



David Livingstone Birthplace

Trustee Prospectus

www.david-livingstone-birthplace.org



David Livingstone Birthplace

Message from the Chair

Trustees play a crucial part in the success and development of the creative and operational life of the charity.

The Scottish National Memorial to David Livingstone Trust is seeking Board members to bring new thinking, views and experience into the organisation to support the future of our reinvigorated museum.

The David Livingstone Trust has gone through a transformation in recent years. Emerging from being a 'sleeping partner' in a now ended agreement with National Trust for Scotland and South Lanarkshire Council, the Trust has delivered a £9.1m transformation of the Birthplace site which opened in July 2021 with a reinvigorated museum, parkland, café and shop.

The Trust is also going through a cultural transformation. Recontextualising Livingstone's story, the new displays aim to highlight marginalised histories relating to Livingstone's life and examining his work within the complex and painful realities of slavery, colonialism and nineteenth century European attitudes about Africa and its people. The museum is now in a unique position to be central to discussions around Scotland's role in slavery and colonisation.



We are particularly interested in receiving applications from people with the following skills and experience:

- *Senior level experience within heritage, curatorial and/or collections management*
- *Third Sector, including learning, community, volunteer and stakeholder engagement*
- *Company/Legal – we are seeking a Company Secretary to join the Board (separate job description available)*

We're looking for people who embrace our values, can take a proactive part in our board's discussions, will engage in healthy debate, respect others' viewpoints and then gather around to support a consensus view.

If you think you've got the skills, experience and personal qualities to support us in taking our next vital step, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Dr Isabel Bruce, OBE
Chair

About the Trust

Trustees play a crucial part in the success and development of the creative and operational life of the charity.

The Scottish National Memorial to David Livingstone Trust (DLT) was entrusted in 1929 with the ownership of David Livingstone Birthplace (DLB) at Blantyre, which includes the Category A-Listed Building of Livingstone's birth, surrounding parkland, and a collection of 4,000 objects. The Birthplace Project has re-launched the site and re-interpreted his story for a new generation, telling his life story from multiple perspectives, from his humble beginnings as a Blantyre mill-worker to becoming a world-famous missionary and explorer.

David Livingstone Birthplace is the only independent museum in Scotland that is dedicated to preserving the legacy of David Livingstone and re-examining his work within the complex and painful realities around the attitudes of that time. This puts the museum in a unique position to be central to discussions around Scotland's role in slavery and colonisation and how that is represented both in our interpretation of David Livingstone's story and the objects we hold within the museum. We embrace that position, and are committed to challenging unconscious bias, privilege, apathy, and ignorance. We consider all of this in relation to understanding Scottish heritage, missionary work, colonial history, and specifically with regard to the untold and contested narratives relating to Black history.





Our Values

Progressive

we seek to understand the past from multiple perspectives and champion overlooked and erased narratives, voices, and experiences. We use our shared histories to inform the present, look to the future and to promote deeper understanding between peoples and cultures.

Challenging

we challenge prejudice and discrimination, are actively anti-racist and acknowledge privilege with regards to all protected characteristics. We will also challenge ourselves to be brave in our approach and continually seek new ways of working.

Inclusive

we are respectful to all our audiences, participants, and partners - both internally and externally. The Museum is a safe place – welcoming to all.

Engaging

we promote learning and collaboration through our projects, events, and innovative partnerships. We seek engagement with community groups, educators, artists, activists, and other organisations, both locally and internationally.

Constitution

The Trust is an independent charitable trust registered in Scotland. It is also an independent corporate body limited by guarantee.

The Board has a number of sub-committees with delegated responsibility to oversee and support particular aspects of the Trust's work, as follows:

- *Audiences, Learning, Engagement and Collections*
- *Finance and Resources*
- *Audit and Risk*
- *Nominations and Governance*

In addition, the Trust has an Expert Advisory Group who bring external support and critical friend challenge around issues such as Black Lives Matter, decolonisation, slavery, racism and imperialism, helping the Trust tell its story within a broader and contemporary context.



Board Members' Role and Responsibilities

Trustees have a shared responsibility for governing the organisation effectively. Being a Trustee is about helping to make sure the charity is managed and run responsibly both in line with its legal obligations and in step with the vision, mission and values of the organisation.

These are hugely valued positions, and all Trustees play a crucial part in the success and development of the creative and operational life of the charity.

In line with the Office for Scottish Charity Regulator's (OSCR's) guidance, the Board member role is primarily focused on strategy, oversight and supportive challenge, providing strong leadership for the organisation and being positive ambassadors to drive its future direction.

This includes:

- Providing strategic vision and leadership to the Trust
- Ensuring good governance to achieve sustainable financial stability
- Preparing for, attending and making active contributions to Board meetings
- Drawing on personal expertise and working collaboratively in order to make good decisions that are in the best long-term interests of the charity

- Making use of existing networks and building on them in order to support the development of the organisation
- Giving feedback on the Museum's financial plans and strategic objectives
- Reviewing risks to the organisation and the contingencies designed to mitigate these risks, while also safeguarding the organisation's creative freedom
- Contributing to reviews of systems, policies and procedures designed to allow the organisation to work as well as possible and embrace best practice
- Embodying and promoting principles of inclusion and non-discrimination
- Supporting and nurturing high-quality relationships with the wider team that delivers the organisation's work

The OSCR document, *'Guidance and Good Practice for Charity Trustees'*, describes and explains the key duties of Trustees.

All members and directors are required to sign a Code of Conduct.

This role is not remunerated, but reasonable expenses will be paid.

What does being on the Board of the Trust involve?

Board members are expected to attend three board meetings per year. These are currently held in person or by Microsoft Teams.

Board members are also expected to serve on at least one Board committee, for which their skills and experience are relevant.

Wider than this, volunteers are sought from the Board members to:

- Take part in ad-hoc task-and-finish groups to support particular areas of activity;
- Represent the Trust at events and meetings with stakeholders; and
- To give support to the Director, staff and volunteers of the David Livingstone Birthplace.

Application Requirements

If you are interested in being considered as a member of the Board, please apply with the following:

- Your CV including contact details



- Provide contact details for two referees who would be able to confirm your suitability for the role.
- A supporting statement (no more than 2 sides of A4) setting out:
 - Why you would like to be a Board member
 - What you will bring to the Board, particularly given the context and our requirements set out above
 - What you would hope to get back from the role
- State if you are aware of any potential conflicts of interest that you may have

Your application should be emailed to: Our Museum Director Grant MacKenzie - email grant.mackenzie@dltrust.uk Prospective candidates will be invited for an initial conversation about the role.

Contact and Questions

If you have any questions or would like an informal conversation to discuss the role, please contact Grant MacKenzie on 07833 680622.