**An opportunity to join Toynbee Hall’s Trustee Board and shape a better East London for everyone**

**About Toynbee Hall**

For over 130 years, Toynbee Hall has been a part of the social fabric of East London: a place where people come together to work out solutions to the challenges facing the community around us – and to shape change to the systemic barriers that prevent people from thriving.

***We are now looking for three people to join our board of Trustees, helping to shape our future plans and strategy so that we can make the impact for the people of Tower Hamlets and beyond. As a charity we are governed by our Trustees - a group of volunteers who have responsibility for setting our strategy and ensuring we meet our charitable objectives. It is a serious commitment – but is also a fun, rewarding task, and a chance to make a real difference to East London.***

Throughout our history we have been a vital place where people can come for support around access to justice, debt and financial health, wellbeing and benefits, or simply as a place where they can make their voice heard. People and communities are at the heart of everything we do at Toynbee Hall. They shape our services, challenging us to improve quality. They help us build our evidence base, co-create new ways of addressing issues; and are supported to speak to people in power, offering ideas and insights at a city and national level that will break the patterns of poverty.

Over the past 5 years Toynbee Hall has been going through a substantial period of renewal, which has involved a total redevelopment of our historical buildings and spaces, including a new purpose built community wellbeing and advice centre on the same site. This space will not only provide a platform for the organisation to make even stronger connections with the community around us, but is allowing us to generate revenues which will over time allow us to innovate and extend our offer. By the end of 2019 the final part of the development will be complete, with the opening of a new community garden for the people of Tower Hamlets.

We now have an important opportunity to set out a new vision and challenge ourselves to make the biggest contribution we can to the community around us and beyond.

**Why we need new Trustees**

As part of this renewal, we need new trustees to join our Board who can stretch the organisation to be the best it can be. In order to achieve this, we aim to have a trustee board that reflects the local community, so we especially want to hear from people from a wide variety of backgrounds and ethnic groups and younger candidates. Experience of the community is really important to us so please get in touch if you have a personal connection with Tower Hamlets or the East End.

As it is really important to us that we attract a range of Trustees we will offer a full induction programme, and mentoring, for people who have the qualities and skills we are looking for. You don’t need to have experience of being a trustee: these are skills which can be developed, so please don’t let a lack of experience put you off from applying.

**What we need from our Trustees**

Trustees must be people with independent judgement, an ability to think creatively, and a willingness to speak their mind. You should share and model our values: open, bold and enquiring. And if you can bring other practical skills around strategy, policy, commercial activities or practical service delivery that would be even better. Beyond that the kinds of things we need from our trustees overall are:

* A passion for shaping a different future for East London, putting its community’s interests first, and seeing Toynbee Hall as a crucial opportunity to serve those interests.
* An understanding of the challenges facing families, children and young people and an insight into how Toynbee Hall can best add value to supporting the future generations around us. This might either be in terms of programme design and operations, or through knowledge or experience of issues concerning debt, access to justice, housing, benefits, wellbeing and financial capability.
* The ability to support and guide our organisation’s learning and impact upon the community around us and to think strategically and creatively about the challenges and opportunities ahead.
* Knowledge of how the arts and culture could contribute to positive opportunities in East London, and how we can consider cultural and environmental issues as part of our strategy.
* Experience around property and estate management to help ensure we are the best landlord we can be to our commercial tenants and small group of Residential Voluntary Workers.
* Understanding of innovation, business and enterprise that will ensure we take advantage of the opportunities of being situated in the dynamic and rapidly changing economy of East London.
* Knowledge of policy and government at a local, London and national level.
* An appreciation of charity finance that would contribute to our Finance Committee’s robust scrutiny and Finance Team’s strengths in navigating our complex finances, operating environment and the investment we have made in renewing our assets.
* An understanding of safeguarding policies and procedures that will ensure the organisation is rigorous in it processes, ensuring the safety of the communities it engages with.

We are not expecting applicants to have all – or indeed many – of these qualities; and expect that the best candidates will come with some others. But we hope that our trustees between them will be able to cover all of these key attributes and more.

Above all you need to have real enthusiasm and a commitment to achieving the best outcomes for the community around us by supporting and guiding our Chief Executive and Toynbee Hall’s passionate and committed staff and volunteers so that they remain focused on tackling poverty and inequality in East London and beyond.

**The rewards**

The Board is committed to tackling the varied challenges of Toynbee Hall. In return, you will be rewarded by:

* Contributing to making a real difference to the lives of people in the East End and beyond.
* Being part of a leadership group made up of interesting, skilled experts and working closely with Toynbee Hall’s visionary staff team.
* Receiving an in-depth induction and opportunities for mentoring and attending external training.
* Being invited to attend Toynbee Hall’s wide selection of events, with a focus on networking, sharing learning and celebrating community and organisational successes.

**The time commitment to be a Trustee**

Each Board member serves for a three-year term. This will then be reviewed by the Board with a maximum nine-year term. The essential role and responsibilities of a Toynbee Hall Board member is to ensure that Toynbee Hall pursues its objectives in support of its mission to challenge the causes and impacts of poverty**.**

Our Board members are active ambassadors for Toynbee Hall. This means attending and supporting events and taking opportunities to promote and develop the work of Toynbee Hall through networks and contacts. We therefore ask that Board members commit about 2 days per month to Toynbee Hall, on top of the four evening Board Meetings a year. This will also include involvement in time-limited working parties, helping us build our networks and income base, and attending events. Meetings take place at Toynbee Hall’s home in Commercial Street, E1.

**Next steps and what to expect**

If you would like to put yourself forward as a potential trustee please email recruitment@toynbeehall.org.uk along with your CV and an outline of your interests, explaining what you think you would bring to the trustee role. Or, if you prefer, you could send us your expression of interest in any other creative way that gets across your background, interest and what you would bring. We don’t expect you to cover all the points about Toynbee Hall, or respond line by line to this job pack – but we do want to hear how you will make a difference to our organisation and to the people we work with, if you become a Trustee.

We will be accepting applications until midday on October 28th. Once we have reviewed the applications we will follow up with an informal meeting or telephone call before inviting a small number of people to meet with our Chief Executive and some trustees on the 14th, 18th or 19th November.

We’d like to have people in place in time for our Trustee meeting and AGM on 4 December.

If you would like an informal discussion about these roles then please email Georgia.Herbert@ToynbeeHall.org.uk.

**For background information on Toynbee Hall:**

* [www.toynbeehall.org.uk](http://www.toynbeehall.org.uk)
* <http://explore.toynbeehall.org.uk/explore/the-history-of-toynbee-hall-a-timeline/>