

Reading Agency – Trustee opportunities

Time commitment:	Approximately 1 day per month
Location:	Meetings normally held in London
Salary:	Unremunerated, but expenses paid

The Reading Agency is the leading charity inspiring people of all ages and all backgrounds to read for pleasure, well-being and empowerment. We have been delivering nationally acclaimed reading programmes, research and innovation for 15 years and we are ambitious for the future.

Our mission is to inspire more people to read more, encourage them to share their enjoyment of reading and celebrate the difference that reading makes to all our lives. Guided by our values (Collaborative; Empowering; Creative; Committed; and Influential), we support people at all stages of their reading journey. **Because everything changes when we read.**

Our programmes run in schools, colleges, workplaces, care homes, prisons and public libraries. They are:

- The [Summer Reading Challenge](#)
- [Reading Hack](#) for young people
- [Quick Reads](#)
- [Reading Ahead](#), [Reading Well](#), [Reading Groups for Everyone](#), [World Book Night](#)
- [Reading Friends](#) for older people who are vulnerable and isolated, people with dementia and carers.

Our programmes make a difference by giving people:

- Equal life chances - confident and skilled readers have greater aspirations and opportunities;
- Better quality of life - reading brings enjoyment and raised well-being;
- Cohesive communities - through opportunities to talk about books and reading;
- Opportunities for active citizenship - by running events, learning new skills and participating in local communities.

We aim to reach 1.4 million people through these programmes every year.

What's next for The Reading Agency

The Reading Agency has recently restructured to enable a stronger audience and impact focus, and the change this entails will continue into the medium term. We have a new Chair who is now looking to recruit new Trustees over the coming year, to replace those whose terms of office are coming to end, and also to broaden the Board's skills base.

We are also looking to diversify our income sources as a way of ensuring that we remain resilient and have the capacity to develop the reading offers of the future. This will involve widening our network further, and greatly increasing our digital presence and engagement.

The organisation is also keen to become more commercial, and is looking to develop its programmes and products, while still maintaining its strong culture, values and ethos.

Reading Agency – Trustee opportunities

We are looking for new Trustees who have a passion for reading. We have also identified the following skills areas where the contribution of new Trustees would be particularly welcome (however, the selection process will also take into account the need to ensure a good balance of skills and knowledge across the full Board):

- Finance;
- Fundraising - – trusts and foundations, individual giving, corporate sponsorship;
- Marketing and Communications;
- Business modelling and business development;
- Community engagement;
- Reading, particularly in relation to disadvantaged groups;
- Research and evaluation.

The Reading Agency is committed to being an inclusive organisation and to improving the diversity of our people, including our trustees. We welcome all applications, especially from backgrounds that are currently under-represented including BAME backgrounds.

If you would like to discuss this opportunity please email trustees@readingagency.org.uk and our Chair (Matthew Littleford) or Vice Chair (Tony Durcan) will get back to you.

Applicants for the role of Trustee should send their CV to the Chair of the Board at trustees@readingagency.org.uk

Closing date for applications: 9.00am on Friday 20 July 2018. Likely interview dates are 30 July and 6 August.