



Inspire
Culture | Learning | Libraries

Board Recruitment

Community
Member-Elected
Director Elections
2025



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 THREE 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.





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 passionate about inspiring our customers, learners, young people and volunteers across Nottinghamshire. We will continue to work to support our communities to connect with each other, improve health and wellbeing and help economic growth.



Our Vision and Values

Our values

- Aspiration and concern for our communities
- Openness and transparency
- Professional
- Friendly and welcoming
- Being a good employer



Our corporate drivers

- Quality
- Dynamism
- Inclusivity
- Sustainability



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 70 buildings across Nottinghamshire and 3 mobile vehicles, have over 700 people working for us and have an annual turnover of around £24M. 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 is a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) resulting in a £1.5M investment between 2023 - 2028 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 nominated plus Inspire's CEO.

For more details about the current board visit:
inspireculture.org.uk/about-us/governance

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

- **Advocacy, Digital and Media** - helping us connect with people and organisations who we can work with
- **Commercial** - business development and income generation
- **Engagement** - helping us to truly become a membership organisation
- **Funding and Fundraising** - supporting us in raising additional funds to make a difference
- **Organisational Development** - helping us to be a good organisation and employer
- **Volunteering** - helping us to become a great organisation to volunteer with

Inspire is committed to being an inclusive organisation and was awarded a Silver Investors in Diversity award. We want our board to be inclusive and representative of the communities we serve and welcome applications from those with diverse backgrounds and experiences.

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 seeking 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 and disqualification declaration when they join the board. A copy can be found at: 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 4 committees.

Meetings are held both face to face and virtually. 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.



John Hess



Community Board Director

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“Wow”, said a friend of mine .” I didn't know how much Inspire does for the people of Nottinghamshire.”

Quite frankly, that would have been my response before I became an Inspire board member several years ago.

I had always had an interest in books and libraries, but that was just the start. What I didn't realise was just how much more Inspire offers to local people.

The depth and range of its activities is so impressive. For example, there's the Education Library Service providing a vast range of books for schools and the Nottinghamshire Music Hub, which introduces a whole world of music tuition and singing for school children. And then there are the impressive opportunities for young people at the Inspire College and the adult learning offer accessible across the county.

As a board member, you are the eyes and ears of the local community offering feedback to Inspire's management team, offering suggestions to help and enhance its services.

The joy of being a board member is to see the enthusiasm, fun and commitment of the entire Inspire team - from the volunteers to the chief executive.

Without doubt, it's been a real privilege serving on the Inspire Board. I know so much more about the services that Inspire provides to the communities of Nottinghamshire, and ensuring those vital services continue and flourish.

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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, it's music provision, it's 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!

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Sarah King



Co-opted Board Director

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.

We're holding drop-in events where you can meet current board directors and members of Inspire's Leadership Team for an informal discussion about what being a board member entails.

- **Thurs 24 April, 10am to 2pm - Mansfield Central Library**
- **Fri 2 May, 10am to 2pm - West Bridgford Library**
- **Sat 10 May, 10am to 2pm - Beeston Library**
- **Mon 12 May, 10am to 2pm - Worksop Library**
- **Thurs 15 May, 5.30 to 6.30pm - Teams**

For more information or to register for the online drop-in session email elections@inspireculture.org.uk

Nomination forms are available from any of Inspire's libraries or Archives, or click [HERE](#) to apply online.

Mon 14 April to Fri 23 May 2025 - Nominations

Mon 9 June to Fri 11 July 2025 - Voting

Fri 24 July 2025 - Results

Weds 8 Oct 2025 - Appointment to the board at the 2025 Inspire AGM

inspireculture.org.uk

