



Inspire

Culture | Learning | Libraries

Inspire Board Elections 2019:

Candidate Manifestos





Inspire

Culture | Learning | Libraries



Alona Ashkenazi



Having worked in a consortium for the voluntary sector for a number of years I appreciate the dedication of the workforce and volunteers to enable charitable organisations to run smoothly.

I would like to be considered for election to Inspire's Board because I believe my experience and background places me in a good position to commit my time and energy to such a worthy role. I have a 'can do' attitude and enjoy working as part of a team. I am able to give my time to this committee and would

welcome the challenges involved.

I can find creative solutions to problems, bring new ideas to familiar programs, and celebrate the unique and colourful people with whom we work. I will work towards improving library services for all and would be keen to investigate other services that could be offered to the community.

I would be happy to help with engagement to encourage and promote the organisation's membership. I would also be willing to be involved with fundraising and grant seeking to raise funds to ensure continued development of Inspire.

I have the interests of the community at heart and I can use my knowledge to ensure that tasks are completed. I would like to be a representative of the local community and implement any ideas as required. I would be most appreciative of your support, thank you!



Inspire

Culture | Learning | Libraries



Mike Barnard



I discovered on my return from Europe, that the widely publicised demise of the Library Service was premature – ejected from government responsibility along with free TV licenses.

I would like very much to be involved through “engagement” and “volunteering”, in the effort to stop libraries pursuing the pub into nostalgic sepia.

To Inspire more people to read, learn, and enjoy culture – the number of visits to the bricks and mortar of the real world must surely be increased.

Since, “Come and read,” is often met with “I’d sooner watch the video,” one must find other ways to attract the library detractors.

They might welcome help with the intricacies of the health, wealth, and welfare systems; as well as with guided play for mothers and children.

Just as “Events dear boy! Events!” encourage people to the high street, so “Events dear boy! Events!” might apply to Inspire.

Without the funds to employ professionals, one might turn to the formal induction of amateur “Code Club” guides, children’s activity leaders, and solvers of Government IT mazes.

A TV programme might encourage people to – “Follow up at your Local Library Computer Centre.”

Internet searches on appropriate topics should bring up “Ask in your Library!”

Growing Inspire may in the end depend on the children, facilities for “Help in the Community”, greatly increased numbers of “Events”, and enhancement of the Library Service presence in Cyber Space.

As a teacher, squash player, and band leader, I offer my help to enhance Inspire’s reach.



Inspire

Culture | Learning | Libraries



Peter Bowcott



I moved to the Midlands in 1988 where I have since worked as a lecturer in the Higher Education sector. This year, my role of “Technology Enhanced Learning Facilitator” in the School of Art & Design at Nottingham Trent University was made redundant. One of the first things I did was to join the library in West Bridgford. My first loan was the e-book edition of “Miss Mapp” - my wife had just

taken me on a break to Rye where the book is set. I also borrowed a book on sous vide cooking (the Garlic & Sage Marinated Pork Fillet with Wilted Spinach is delightful)!

I am totally committed to learning in its widest sense, and am impressed by the range of services provided by Inspire....not just a library.... in particular I am very excited to hear about the Code clubs for instance.

I feel I can contribute to many aspects of the board, such as the areas of, 'Learning & Skills', 'Music, Heritage & Culture' and forthcoming 'Developments', in particular digital. However, I must stress that whilst I am a keen advocate of digital I see it as an additional tool with potential as part of a universal offering to meet the aspirations of Inspire. There is still nothing like a physical book to read.

I enjoy thinking, walking, music (I originally studied at Music college), contemporary art, gardening (I now volunteer on two community projects) & cooking.



Inspire

Culture | Learning | Libraries



Helen Bower

I am an avid reader and frequent user of both online and local libraries. In order to fulfil my reading requirements I use both local and city libraries, therefore giving me excellent knowledge of all Inspire activities programmes and opportunities available around the county and in the city.

I particularly like the new Borrow Box system as it allows returns as soon as the text has been read instead of having to wait 21 days to return the book. To me, libraries are exciting places not only offering reading material in all formats, but also audio, video and computer facilities.

The Inspire newsletter is welcome in my inbox as it showcases all Inspire has to offer around the county and consequently I feel not only would I enjoy being part of the Inspire team but would also be able to offer a frequent users insight into possible improvement and additions.



Inspire

Culture | Learning | Libraries



Anthony Carnall

I have had a membership with the local library for 60 years. I am 65 and a half years of age and retired from full time employment.

