



# Limehouse Town Hall

Make interesting things happen

## Open Call: New Board Trustees for Limehouse Town Hall Consortium Trust

Limehouse Town Hall Consortium Trust (LTHCT) is currently looking to add new trustees to its board to help assist in the oversight and operations of Limehouse Town Hall.

This is an exciting time for LTHCT as we are entering a period of making significant improvements to Limehouse Town Hall and the Trust. In addition to maintaining our civic and community engagement efforts and modelling sustainable and ethical practices in the cultural industries in London, LTHCT is embarking on major fundraising bids to enhance the building's existing infrastructure and make it more accommodating to residents and visitors with accessibility needs. In addition, we are looking to rethink and reorganise how the building is run and administered. New trustees will play an integral role in shaping the future of LTHCT.

We are especially interested in encouraging expressions of interest from:

- Local residents and workers in Tower Hamlets;
- Individuals already familiar with the activities of Limehouse Town Hall.
- Artists, activists and community organisers with experience in similar and likeminded building-based organisations, charities and co-operatives;
- Individuals with experience or training in law, civic policy, critical urban development, alternative economies, social organising, fundraising, conservation of historic buildings, and community engagement, marketing and communications.

### About Limehouse Town Hall Consortium Trust

Limehouse Town Hall Consortium Trust (LTHCT) is a charity founded in 2004 as a resource for artists, community arts organisations and cultural producers. It has an annual operating budget of £70,000 and served 17,000 people in 2018/19. It's mission is to maintain, improve and promote Limehouse Town Hall's use to advance public education and involvement in arts and culture and restore the building to its place as an active participant in Limehouse, the east end of London and beyond. We seek to offer an ethical model for the cultural industries, one that brings together arts, activism and alternative grassroots forms of civic participation.

A grade II listed building, and one-time national labour history museum, Limehouse Town Hall is a place where artists and cultural producers, audiences and communities in Tower Hamlets, and beyond, are supported to share ideas, try out new things, and imagine a better here and now. In 2018/19 Limehouse Town Hall welcomed over 9000 people from Tower Hamlets through its doors. The building is a valuable civic resource and LTHCT's work is driven by a belief that arts and culture can support progressive and just changes in individual lives and society. LTHCT supports a number of organisations and artists based at the Town Hall including two of its founding members:

**Stitches in Time:** an arts education charity working in Tower Hamlets for over 20 years. Using textiles as a focus, Stitches works primarily with Bangladeshi women, older women and BAME young people. With support from the Big Lottery Fund they are halfway through a four-year female-led Sewing Support project that includes a sustainable peer-led network. They also house Fabric Works, a social enterprise, that has an award-winning children's wear line. They collaborate with Stepney City Farm, Phoenix Trust and run a yearly Maker's Market.



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**The Boxing Club:** a collective of artists, cultural workers and community activists working in Tower Hamlets for the last 10 years that produce and support off centre and experimental cultural activity including Dorkbot, a meeting of electronic artists in collaboration with Hack Space Foundation; Tower Hamlets Wheelers Workshop, a monthly DIY bike workshop; and the Space Hijackers archive, an arts activist group concerned with the privatisation of public spaces.

You can learn about Limehouse Town Hall online at: [limehousetownhall.co.uk](http://limehousetownhall.co.uk)

## Board Member Responsibilities and Expectations

The general duties of a LTHCT trustee board member are to:

- Contribute actively to the discussions of the organisation – this entails offering strategic direction, helping to set overall policy, defining goals and setting targets and evaluating how we work as an organisation in relation to our targets;
- Ensure LTHCT applies its resources in pursuance of its objects;
- Safeguard the principles of the organisation;
- Ensure the financial stability LTHCT;
- Ensure that LTHCT pursues its objects and complies with its governing documents, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations.

In addition to the above each trustee should use any specific skills, knowledge or experience they have to help the organisation reach sound decisions. This may involve leading discussions, focusing on key issues, providing advice and guidance on new initiatives, evaluation or other issues.

Currently board meetings are held monthly. Trustees are expected to attend all board meetings. Board meetings are currently held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. Trustees are also required to attend the annual general meeting and other occasional strategic, working group or general building meetings – not more than 3 a year.

The role is unpaid and strictly voluntary. The Charities Act 1993 defines charity trustees as the people responsible under the charity's governing document for guiding the administration and management of the charity, regardless of what they are called. The trustees of LTHCT are also directors of the company. This is a company limited by guarantee. This is a sum of £1.

## Expressions of Interest

Anyone interested in learning more or putting themselves forward should be in contact with the LTHCT Operations Coordinator Lewis Dryburgh ([lewis@lthct.org.uk](mailto:lewis@lthct.org.uk)) and the interim LTHCT Chair Shane Boyle ([shane@lthct.org.uk](mailto:shane@lthct.org.uk)). In your email, please briefly introduce yourself and your interest in learning more about joining the board. No more than a few sentences would be expected in your initial expression of interest.

After receiving your initial, we will follow up with each you and may ask you to complete a short application form. All expressions of interest should be received no later than 29 November 2019.

Appointments are expected to begin in early 2020, and we will ask potential new trustees to attend board meetings as guests in December and/or January 2019.