

**THE OLD  
OPERATING  
THEATRE**  
MUSEUM &  
HERB GARRET

9A St Thomas Street  
London, SE1 9RY  
020 7188 2679  
[www.oldoperatingtheatre.com](http://www.oldoperatingtheatre.com)  
Charity Number: CIO 1155078

# The Lord Brock Trust Custodian of the Old Operating Theatre, Museum & Herb Garret



**Trustee Recruitment Pack  
April 2025**

## Foreword by the Chair of Trustees

The Old Operating Theatre Museum and Herb Garret is a unique and evocative place offering special insights into the history of medicine, surgery and women's health. Through its physical spaces and its collections, the museum offers exciting opportunities to explore medicine, health and well-being. It is one of London's best loved small museums and is looking to develop further over the coming years.

The Lord Brock Trust (LBT) which runs the Museum is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) set up in 2012. This superseded the Lord Brock Memorial Trust which had been managing the Old Operating Theatre Museum & Herb Garret (OOT) since its establishment in 1962 by Lord Russell Brock.

The LBT has up to twelve Trustees who usually meet four times a year, with meetings now held alternately in person at the Museum or virtually online. The LBT currently has three vacancies and would like to recruit new Board members with specific skills and lived experiences to help the Museum develop and achieve its strategic aims.

In the last few years, the Old Operating Theatre has successfully navigated the pandemic, become an important heritage organisation in London Bridge, and extended its outreach and community engagement work. In 2022 the Museum obtained grant funding both to celebrate its bicentenary and the urgently needed project to replace the operating theatre skylight.

Last year a new Director, Dr Sophie Waring, was appointed. The Museum is now developing an ambitious new strategic plan and embarking on a major reinterpretation project 'Old Op Reimagined'. This is all within the context of a genuine commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.

This is an exciting time to join the Board and help the Director and her committed team realise the Museum's ambitions.

Carol Seigel, Chair of Trustees





# The Museum

## Vision

A world where everyone understands the importance of the history of medicine to our lives today.

## Mission

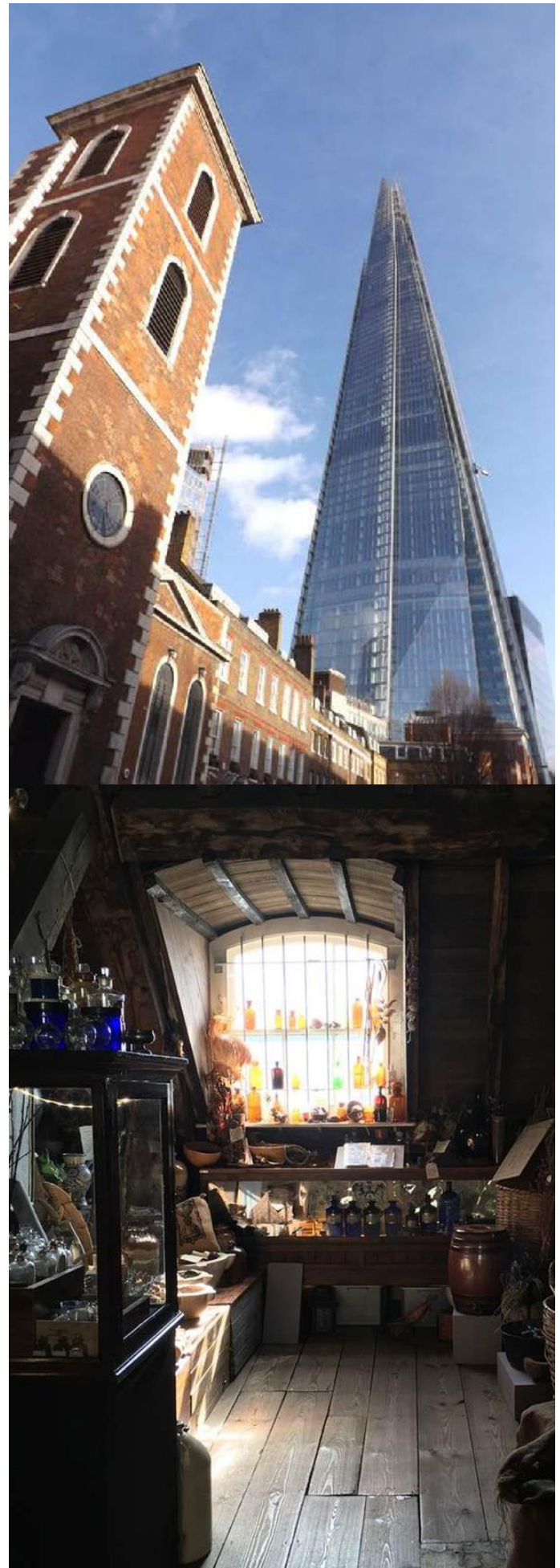
To contextualise the women's operating theatre of old St. Thomas' hospital in the attic of the 18th century church in the heart of London Bridge. Providing immersive educational experiences and conversations about medicine, health and well-being using its collection, and voices past and present.

## History

Housed in the attic of the early eighteenth-century church of the old St Thomas' Hospital, this Museum offers a unique insight into the history of medicine and surgery. The original timber framed Herb Garret was once used to dry and store herbs for patients' medicines and in 1822, an operating theatre was built within it to host surgeries as part of the hospital's treatment and teaching responsibilities. Predating the periods of modern anaesthetics and antiseptics, it is the oldest surviving surgical theatre in Europe.

