

**TRUSTEE BRIEFING DOCUMENT**

**BACKGROUND**

York Museums Trust (YMT) is an independent charity which manages York Castle Museum, Yorkshire Museum and Gardens, York Art Gallery and York St Mary's on behalf of the City of York Council which owns the buildings and their designated collections.

Since its formation in 2002 YMT has developed into an innovative, energetic and successful organisation responding creatively and positively to a demanding and fast changing environment. YMT works closely with partners in York and the wider museums sector. We make a significant contribution to the economic and educational welfare of the City and wider region. YMT is one of 21 museum services in England to receive Major Partner Museums funding from Arts Council England. The Trust generates an income of c£6m pa and employs c100 FTEs. All income, including ticket income, supports the charity to preserve collections, gardens and buildings and continue to offer high quality access to those collections

On 1 August 2015 YMT launched an award-winning redevelopment of York Art Gallery and Museum Gardens and YMT is increasing the profile of its engaging, exciting exhibitions at all its venues which will attract more visitors, help build income streams and fulfil its long term strategic goals.

**Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives**

Our Vision is for York Museums Trust to play a major part in positioning York as a world class cultural centre.

Our Mission is to cherish and enhance the collections, buildings and gardens entrusted to us, presenting and interpreting them as a stimulus for learning, a provocation to curiosity and a source of inspiration and enjoyment for all.

**Strategic Objectives**

* To protect and conserve the collections, gardens and buildings
* To promote access to the collections, gardens and buildings appropriate to the 21st century
* To attract more visitors to our sites, thus contributing to the local and regional economy
* To create learning opportunities for all and develop innovative programmes springing from the collections, gardens and buildings
* To network and collaborate with partners and contribute to the development of the economic and cultural life of the city and the region
* To raise substantial funds to realise these aims

The Board and Senior Management Team have identified headline priorities for the next five years:

* York Castle Museum major capital project and developing the Castle area as a cultural quarter
* Excellent, high profile programming, including strategic YMT-led events to attract visitors to York and high quality exhibitions at York Art Gallery
* Expanding Enterprises, building on success, becoming a more business-like charity and increasing our income streams and resilience
* Ensuring a Quality and 21st century Visitor Experience, pro-actively engaging visitors and sharing narratives
* Improving York’s and York Museum Trust’s profiles through local, regional and international leadership, partnership and delivering on all the expectations of key stakeholders

The Board

The YMT Board (maximum 15 Trustees) led by Professor Sir John Lawton is strong with a broad range of skills and backgrounds. There are 6 board meetings a year plus a Strategic Planning Awayday. Meetings are held in the evening in York. Trustees may also be asked to join a Board committee.

Chief Executive, Reyahn King joined YMT in autumn 2016 and leads the Senior Management team

**THE ROLE**

The role of a Trustee is to add value to the successful leadership, governance and development of the trust whilst providing support and appropriate challenge to the executive team as a “critical friend”.

Trustees will be expected to contribute to formal meetings and also be available for ad hoc meetings and discussions where he/she can add particular value.

**Candidate Profile/Experience**

Applications are particularly welcomed from well-connected individuals experienced in some or all of the following sectors: museums (especially collections management and capital projects), finance, digital, fundraising, diversity, and community development / education.

* Individuals will have operated at a senior level in organisations of some complexity undergoing change.
* An interest in YMTs core areas of activity.
* Ideally, candidates will have some experience of operating at board level and be familiar with board governance.
* Some experience of working in the not for profit/charitable sector would be an advantage.
* Ideally will have held a non-executive/trustee position and understand the different approach and behaviours required in the role.
* An appreciation of working with key stakeholders and in partnership with others.
* Strongly strategic, commercial and financially literate.

**Personal Qualities**

* The highest levels of personal integrity and professional conduct.
* Excellent influencing and relationship building skills
* Able to challenge in an appropriate and supportive manner which respects shared values, yet recognises the need for stimulating debate.
* Able to give independent advice and support to executives on executive issues.
* Prepared to get involved and be visible in the Trust.
* A collegiate and collaborative approach.

**THE PROCESS/TIMETABLE**

To apply, please send a CV and covering letter to Professor Sir John Lawton, Chairman of York Museums Trust, c/o Sharron.cooper@ymt.org.uk **by 30 September 2016**.

Please state in your email to Sharron Cooper where you saw the post advertised: 1. The Guardian, 2.Charity jobs, 3. Ethnic Jobs, 4. Museums Journal, 5. University of Leicester Museum Jobs page, 6. AIM Trustee portal.

Interviews will take place in York between 24 October and 4 November 2016.

Trustees will take up their appointment for an initial 3 year term from the AGM in November 2016.

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