.
- Attend all Board meetings (four times per year), the AGM and any relevant sub-committees.
- Ensure that BBG complies with its governing documents (Memorandum and Articles of Association), charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations.
- Ensure that BBG applies its resources exclusively for the fulfilment of its objects.
- Provide overall strategic direction to BBG, setting out the overall policy, defining goals and setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets.
- Ensure the financial stability of BBG, ensuring the proper investment of all funds.
- Work alongside the Chief Executive and team and continually monitor her performance (alongside the performance review framework).
- Appoint, succession plan and appraise the performance of fellow Trustees.

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for a Trustee with a background in horticulture. The successful candidate will:

- Have an appreciation and understanding of the importance of horticulture and botany;

- Understand the horticultural challenges and opportunities of a public botanical garden;
- Be able to advise on the strategic direction in horticulture for the Gardens;
- Understand the community and area in which BBG operates ;
- Have strong, independent judgement and the ability to think creatively and strategically;
- Be able to give constructive feedback and to challenge other Board members and the charity;
- Be able to analyse risks and opportunities and take a balanced approach to both;
- Be able to work as part of a team, and be willing to take collective responsibility for the governance of our charity.

Ideally:

- Have Charity Board experience.

As part of our commitment to equality BBG wants to ensure that the Board reflects its ambition to be an inclusive and diverse organisation and to be representative of the communities we serve. We therefore welcome applications from individuals from all backgrounds to reflect the diversity of communities, visitors, and audiences to the Gardens. Our definition of diversity encompasses responding to issues around race, ethnicity, faith, disability, age, gender, sexuality, class and economic disadvantage and any social and institutional barriers that prevent people from creating, participating, or enjoying our Gardens.

The deadline for applications is 9th February 2024. Please note that this role is unpaid. To apply, please send a one-page covering letter, and your CV to chair@birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk

This is a fantastic opportunity to be a part of an organisation making a real difference in Birmingham and the wider natural world, and to play an active role in the future direction and strategy employed by the charity.