**Join us as a trustee**

**Why are we asking?**

Ripon Museum Trust is seeking new trustees to help us realise our vision *to use our heritage assets to inspire people to seek a fairer society.* It is an exciting time to join our Board as we celebrate the 40thanniversary of the Trust and enter a period of significant development with our *Inspiration for a Fairer Future* project.

**Who are we looking for?**

All applications are welcome including people with museum, arts or heritage experience but this is definitely not a prerequisite to joining us.

We especially welcome those from people with the skills and expertise to help us to develop *our people strategy and organisational culture* and *our financial and commercial acumen.*

We are committed to ensuring the widest possible field of candidates and especially welcome applications from: women, early career professionals seeking their first governance position and people with protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010, as they are currently underrepresented on the Board.

**Who are we?**

Ripon Museum Trust is an independent charity operating three museums all on a theme of law and order.

The Trust’s vision is to use our heritage assets to inspire people to seek a fairer society. That translates into a mission to use the unique trio of the Workhouse, Prison & Police and Courthouse Museums together with the collections and the stories they tell to help people explore big issues such as fairness, equality, justice and welfare. Our Strategic Plan 2021-26 sets out the strategic aims which are helping to shape our work. It is available on our website [here](https://riponmuseums.co.uk/app/uploads/2022/01/Strategic-Plan-2021-2026-Executive-Summary.pdf).

In 2017 we bought the former Ripon Union Workhouse site, doubling the size of the largest of our three museums. We have been awarded development funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to devise detailed plans for work valued at £2.25 million.

Our ACE National Portfolio Organisation status which began in 2018 is helping us to deliver enhanced curation, a larger outreach programme and significant expansion of our digital provision. The Trust has recently made an application to Arts Council England to play our part in their 2023-26 Investment Programme.

**What is the role?**

You would be one of a Board of nine trustees providing the governance of the organisation which is both a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. With expansion in many areas, a new trustee can make their mark on an organisation that is continuing to grow. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone who wants to broaden their experience to make a valuable and lasting contribution to developing heritage assets of national importance.

There are currently four Board meetings plus two strategic away days each year. There will be the opportunity depending on availability and skills to join committees and working groups. We are a charity and a company limited by guarantee so you would fill the dual role of a trustee of the charity and a director of the company.

Board and committee meetings are normally in the evening; strategy away days are often in the daytime at a weekend. There is some flexibility in setting times and dates if required. Many meetings are held as hybrid digital / physical ones as appropriate. Reasonable expenses for attending Board meetings (including childcare payments) will be considered. Ideally, we are looking for someone who can spare a few hours per week for Board business, but on average a minimum of an hour per week will be required.

The Trust’s operations are led by a staff team supported in part by the NPO funding. Much of the museum delivery is in the hands of dedicated volunteers and the Trust is keen to maintain this long-established volunteer ethos. Our volunteer surveys show a high level of satisfaction, with the museums considered as a great place to volunteer.

There is more general information on being a trustee on the Charity Commission website [here](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/866947/CC3_feb20.pdf) and from the NCVO [here](https://knowhow.ncvo.org.uk/images/good-trustee-guide-summary).

**Process**

Please send a letter expressing your interest and a brief personal statement to the Chair of Trustees, Richard Taylor, at richard.taylor@riponmuseums.co.uk by our closing date of 22 August 2022.

Those shortlisted will be invited for an informal discussion either in person or online at a date and time to be agreed. Appropriate expenses will be paid.

The chosen candidate will be recommended by the Board for appointment by the AGM on 4 October 2022.

If you would like to discuss the opportunity before applying then please contact the Chair of Trustees, Richard Taylor, on 07720 751562.