

WOW



Appointment of

# Trustee with experience in Major Capital Developments

Wonderseekers

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## Wonderseekers



Introduction from Janet Owen, Chair of Trustees,  
and Ben Ward, CEO:

# Welcome and thank you for your interest in joining us!

Wonderseekers has a clear and important mission - to create a more equitable world where all children can treasure science and are equipped and empowered to improve lives and protect and heal our planet. Our strategy, For People and Planet 2030, sets out a clear vision for Wonderseekers and the outcomes we want to influence for children and nature. The impact we already have is hugely significant but we know through the delivery of this ambitious strategy and masterplan, we can do so much more. If you share our values, ambition and commitment to our Charity's mission, we would love to hear from you.

We value diversity amongst our Board of Trustees and the unique contribution trustees bring to the role through their own lived, loved, laboured and learned experiences. As well as ensuring the Board has the necessary business skills required to effectively govern the Charity, we also seek to represent the audiences we serve across all levels of our organisation.

Our Board of Trustees provides strategic leadership and governance to the Charity to ensure we achieve what we set out to do effectively and always in line with 'Our promise to children' and regulatory obligations.

To deliver our new strategy and exciting capital and activity Masterplan, the Charity is looking to strengthen our Board with an individual who can bring their skills and experience in this area.

We are offering you a unique and rewarding experience. You will have a key impact on our Charity's mission, oversee our strategic vision, influence future projects and help manage risk. You will bring your experience and knowledge in one of the key skills areas to advise the Senior Leadership Team and set the future direction of our Charity.

Once again, thank you for your interest in becoming a trustee of Wonderseekers, and we look forward to receiving your application soon!



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# Charity Impact

Our Charity has been focused on engaging young people in science since it was founded in 1986. Our delivery has evolved over the decades, with a focus now on making science accessible and fun to children at a young age. But why? Originally, emphasis was placed on science and technology career pathways, and for many organisations this is still their primary focus. But for Wonderseekers, we're on a mission to create more equitable access to science and nature so that all children can participate, especially those within our priority audiences - children and families who are underserved due to low socio-economic opportunities, disability, impairment or illness.

Through a diverse, accessible and inclusive mix of science experiences, our Charity is a catalyst for change. Fun, positive, people-led activities at our Science Centre, in schools, communities and online, are central to getting children and their families engaged in science and its relevance to the world we live in.

Some of the ways we've overcome barriers to engagement:

- We take science and nature experiences into schools and community spaces, reaching children and families who have limited opportunity to engage. Our priority communities are Winnall (Winchester), Leigh Park (Havant), the City of Southampton and Rushmoor (Aldershot & Farnborough).
- We invest in accessibility improvements to improve physical and sensory access to our Science Centre, workshops and community programmes. This includes everything from recruitment to staff training, interactive exhibits to website design, accessible interpretation, social stories and sensory backpacks to subsidised pricing for schools and free admission for personal assistants and foster families.
- We seek to run our Charity with children, particularly those from priority audiences. We do this through our Young Steering Group, Young Design Panel and through partnerships, such as the ones we have with Shepherd's Down School, a SEN school, and regional Young Carer groups.

More information about our Charity can be found on our website [www.wonderseekers.charity](http://www.wonderseekers.charity)

## Wonderseekers



The difference our Charity can make is demonstrated through our theory of change.

### By doing this:

Speaking up for early intervention, equality, diversity and inclusion and the environment in science

Creating, curating and sharing digital resources and experiences

Connecting children to nature through environmental science, outdoor spaces and our activity programme

Providing accessible, fun and diverse science experiences through our Science Centre

Extending activity through schools and community-based programmes to deliver equitable access to science

### And by working with:

Schools



Families



Communities



Partners

### We will be the catalyst for change through:

Sustained, repeated and diverse science engagement from an early age

Fun, positive, people-led and participatory activities

Accessible and inclusive experiences, where children feel welcome and valued

Continuous evaluation

### To achieve these outcomes:

Children are connected to nature

Children use their science enquiry skills

Children want to play their part

Children value and see the relevance of science

### And long-term impacts:

Children can and want to protect and heal our natural world

Children choose to live healthier lives

Children can live in a more equitable society

Children choose to contribute to a better world for all

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 **Winchester**  
Science Centre

