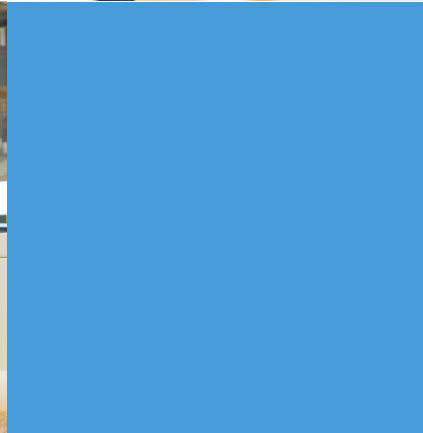




**Inspire**  
Culture | Learning | Libraries

# Board Recruitment

**Elections  
2021**





# Be Inspired and join our board

**Passionate about culture, heritage, learning and libraries?  
Skills and time to offer?**

Join our board and help us deliver the best cultural and learning offer to the people of Nottinghamshire.

We are looking to elect TWO community directors to our board. We have ambitious plans for the future and we are looking for committed and enthusiastic people who can bring their own creativity and expertise to help lead Inspire.







Photo by Ben Harriott

**Our vision is to inspire the people of Nottinghamshire to read, learn and enjoy culture.**

At the end of 2020 Inspire successfully renewed its contract with Nottinghamshire County Council to deliver on its behalf cultural, learning and library services from 2021 – 2026. We are looking forward to another fantastic 5 years of inspiring our customers, learners, young people and volunteers.

We will be working to support our communities to rebuild post-covid, improving health and wellbeing and helping economic growth and recovery.



# Our Vision and Values

## Our cultural values

- Diversity
- Equality
- Ethics
- Inclusion
- Integrity
- Social responsibility



Photo by Ben Harriott

## Our corporate values

- Communities we serve
- Customers and Learners
- Customer satisfaction
- Care for our workforce
- Quality of what we do
- Service offer



Photo by Ben Harriott



# About Us

Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries was established in 2016 as a charitable community benefit society delivering cultural and learning services across Nottinghamshire. The society is owned and controlled by its members. Members are drawn from the community, and all staff become members of the society when appointed.

We deliver services from 67 buildings across Nottinghamshire and 4 mobile vehicles, have 688 people working for us and have an annual turnover of around £18M. The majority of funding for Inspire services comes from public funding.

Nottinghamshire County Council is the main funder for Libraries, Archives and Cultural services. The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and the Arts Council England (ACE) also fund specific areas of delivery. Inspire became a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) resulting in a £1.2M investment between 2018 – 2023 from ACE to deliver a cultural programme through the library service.

# About the Opportunity

Our 12 member board is formed of staff and volunteers whose skills and experience enhance the development and leadership of the organisation. We have a mix of community-elected, staff-elected, co-opted and Nottinghamshire County Council representatives plus Inspire's CEO.

For more details about the current board visit:

[inspireculture.org.uk/about-us/governance](https://inspireculture.org.uk/about-us/governance)

We are looking for two volunteer member elected directors, who have experience in one (or more!) of the following areas:

- Advocacy - representing and shining a light on a cause or strategy to shift thinking
- Commercial - business development and income generation
- Digital - content development, digital marketing and social media engagement
- Engagement – helping us to truly become a membership organisation
- Fundraising and grant seeking – supporting us in raising additional funds to make a difference
- Volunteering – helping us to become a great organisation to volunteer with



# The Role of the Director

All board members are required to act in the best interests of the Society in accordance with its rules, code of practice and relevant legislation.

Directors must:

- Have and accept ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of the Society, and ensure that it is solvent, well-run, and delivering the outcomes for the benefit of the public for which it has been set up.
- Ensure that the Society complies with the law, and with the requirements of the Financial Conduct Authority as regulator.
- Ensure that the Society does not breach any of the requirements or rules set out in its governing documents and that it remains true to the purpose and objects set out there.
- Comply with the requirements of other legislation and other regulators (if any) which govern the activities of the Society.
- Act with integrity and avoid any personal conflicts of interest or misuse of Society funds or assets.

