

Chair of Levenshulme Old Library (Voluntary Position)

Levenshulme Old Library (LOL) is seeking a dedicated and passionate individual to join our team as the Chair of the Board of Trustees. This is a unique opportunity to lead and shape the future of a historic community asset.

About Levenshulme Old Library:

Levenshulme Old Library is a historic Carnegie library and community charity, serving as an arts and culture centre for the local community. Originally funded by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, the library has been a cornerstone of the community since 1904. After a period of closure, it was revitalised and reopened in 2018 through the efforts of the Levenshulme Old Library, a charitable incorporated organisation, and the support of the local community.

Levenshulme Old Library is entering a transformative phase. We are on the brink of signing a 25-year lease through a community asset transfer, securing the building's future as a hub for arts, culture and community activities. This long-term lease will enable us to expand our programmes, enhance our facilities, and deepen our impact on the community. As we embark on this journey, we are looking for a visionary leader to guide us through this exciting period of growth and development.

As Chair, you will play a pivotal role in ensuring that Levenshulme Old Library continues to thrive as a vital community hub, helping to create opportunities for local residents and artists, and fostering a sense of belonging.

Role and Responsibilities:

- Provide leadership and direction to the Board of Trustees.
- Oversee strategic planning and governance to ensure alignment with the organisation's mission.
- Oversee business activities to ensure strategic alignment and compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.
- Ensure effective HR oversight and support for employees.
- Represent LOL to external stakeholders and build strong relationships within the community.
- Provide strategic direction and support for fundraising efforts and securing resources to support LOL's mission.
- Guide the organisation through its continued growth and development, with a focus on strategic planning and long-term sustainability.
- Collaborate closely with the Board and General Manager to cultivate a dynamic, inclusive leadership team that empowers staff and volunteers.

Qualifications:

- Previous experience in a similar leadership or governance role, with a preference for experience in community arts.
- Strong understanding of HR practices and employment law.
- Proven leadership skills with strategic thinking and problem-solving abilities.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- A commitment to the mission and values of Levenshulme Old Library.
- Ability to work collaboratively with a diverse group of stakeholders.

Commitment:

The Chair will be expected to prepare for and lead bi-monthly board meetings and participate in at least one sub-committee. Line management of the General Manager will include formal appraisals every six months and 1:1s as needed. With oversight of financial and HR responsibilities, we estimate the time commitment to be approximately 4-6 hours per month.

Opportunities for You:

- Solidifying your leadership experience and shaping a thriving community space.
- Playing a key role in the future growth and development of a historic, community-led arts hub.
- Reduced rates for venue hire.
- The chance to lead a passionate, dynamic team committed to community impact.

Diversity and Inclusion:

Levenshulme Old Library is committed to diversity in all its forms and encourages candidates from all backgrounds, including those from underrepresented communities, to apply. We believe that a diversity of perspectives is essential for driving meaningful change and making a lasting impact on our community.

How to Apply:

If you are passionate about community development and have the skills and experience to lead Levenshulme Old Library into its next chapter, we would love to hear from you. Please send your CV and a short cover letter outlining your suitability for the role to

richard@levenshulmeoldlibrary.org.uk

Deadline for applications: 10/08/26