# What we're looking for

## General:

- Engage effectively and constructively with Board and Committee discussions
- Develop excellent working relationships with other trustees and members of the executive team, in order to constructively challenge and support all aspects of our work.
- Have an understanding of the voluntary sector and the roles and legal responsibilities of a trustee including risk management and safeguarding
- Think creatively – Wonderseekers is an innovative and forward-thinking organisation, therefore we will be looking for individuals with an ability to share our ambitions.
- Commit to the Charity by attending meetings, reviewing papers and informally meeting with the team as required (see below for time expectations)
- Be skilled in analysing proposals and examine their consequences, especially in regard to Capital Developments
- Be interested in how we can use science to encourage children to choose to live healthier, more sustainable lives and contribute to a better world for all

## Major Capital Developments:

- Use experience of working strategically and operationally in previous Major Capital Developments to support the wider trustees in developing their individual and collective understanding of this area. This experience does not have to be related to the museum/visitor centre area however this would be beneficial
- Be able to draw on perspectives and previous experience to provide strategic oversight, helping the board to remain innovative, manage risk effectively and adapt to changing environments in relation to our ambitious future plans
- Support the executive team where needed through the planning, preparation and delivery of development projects
- Ensure the board of trustees and charity as a whole are constantly reflecting, learning and improving on our policies, practices and risks involving major capital works



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In addition to being able to demonstrate skills, experience and knowledge in one of the areas identified above, in order to carry out your responsibilities as a trustee, you should:

- be committed to the purpose, objects and values of the Charity
- be constructive about other trustees' opinions in discussions (and in response to staff members' contributions at meetings)
- be able to act reasonably and responsibly when undertaking such duties and performing tasks
- be able to maintain confidentiality on sensitive and confidential information
- be supportive of the values (and ethics) of the Charity
- understand the importance and purpose of meetings, and be committed to preparing for them adequately and attending them regularly
- be able to analyse information and, when necessary, challenge constructively
- be able to make collective decisions and stand by them



## Trustee arrangements

Wonderseekers is governed by a Board of up to 12 trustees who hold collective responsibility for the charity's strategic direction and governance.

The position on the Board is voluntary. Once elected, Trustees can serve a maximum of 3 terms of 3 years.

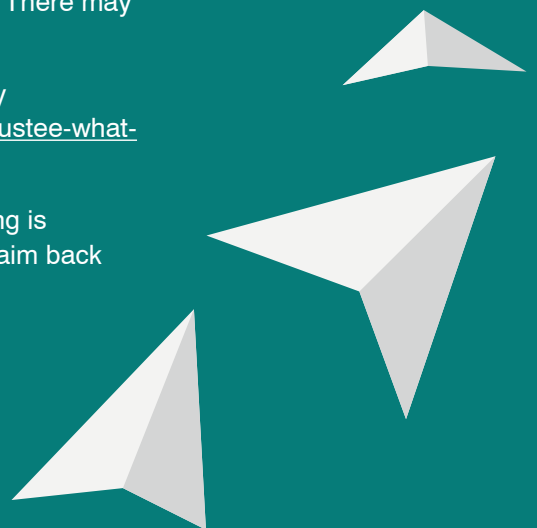
Currently, Board meetings take place once per quarter, usually in January, April, July and November. Meetings are held on a mixture of days and evenings, with plenty of prior notice and consideration to individual availability given where possible. You will be expected to attend at least four board meetings per year. We also hold an annual strategy day usually in September.

In addition you will also sit on at least one committee. Committees generally meet up to four times per year. Meetings are between one and three hours and a hybrid option is usually available. Additional time for reviewing papers and building relationships with the senior management team as required should also be factored in. There may also be opportunities to attend special events.

You may find it useful to look at the guidance on Trustees from the Charity Commission: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3>

We are committed to investing in our trustees and therefore trustee training is available. In addition we have an expenses policy to enable trustees to claim back travel expenses.

## Wonderseekers



# How to apply

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Laura Ollis (Director of People and Culture ) on [hr@wonderseekers.charity](mailto:hr@wonderseekers.charity) with your CV and cover letter summarising your motivation for joining the Board of Trustees and what you would be able to bring to the role.

If you would like to discuss any reasonable adjustments to this application process please do not hesitate to get in touch.

If you would like to arrange an informal conversation prior to submitting an application, please contact us using the details above. We will organise interviews on a rolling basis.

The panel will include existing Trustees and the CEO, and candidates will also have the opportunity to meet the leadership team and some staff. There will be an induction session for the successful new Trustee. We look forward to hearing from you.

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