The Old Operating Theatre Museum & Herb Garret (OOT) was founded in 1962 and is an independent organisation at the heart of London's Borough of Southwark. It raises income from admission and shop sales, supplemented by grants, sponsorship and donations. There are 10 part time members of staff and 13 volunteers. The Museum is fully accredited by Arts Council England.

The Operating Theatre and Herb Garret spaces are the main artefacts. In addition, the collection comprises some 2,200 items of operating furniture, surgical instruments, pharmaceutical and apothecary items, obstetric equipment, a small collection of anatomical models, a human skeleton and some 20 pathological specimens; and further general medical items from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, loaned or donated by Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals.





Last financial year, 2023-24, The Museum welcomed just over 33,000 people through its doors and engaged with around 3,400 in a series of outreach activities.

These engagements included our newly implemented Old Op on Tour summer outreach activities, taking the museum's stories and collections to other venues and festivals across London. The education offer of the Old Operating Theatre continues to increase in popularity with a total audience of 7,593, ranging from primary to adult education groups. The economic impact of our visitors to the local economy equates to over £350k annually, however, from a recent study by RealWorth, the social value of our work can be calculated at £5.0m over the last two years alone. The Trust wishes to continue to grow our work and reach in these areas as part of its ongoing mission and values.

Read more about our activities and achievements in our [Annual Reports](#).





## Trustee Role Description

We welcome applications from individuals of all backgrounds and experience levels, and prior board experience is not essential – what matters to us is your interest in the Old Operating Theatre, your enthusiasm for its work, and ability to be an active contributor.

### General skills and attributes required:

- Understanding of the Museum's purpose, including an appreciation of the importance of telling the stories of health and medicine today.
- The ability to scrutinise the charity's business plans, financial sustainability and risk mitigation procedures.
- An ability to think strategically, focussing on major issues, and a forward-thinking approach to challenges and opportunities.
- Willingness to share skills, professional experience and contacts with the Director and the staff team.
- A readiness to be involved in fundraising and promotion of the Museum.

### We are particularly keen to hear from individuals with specialist skills/knowledge in the following areas:

- Professional involvement and knowledge of the local hospitals and medical schools, and expertise in public engagement with medicine.
- Commercial management, marketing and digital experience in museums.
- Fundraising and development, particularly working with corporate partners and individual donors.
- Social inclusion in museums, and involvement in the local community.



## Commitment:

- Trustees serve for a fixed term of three years and can serve for three consecutive terms.
- Trustees are expected to take on specific tasks and activities, such as skill sharing with the OOT Team, or membership of sub committees or project groups.
- Trustees are expected to undertake training and to develop relevant skills and knowledge as required.
- To be effective, Trustees must be able to commit the necessary time. As well as the four meetings a year, this means other meetings occasionally and involvement in Museum events.
- Trustees must follow the Charity Commission guidelines, the Museums Association Code of Ethics and all the Museum's policies.
- Trustees are also expected to adhere to the Nolan Principles of Public Life.

## Person Specification

It is **essential** that trustees should:

- Have the ability to think strategically and creatively, demonstrate objectivity, good judgement and analytical ability.
- Have good communication, team-working and inter-personal skills.
- Be tactful, diplomatic and able to build relationships.
- Be fair, impartial and open to new ideas.

It is **desirable** that Trustees have:

- An interest in local and/or medical history and in museums and heritage.

## Recruitment Process

The closing date for applications is **5pm on Monday 2 June**.

The Lord Brock Trust invites potential candidates to find out more about the Museum on either **Thursday 22 May or Tuesday 27 May** at the Old Operating Theatre Museum and Herb Garret.

Interested candidates will be shown the Museum by the Director, have an opportunity to meet other members of staff and learn more about the Museum.

To book a place on one of these days please email Dr Sophie Waring on [director@oldoperatingtheatre.com](mailto:director@oldoperatingtheatre.com)

Interested candidates can also email the Director or Chair to arrange an informal chat about the role.

To apply, please email Carol Seigel at [chair@oldoperatingtheatre.com](mailto:chair@oldoperatingtheatre.com) with your CV, contact details for two referees, and a covering letter outlining why you would like to become a Trustee of

the Lord Brock Trust overseeing the management of the Old Operating Theatre & Herb Garret; and how your skills and interests are suited to the role.

Appointments will be made subject to receiving satisfactory references, which will only be taken up if an applicant is invited to become a Trustee.

Interviews will take place on **Thursday 26 June and Monday 30 June**, led by the Chair and two current trustees.

Successful candidates will be approved by the Board at the July Board meeting and take up post at the October Board meeting.

Prior to being formally appointed, applicants will need to confirm that they are eligible to be a Trustee by confirming that they:

- Are not disqualified from acting as a charity trustee or company director, have not been removed from serving as a charity trustee, or been stopped from acting in a management position within a charity.
- Have not been convicted of an offence involving deception or dishonesty (or any such conviction that is legally regarded as spent) and have not been involved in tax fraud.
- Are not an undischarged bankrupt or have not made compositions or arrangements with creditors from which they have not been discharged.

A DBS check will not be made on applicants invited to become a Trustee of the LBT.

**We look forward to receiving your application.**

