

Chair

The Landmark Trust

 Pro bono  c. 1-2 days per month (5 Board meetings per year + annual visit to property, events etc.)

 UK - London and South East (London and Maidenhead)  Midnight on 1st February



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About The Landmark Trust

The Landmark Trust is a charity founded in 1965 by Sir John and Lady Smith which rescues historic places in danger of being lost and carefully and sensitively restores them. By making these places available for holidays, with over 40,000 people staying in one each year, the Landmark Trust ensures that they can be enjoyed by all, both today and for future generations to come. The Trust has over 200 buildings in Britain in its care, several in Italy and France and one in Belgium.

Though they range from the sober to the spectacular, all the Landmark Trust's buildings are rich in history and atmosphere. They include picturesque pavilions and medieval long-houses, artillery forts and Gothick follies, clan chiefs' castles and cotton weavers' cottages, the homes of great writers and the creations of great architects, from Browning to Boswell, from Pugin to Palladio.

The Landmark Trust believes that buildings are man-made fossils which if left alone, would crumble to dust and leave holes in Britain's architectural tapestry. Its work is crucial in bringing these landmarks back to life.

Culture

Being aligned with the Landmark Trust's culture and values is an important aspect of the role. The Board's style is informal and friendly yet businesslike. The Landmark Trust is a small organisation in terms of numbers, with only around 40 people in its main office, giving it a family business feel. Candidates should be enthusiastic about the informal and personal atmosphere, and view themselves as a good cultural fit.

The relationship between staff and the Board is also informal, friendly and close. In many cases, where it is felt desirable, the Board of Trustees have been involved in management projects – advising on IT, for example, and the setting up of online booking.

The Trust is first and foremost a practitioner; the Board and management like to get things done with the minimum of bureaucracy, and shares a deep enthusiasm for seeking out, repairing and adapting precious and endangered buildings and for making inspirational experiences available to everyone.

Role specification

Having performed well in previous years, the Landmark Trust has remained resilient in the face of the current pandemic, and has recently seen an increase in visitor numbers on pre-pandemic figures. In light of this, the Landmark Trust seeks a Chair, not to transform the Trust's business model, but who will play a key role in the development of its strategy, supporting its ambitious projects, helping to determine its key priorities, and supporting the management team in overcoming any challenges. The Chair will provide counsel and support to the leadership team with regard to commercial business strategy, and will develop a strong mentoring relationship with the Chief Executive Officer. The Chair will maintain the dynamics for an effective Board in line with the Trust's culture and values, and ensure strong corporate governance.

A passionate advocate for the Landmark Trust's work, the Chair should be able to clearly articulate the Trust's unique and unconventional approach to its lettings and emphasise the character that these buildings possess. In addition to representing the Landmark Trust externally, the Chair will also position it with future partners to facilitate continued fundraising. Whilst the Landmark Trust is in a strong financial position, the Chair's future involvement with fundraising will enable the Landmark Trust to build further upon its success, expanding its property portfolio and ensuring that the Trust continues to promote the public enjoyment of historic buildings alongside generating revenues from holiday-lettings. For many years funds were provided by the Manifold Trust, and since then the Trust has received outstandingly generous grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, from several charitable trusts, and from individuals.

The Chair will also be involved with assessing potential landmarks, based on key criteria and which will best meet the Trust's charitable purposes. Each project should have the potential to contribute significantly to preserving cultural heritage.

Person specification

The Landmark Trust is looking for a Chair who embodies its values and can demonstrate a passion for the heritage sector. The successful candidate does not need to have expertise in the sector, but will need to possess a love of culture and heritage, and an understanding of the Landmark Trust's mission. Candidates should express enthusiasm about undertaking ambitious and challenging preservation projects, and be able to marry the modern digital world with history and tradition. Above all, the new Chair should feel strongly about making a difference in helping to preserve heritage, and be able to manifest a real passion that they can communicate effectively to the public.

The new Chair will have some experience of fundraising and will provide the expertise to support the Landmark Trust's fundraising strategy. They will be able to act as an ambassador for the charity, spreading its mission and galvanising people to its cause. Ideally, the new Chair will have strong philanthropic networks, and will be willing to utilise their networks to extend the Landmark Trust's fundraising capabilities.

Whilst the new Chair could come from a wide range of potential career backgrounds, they will have experience of operating at board level within their field, with the financial literacy and understanding of corporate governance necessary for chairing a board.

Required for this role

- **Board Chair ready** Chairing a board involves responsibilities beyond the advisory aspects of being a non-executive director. If you have not previously chaired a board, please demonstrate your chair-readiness by listing the different boards, panels or committees that you have sat on, including details of whether you have either directly chaired or else deputised for the existing chair. If you already have significant chair experience, please detail this.

Desired for this role

- **Fundraising network** Candidates should demonstrate a strong personal network of UK-based high net worth individuals that can be leveraged to raise funds for the organisation.

Board composition

Lord Neil Mendoza, Chair
Dr Doug Gurr
Helen Webb
Martin Stancliffe FSA Dip Arch RIBA
Sarah Staniforth CBE
Dame Elizabeth Forgan
John Hastings-Bass
Brian Miller
Sarah Hall

Location

All members of the Board of Trustees, including the Chair, are expected to participate in events, attend public open days, make approaches and representations to potential donors, and contribute ideas and advice. The Board meets formally five times per year, but members regularly take part in events and visits to both existing and potential Landmarks.

Terms of Appointment

This role is unremunerated but reimbursement is made for all reasonable expenses with regard to Chair's duties on behalf of the charity. The appointment is for a three-year term, which can be renewed at the discretion of the Board.

Process

This process is being run in-house by the organisation, who will view the applications without edits. We therefore advise applicants to avoid using 'see CV' or 'please call me to discuss further' in your application as it may restrict your chances of progressing to the next round.

Connected Parties

This organisation has requested that candidates do not contact them directly. Instead, if you know someone at the organisation, please mention it in your Reason for Application. Members who do not respect this may risk having their membership terminated.

Any questions?

Ask Grace and we'll get back to you within 24 hours.

Submit question

Role timetable

Deadline for applications: 1st February

Candidates can expect to be contacted by: 15th February

Candidates can expect the process to be completed by: 30th April