I have always been interested in how the local library is managed and run and I regularly borrow books and use the different services provided.

Since leaving school age 16, I remained in full time employment as a Maintenance Technician till aged 60. I have also trained and worked as a part time Youth Worker for Notts County Council.



Inspire

Culture | Learning | Libraries



Kurtis-Jay Castle



As a chair of a Youth charity, I intend on representing young peoples views within the inspire board and utilise my previous experiences and my qualifications, such as my certificate of higher education in business management to aid inspire with archiving its objectives.



Inspire

Culture | Learning | Libraries



Carol Hanley



I would like to put myself forward as a prospective Community Board Member for Inspire as I feel that I have a range of skills and experience that would complement the existing Board Members and support Inspire in the development and delivery of its future plans.

I am a qualified accountant who, during my career, has worked for a number of different sized organisations in both the private and public sectors. My roles have involved working closely with the operational teams, supporting them to understand and manage their costs, as well as challenging and helping them to improve their performance. I have also been involved in both the preparation of bid submissions and the evaluation of tenders submitted.

I have several years experience of volunteering, including for a large national charity, a small local activity and other annual events, so I both understand and have first-hand experience of what is important in retaining volunteers, ensuring they feel valued and enjoy their volunteering activities.

I was a member of a charitable organisation for 16 years, a voluntary officer for over 10 years in a variety of roles at different levels in the organisation, including as a Trustee of one of the local groups.

I recognise the opportunity that Inspire has to engage with local communities through local venues and the wide range of courses and events that it provides. I would like to be involved in developing this further and increasing the level of engagement with local communities.



Inspire

Culture | Learning | Libraries



Phillip Harvey



I would like to propose my candidacy for 'Inspire Learning Board Director' because, I am notably motivated by achieving Goals. As well as, someone who is extremely inspired by learning. 'Knowledge is Power', I believe there are people who do not realise their potential. For example, I struggled to progress in education, however I am largely motivated towards earning that power, as an adult.

As well as learning I enjoy several recreational hobbies. Above all else, reading is my favourite time killer, because I can lose myself in a creative novel. There is definitely a myriad choice in the libraries, for anyone looking to become a regular reader. It is my dream to publish some of my journal entries or poetry.

Secondly, I am a hugely, enthusiastic swimmer, because being in the water is incredibly replenishing. I find swimming a great way to keep fit, improve wellbeing and relax.

Finally, I play 'Weiqi' or 'Go' every week, because it is an elegant, brilliant and brutal game. Go is an ancient board game of great skill created thousands of years ago, within the Orient. I enjoy going to clubs and tournaments, because you get to travel, make friends and learn a skill.

In conclusion, I believe I would be an excellent Board Director. I think 'Inspire Learning' is a terrific provider of services, within the community. Furthermore, the libraries offer myriad opportunities for anyone looking to learn a new skill or achieve specific goals.

Thank you very much for your consideration.



Inspire

Culture | Learning | Libraries



Mark Homer

I am a regular user of the valuable range of Inspire's services across the County. I rejoice in the way that these services have positively impacted on myself, my friends and family in enriching lives, broadening horizons, developing new skills and promoting understanding and tolerance.

As we contemplate uncertainty over our collective and individual futures, I firmly believe that it is these qualities that will provide us with the resources, foundation and resilience to come through the unknown challenges and maximise the opportunities our communities face.

Ove the past twenty years, I have been in a leadership role in developing inclusive and responsive Cultural Services and Further Education across the East Midlands; with responsibility for significant budgets, securing external funding and governance arrangements. I have served as school governor on a number of occasions and sat on a range of other local, regional and national boards for independent training, sports and arts bodies.

I would welcome the opportunity to bring my experience and passion for the sector to support the further development and growth of Inspire, and its wider membership and partners, into the future.



Inspire

Culture | Learning | Libraries



Michael Knight

I was chairman of a tenants and residence committee and have experience of dealing with people at all levels.

I have also attended council meetings and use the library and computers there on a regular basis.

I feel that my experience in an administration background will be useful to being on the board as well.



Inspire

Culture | Learning | Libraries



Daniel Lloyd



Like many people in the Nottinghamshire area I've become a member of Inspire through the library network.

I've had a love of reading since being a young child and some of my earliest outings alone were to my local library. While remaining an avid reader my library use has waxed and waned over the years but I want to make a contribution to my area and the community to help others find the love of libraries that I had.

