



Call for Applications Board Member

Seattle Children's Museum is growing its Board of Trustees and seeks new members to join our community-minded team. Are you looking for a way to give back to our Seattle communities? Do you have a passion for supporting and championing children? Are you seeking new ways to grow your professional network or skillset? Consider joining us as a member of the Seattle Children's Museum Board of Trustees.

We currently seek applicants for several open positions on the Board, with terms starting in the first quarter of 2024, for three-year terms. Read more to find out about the recruitment process below.

Time Commitment: 3-year term, roughly 2-4 hours/month

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

The Seattle Children's Museum Board of Trustees is collectively responsible for governance and mission-based strategic leadership of the organization. The board is a dynamic and collaborative group of people with diverse professional and personal backgrounds, skills, and expertise. The board believes in the necessity of the Museum's mission to engage children, and the people who care for them, in playful, creative, hands-on exploration and discovery. The board practices open and honest communication in-line with our core values of **joyful learning** for all; **respect** for all; **inclusivity, equity, and engagement** for all; **community building** for all; **sustainability** at all scales; and **curiosity** at all levels.

The Seattle Children's Museum Board of Trustees consists of between 7 and 25 volunteers who commit to:

- **Board of Trustees Responsibilities:**
 - Setting the direction and strategy for the organization
 - Providing necessary resources for growth and sustainability
 - Enhance the organization's public standing by clearly advocating and building support for SCM
 - Ensuring policies and procedures are in place for effective and prudent governance and oversight
 - Meeting legal obligations by exercising proper oversight of the organization's operations and maintaining the legal and ethical accountability of its staff and volunteers
 - Selecting, supporting, and evaluating SCM's Executive Director
- **Board Member Tasks:**
 - Participating fully in monthly board meetings (quarterly in-person, others virtual), monthly committee meetings, an annual retreat, and 2-3 special Museum events throughout the year
 - Serving on a committee
 - Actively representing SCM in the community and garnering support from the community
 - Supporting staff in soliciting donations/sponsorships and fostering relationships with businesses, individuals, and foundations
 - Making an annual financial commitment to the Museum at a level significant to them as an individual. *We ask that SCM is at the forefront of each trustee's total annual giving. Contributions can be made through employer matching, or individual monthly, quarterly, or annual donations.*

QUALIFICATIONS TO SERVE

SCM seeks board members who possess substantial leadership skills and are equipped to provide the strategic leadership needed to drive the growth and impact of the organization. The SCM Board of Trustees has also identified the following

qualities, capabilities, and demographics as being critical or desirable to add to the board:

Priority Qualities and Capabilities

- Experience in finance and audit
- Experience in the latest research and needs of child physical and cognitive development
- Commitment to and experience in diversity, equity, access, and inclusion
- Ability and interest in helping SCM connect to potential funders and/or philanthropic foundations
- Experience in government relations or working with elected officials
- Demonstrated dedication to children age 0-10 years and their adults, especially in our local community

Priority Demographics

- Candidates whose background represents diverse lived experiences with respect to race, ethnicity, Tribal nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability status
- Candidates who work at major corporate organizations in the Seattle area

Qualities

We are interested in candidates who have some of the following personal and professional qualities:

- Strategic decision-makers who, in partnership with staff, utilize a range of planning approaches and tools
- Appreciate the strength that diversity, inclusion, and inquiry bring to deliberation and decision-making
- Visionary and future-focused, possessing an entrepreneurial spirit and critical mind
- Risk-taking, with the aim to balance the need to take chances with the traditional stewardship responsibilities of board service
- Can review outcomes and metrics created by SCM for evaluating its impact, and regularly measuring its performance and effectiveness using those metrics
- Believe that supporting children and their adults through playful learning has positive impacts in our community
- Effective communicators, who understand the importance of good communication at all levels
- Appreciate the distinct differences between the roles of the board and staff
- Possess a deep curiosity, with the courage to challenge assumptions and provide constructive feedback
- Have the time and commitment for board service
- Willingness to serve as an ambassador for SCM

Capabilities

Some combination of the following capabilities is desirable:

- Specific experience and/or knowledge in at least one of the following areas: child development, civic advocacy, community building, construction, DEAI, early learning/elementary education, finance, fundraising, non-profit administration, personnel management
- Ability to support SCM's ongoing fundraising efforts by making connections, identifying donors, and when able, accompanying staff to solicit funds through the board member's organization or others
- Ability to network within the community and use professional connections to build relationships, generate leads, and identify opportunities to support SCM's mission and vision
- During board membership term, commit to fully participate in and/or chair at least one board committee

Professional Development Benefits:

- New professional connections with fellow trustees and others in the community
- Occasional professional development workshops or presentations around key topics, such as strategic planning, fundraising, play-based learning, child development

APPLICATION PROCESS

- **Submit a statement of interest & resume** by Dec. 1, 2023 via email to: director@seattlechildrensmuseum.org
 - SCM Board Executive Committee will review submissions and select some applications to move forward
- **Board Executive Committee will have conversations with potential candidates** to get to know them and their interest in board service
- **The Executive Committee will recommend a slate of candidates to the board for approval** and present the slate to the full membership for a vote at the December 13 meeting. The Executive Committee will work to balance the board with the expertise, demographics, and personal attributes to successfully govern.

ABOUT US

The Seattle Children's Museum is a mission-driven institution with a forty-year history, making a fresh start and building a dedicated team. We are located at Seattle Center, with 18,000 square feet of exhibit and program space. Working collaboratively, this energized museum staff develops programs and procedures for the practical implementation of the Museum's core values, mission, and purpose. Together we welcome all visitors, create high quality exhibits and programs that foster play-based learning, and grow the museum's reach, producing lasting impacts for the region's children and families.

Guiding Principles:

- **Our mission** is to engage children, and the people who care for them, in playful, creative, hands-on exploration and discovery.
- **Our purpose** is to encourage kids and adults to embrace active, lifelong learning. We create and maintain museum spaces, events and programs that are inclusive, equitable, engaging, playful, and fun for ALL of our region's kids and families.
- **We envision** a region where children, families, students, and educators have a wide network of facilities to support them in learning, engagement, play, and quality time together. We will do our part to be part of that network.
- In all things, the Children's Museum staff, board and volunteers **will value**:
 - Joyful Learning for All
 - Respect for All
 - Inclusivity, Equity, and Engagement for All
 - Community Building for All
 - Sustainability at All Scales
 - Curiosity at All Levels
- **Our goals**:
 - Set the stage for young children to build competency through engagement, interactions, physical challenges, and hands-on experiences
 - Renew a deep commitment to fostering literacy, art, language, numeracy, civics, and communication skills for kids from birth to 10 years old
 - Connect to Seattle's varied and diverse neighborhoods
 - Create and renew exhibits that have justice, equity, inclusion, diversity, visibility, access, and anti-racism principles built-in
 - Build relationships with the early learning community in and around the region