

TRUSTEE ROLE DESCRIPTION

ABOUT MAYDAY ROOMS

MayDay Rooms (MDR) was established in 2013. It aims to safeguard histories and documents of radicalism and resistance by connecting them with contemporary struggle and protest, and by developing new forms of dissemination and collective self-education. Our building contains an archive of historical material linked to radical history. Alongside our material archives, we create and maintain digital archives and databases of radical history, with the hope that these traces of the past might freely be taken up and put to use in present struggles.

Our archival holdings are focused on social movements, resistance campaigns, experimental culture, and the liberation of marginalised and oppressed groups 1960s to the present: they contain everything from recent feminist poetry to techno paraphernalia, from situationist magazines to histories of industrial transformation, from educational experiments to anti-racist struggles.

As well as housing an archive, our building functions as an organising and educational space for activists, social movements, troublemakers, and radicals. We also run a full programme of events including film screenings, poetry readings, archiving workshops, historical talks, discussion and reading groups, and social nights.

TRUSTEE ROLE

As a Trustee, you will benefit from contributing to the sustainability and growth of an internationally recognised archive for social movements, experimental and marginal cultures. In response to the erosion of public space in London, our building makes it possible for various grassroots and unfunded activist and educational groups to meet and organise at no cost. Not only will you be involved in ensuring that those operating at the margins are able to access a safe and affirming space, but also that their past and present histories are preserved and continue to be activated towards all subsequent struggles against oppression. MayDay Rooms is not a static archive and is always evolving according to the social and political landscape, locally and beyond. You will enjoy the challenge of helping us maintain this dynamism by signposting us to relevant networks, collaborative opportunities and histories you think we should be aware of. We welcome those with experience in grassroots organising and activism to offer their insight to strengthen MayDay Rooms as a unique political and educational resource in London.

OVERALL PURPOSE OF THE TRUSTEES ROLE:

The purpose of a Trustee is to individually and collectively take legal responsibility and accountability for the overall governance and strategic direction of MayDay Rooms, developing aims, objectives and goals in accordance with the governing documents.

TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT ESSENTIALS

Roles: Volunteer Trustees

Requirements: Volunteer trustees must commit to:
Attendance at four trustee meetings per year. These currently normally take place in Central London or online.

Purpose: To support MayDay Rooms to make a difference by '*to advance education for the public benefit by making accessible and disseminating archives, documents and practices relating to social and cultural history and emancipatory movements*'. This means supporting the development and delivery of MayDay Rooms aims and objectives and to meet the statutory requirements of MayDay Rooms as identified by the Charity Commission:

1. Comply with your charity's governing document and the law,
2. Act in MayDay Rooms best interests,
3. Manage your MayDay Rooms resources responsibly,
4. Act with reasonable care and skill,
5. Ensure your charity is accountable.

PERSON SPECIFICATION:

Essential:

- A strong commitment to MayDay Rooms and its aims,
- an affinity with left politics, movements and culture,
- familiarity and experience with grass-roots organisations (either paid or voluntary),
- the ability to devote sufficient time to advance the aims of the MayDay Rooms and to meet the obligations of being a Trustee.

Desirable:

Specific knowledge and experience in one of the following activity areas:

- Finance and fundraising,
- Political and social movement history in Great Britain and Northern Ireland ,
- Community Outreach, Education and Events,
- Libraries and Archives,
- Charity Governance

HOW TO APPLY:

If you would like to apply for the role of Trustee you need to send a CV, a short covering letter (no more than 500 words) explaining why you would like to be a trustee and what you would bring to the role.

Please email applications to in-formation@maydayrooms.org by 11.59pm on 23rd February 2024

Successful applicants to an informal interview with a selection of MDR staff and existing trustees.

If you would like to arrange a conversation about roles and expectations of the Trustees, please email in-formation@maydayrooms.org

MayDay Rooms is especially keen to welcome people from minority backgrounds and people who are part of communities that are currently underrepresented or excluded from roles in the charity sector. We strongly encourage applications from Black and People of Colour and/or LGBTQI+ candidates, women and working-class backgrounds. We want to make the application process open and accessible so please contact us if you have any specific needs in regards to the application process.