While e-readers and on-line market places are amazing they tend to recommend books based on what we've previously enjoyed: I feel that browsing through the shelves to come across something random and new is an essential part of our growing experience.

These days though libraries are more than just a place to read books. They're community hubs, offer access to the internet and a doorway to cultural networks. While I strongly feel that libraries must remain places where people can find books it is important that they move on from places of silence (though I do still like the peace!) and offer more.

I want to help to explore how we can use libraries as a gateway to the wider Inspire offering and get more of our communities involved in the rich offering of cultural events organised by Inspire.



Inspire

Culture | Learning | Libraries



Emma Maraio



I am a lifelong member of the library and am deeply passionate about the importance and value of libraries within our communities, so I am excited to apply for the role of Trustee for the Inspire Board.

I hold a Masters in Voluntary and Third Sector Management, and have sat on various charity boards previously, illustrating my knowledge and experience of the role. I am a Business Psychologist with 14+ years of experience working within HR and Talent Development, meaning I bring expertise on aspects such as Employment Law and People Management.

I have experience in volunteer management and would use my expertise to help Inspire become an excellent organisation to volunteer with. I have previously run fundraising activities for large charities in the Nottinghamshire area. I have also worked for Students' Unions, developing and delivering strategies for engagement within membership organisations, which again I believe makes me an ideal candidate for this role.

If I was to be successful in being elected to the role I would be an active and enthusiastic board member, ensuring that we offer a reliable, agile and innovative service which grows and strengthens as an organisation, while bringing the community together in an inclusive and cohesive way.

I truly believe that libraries are a hub for the people and in today's challenging climate we must use original and inventive ways of safeguarding these valuable resources to ensure that our communities continue to benefit.



Inspire

Culture | Learning | Libraries



Norman Muntanga



Having worked in the academic field for some years, I am passionate about the development of minds and the promotion of community wellbeing.

I am always looking for opportunities to work with an organisation that is focused on making difference and providing empowering opportunities for community members to contribute through volunteering.

My degree in Law helped me to develop commercial awareness, attention to detail, research and analysis skills, and the experience that I gain from volunteering at the local Children's Air Ambulance Charity Shop in West Bridgford has added to the preparation of this position. I would relish the opportunity to be part of the team that works on concepts for your fundraising and grant-seeking goals.

Although I do not have a formal finance qualification, I have worked in capacities in which I have gained management experience and enhanced my analytical ability. I believe that I would be able to add value as a Library community board member and look forward to the opportunity to further engage with the local community.



Inspire

Culture | Learning | Libraries



Karen Robertson



I can still remember the absolute excitement of choosing new books in my public library. It is 50 years since man landed on the moon...but it is also the Golden Anniversary of the opening of a brand new library in my home town. I was chosen as one of several primary school children to attend the opening ceremony; the huge space, shiny windows and chocolate elcairs are standout memories!

I have now retired from a career teaching English to children aged 11 – 8 years. I have four beautiful grandchildren who all use their local libraries. They borrow books, take part in various activities and the youngest of them is even weighed there each week.

The value of our Inspire service is difficult to pin down in a few words but I am utterly convinced that it provides communities with essential foundations for a brighter future for our children.

I would be honoured to be part of this service.



Inspire

Culture | Learning | Libraries



Colin Sawers



I seek your support in electing me to the board of Inspire as a community board member. If elected to the board I bring the following:

- Experience of public libraries as both a user and as a Chartered Librarian having worked in them at a variety of levels in Essex, Nottinghamshire and Rotherham.
- Experience of managing an Education Library Service for a local authority.
- My experience working for both West Nottinghamshire College and Chesterfield College – further education colleges delivering classroom based and apprenticeship learning.
- My current experience as a community governor for my local primary school, Peafield Lane Academy in Mansfield Woodhouse.
- My volunteering experience as a current active volunteer with the British Red Cross and The National Trust.
- Chartered member of CILIP: The Library & Information Association.

I feel my previous experience means I have a lot to offer Inspire as a board member in a number of areas that the organisation operates in. My previous experience serving on the corporation board of a further education college and as a school governor means that I am experienced in working as part of a team to both help an organisation grow and hold it to account.

My volunteering experience puts me in a good place to help Inspire become a great organisation to volunteer with.

I live in Mansfield Woodhouse in Nottinghamshire and work as an Information Officer for a local authority. I am passionate about the role that libraries and learning can play to support individuals and communities grow.