



Rene Court
Coldhams Road
Cambridge
CB1 3EW

01223 214446

Trustee Recruitment Pack

Containing:

1. Introduction from the Chair
2. About the Centre for Computing History (CCH)
3. Trustee Role
4. How to Apply

1. Introduction

Thank you for your interest in becoming a trustee of the Centre for Computing History. This information pack provides an introduction to the museum, what we do and our plans for the future.

CCH is an independent museum, accredited by the Arts Council, based in an industrial warehouse on a site owned by the museum. We are largely self-funding through visitor revenue though recent project funding has come from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), corporate sponsorship and public donations.

We have an extensive, though underdeveloped, working collection and we are proud of our established and successful learning and events programmes. Our primary focus is on personal computing, though the collection and museum tell chronologically earlier stories and also point forward to the future.

Our main challenge currently is to maintain stability as we adjust to life post-pandemic. By continuing to develop our visitor experience and learning offer, and recentring our collection so it is at the heart of the organisation, we are building secure foundations for the next stage of our growth. To do this well we need to increase our capacity and capability at board level. We are in particular need of people who are passionate about museums and their collections.

The board of trustees meets monthly, via a mix of face-to-face and online meetings. Trustees are also expected to support the staff team by sharing their expertise, experience and networks, and will often become involved with specific initiatives at the museum.

If you would like to apply to become a trustee then please email our

Trustees:
G. Marlow
M. Muller
D. Halstead
E. Upton

A Registered Charity 1130071

Registered in England 6348133

Governance and Finance Manager, Melanie Walsh, by email in the first instance: admin@computinghistory.org.uk.

Gareth Marlow, Chair of Trustees

2. About the Centre for Computing History (CCH)

The Centre for Computing History (CCH) is an educational charity that opened at its current site on Coldhams Road in Cambridge in August 2013. We opened as an entirely volunteer-run museum, not taking on our first staff members until 2015, and our team of volunteers, including trustees, continues to be integral to the success of the museum.

CCH exists to tell the story of the Information Age through exploring the historical, social and cultural impact of developments in personal computing. It maintains a long-term collection of objects to tell this story and exploits them through education and events programmes.

Why? The growth and innovation of the computing revolution has been fast and furious. Having created our global society, whereby our thinking, means of communication and the way we organise our lives have been irreversibly transformed, it is now impossible to envisage a world without computers or the internet. Yet there is now a generation growing up who know very little about how this has all come to pass. The Centre for Computing History preserves and tells this story.

Collection

The fast-paced nature of the computing industry, along with our tendency to discard irrelevant technology as soon as it becomes outdated, means that the heritage around its origins and subsequent development is at risk of being lost. CCH aims to preserve this fundamental part of our heritage and ensure it is valued, celebrated and secured for posterity.

The museum has an internationally significant collection of vintage computers, memorabilia, artefacts, documents and hands-on displays. The core collection consists of over 1200 historic computers, as well as mobile phones, games consoles, calculators, software and ephemera. The collection is housed in the main museum building and in a separate on-site collections store; we have a large working collection and pride ourselves on the interactive nature of our galleries.

What We Do

We operate as a museum all year round, opening Weds-Sun in term time and 7 days per week in school holidays. We have 9 members of permanent staff, including a Collections Manager, a small team of casual staff and a small army of volunteers. We hold a wide variety of events, tours, workshops, and accept bookings for parties and corporate/community events. We host educational visits by schools, colleges, universities and special interest groups. The museum attracts visitors and tourists locally, regionally and nationally/internationally. The exhibits, with their working collections, offer visitors a unique

experience in terms of hands-on interaction with computing heritage and we have a strong online presence too.

Our Plans

We're at an important moment in our evolution in that in the 10 years we've been open to the public we've proved that a museum for computing history is a must for Cambridge. Our next challenge is to develop the beta-test museum that currently exists into one which truly benefits and reflects the enormous contribution Cambridge has made to the development of computing and technology more generally.

3. Trustee Role

To help take us forward in our aims we're looking for additional active and engaged trustees. We especially need passion and expertise in museums, collections and heritage generally; we are particularly keen to recruit members of the local community who can help us develop and use our collection to reflect on how computing has changed all our lives.

The broad role of the Board is to set direction and strategy for the museum along with the CEO and staff team, and to ensure that legal obligations and charitable objectives are fulfilled, high standards of governance are maintained, and robust decision-making processes are in place. In addition to the Board of Trustees, there is a senior management team and a range of active and engaged volunteer teams.

The trustees currently meet monthly, sometimes face-to-face at the museum and sometimes online. The trustees act as ambassadors for the museum, attending fundraising events, the opening of new exhibitions and meetings with partners and stakeholders.

4. How to Apply

Anyone interested in this role is invited to an informal chat with our chair of trustees in the first instance. This is an opportunity to ask questions to learn more about the museum, and the work of the trustee board. Please email our Governance and Finance Manager, Melanie Walsh, by email in the first instance: admin@computinghistory.org.uk.

Formal applications are welcomed via a short CV and covering letter.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview, and the position will remain open until it is filled.