- Ensure that the Society is and will remain solvent.
- Use funds and assets reasonably, and only in furtherance of the Society's objects.
- Avoid undertaking activities that might place the Society's, funds, assets or reputation at undue risk.
- Take special care and skill in their work as board members, using their personal skills and experience as needed to ensure that the Society is well-run and efficient.
- Consider getting external professional advice on all matters where there may be material risk to the Society, or where the board members may be in breach of their duties.
- All board members are required to sign their agreement to the duties and code of practice of directors when they join the board. A copy can be found at: [inspireculture.org.uk/about-us/governance/documentation](https://inspireculture.org.uk/about-us/governance/documentation)



# Eligibility

Candidates must be an Inspire member, at least 16 years of age, and legally eligible to become a board Director, i.e. you **must not**:

- Have an unspent conviction for an offence involving dishonesty or deception (such as fraud)
- Be declared bankrupt
- Have an individual voluntary arrangement to pay off debts with creditors
- Have been disqualified as a Company Director
- Have previously been removed as a trustee by the Charity Commission or the High Court
- Be disqualified for barred from acting as a trustee of a charity under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

# Time Commitment

There are 4 meetings a year plus the annual development away day and you will be asked to join one or more of our 5 board committees.

Currently these are all being held online and virtual meetings will continue to be an option along with face to face meetings. You will also receive invitations to some of Inspire's fantastic range of cultural events around Nottinghamshire.



# Expenses

This is a voluntary role without a salary, but reasonable expenses incurred in relation to the role may be claimed back from Inspire.

# Length of Appointment

Terms of office are for 3 years, with a maximum of two terms of office.





# Claire Henson



**Community Board Director**

Feb 2018 to May 2021

“

I joined the Inspire Board because I am passionate about libraries and learning being accessible to all. The work of Inspire is hugely important to our communities and I wanted to support this in any way I could.

I have worked in academic libraries for over 12 years and am a regular visitor to public libraries in Nottinghamshire. My skills and experience of working with various community groups on projects helped me in the role of Inspire board director.

I'm really pleased that I took the opportunity to join the board and that I was able to contribute to and put forward a community perspective, working well with other members and learning from them as well as supporting them.

I have loved my time on the Inspire Board, getting to meet library staff, visiting local libraries and going to some fantastic events such as Readers Day that showcase the amazing work done across the county.

”



“

Reading and learning have always been personal passions for me; I have such happy memories as a child of being in my local library and when I set up my first business, my local Inspire library was where I would go and work from. I've also always been fascinated by change in large organisations and being invited to play a role in an organisation which, at the time was going through significant and very exciting changes was a real privilege. The Inspire footprint in terms of the role it plays for people across Nottinghamshire - be that through library services, community & adult learning, its music provision, its archive service - is extensive and we know it is also life-changing.

With a background in organisational change, leadership coaching and with a passion for creative problem solving I feel I brought a 'how might we' perspective to the Board. Supporting such a dedicated and experienced Senior Leadership Team, I always felt my role was as an enabler, as a sounding board and as a critical friend.

Without a doubt the highlight of being a member of the Board for Inspire was the opportunity to meet and work with so many of the Inspire team and through my role as Chair of the Learning & Skills Committee inviting Inspire learners to each one of our meetings meant that we were able to hear first-hand the experiences of our learners and therefore ensure we were always focused on supporting learners to achieve the outcomes that were important to them.

Everyone at Inspire is so passionate and dedicated to having a positive impact on the local community and that is inspiring to be around!

”

## Sarah King



**Co-opted Board Director**

June 2016 to Feb 2021



# Interested?

If you think you would enjoy the challenge of helping us deliver this work at this exciting time and share our ambitions to create an inclusive, diverse, sustainable organisation, we would be delighted to hear from you.

To find out more, please email [katharine.say@inspireculture.org.uk](mailto:katharine.say@inspireculture.org.uk) to set up an initial informal discussion.

Nomination forms are available from any of Inspire's libraries, or Archives, or apply online at:

[surveymonkey.co.uk/r/inspirenominations2021](https://surveymonkey.co.uk/r/inspirenominations2021)

Mon 24 May to Fri 18 June 2021 - Nominations

Fri 25 June to Fri 23 July 2021 - Voting

Fri 6 Aug 2021 - Results

Weds 13 Oct 2021 - Appointment to the board at the Inspire 2021 AGM

[inspireculture.org.uk](https://inspireculture.org.uk)

