

**Chair to the Board Trustees**

**Salary:** Voluntary (Expenses Paid)

**Location:** Remote working, with in person attendance to quarterly meetings in person.

**Liaison with**: Vice Chair, Board of Trustees, Company Secretary, Senior Management Team.

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| Job Description |

**Purpose of the job**

Thames21 is looking for a new Chair of the Board

Thames21 is an environmental charity dedicated to transforming the River Thames and its tributaries. Our goal is to build climate resilience and tackle the nature emergency across London and the Thames Basin. Thames21 is actively engaged in delivering healthier rivers using nature-based solutions to build climate resilience and biodiversity. We are working to develop, deliver and showcase innovative and sector-leading initiatives through increasingly extensive and influential networks and collaborations. As the impact of the climate emergency increases, our work has never been more needed or urgent.

We work hand-in-hand with communities, providing training and support for citizen scientists, engaging people in local river enhancement efforts, and advocating for action and long-term river stewardship at the community level. We bring awareness to the public of the vital role that rivers play in the natural environment and in providing adequate and clean water for people. Our pioneering approach has gained us international recognition from partners around the world.

Do you care passionately about tackling the impact of climate change and restoring biodiversity across London and the Thames Basin? Do you want to engage with communities, tackling inequalities and helping people to become climate aware and climate active? If the answer to both these questions is yes, then read on.

We're looking for a dynamic Chair for our Board of Trustees to help take this fast-growing and ambitious charity to the next level.

**Main duties and responsibilities**

The role involves ensuring good governance, advocating and networking for the organisation, supporting and challenging the CEO and Management Team, ensuring that the organisation’s growth is steady and sustainable, and motivating and managing the charity’s Trustees.

If you can operate effectively at a strategic level, with a good understanding of governance and risk, and want to help us deliver our vision for healthy rivers, we would like to hear from you.

**Key Responsibilities:**

* Provide leadership to the organisation and the board by ensuring that everyone remains focused on the delivery of the organisation’s charitable purposes.
* Support the growth and development of Thames21 to deliver on the aims and objectives of its 5-year plan that started in 2023.
* Support the fast-growing charity to plan and achieve ambitious but sustainable growth.
* Support the development of the charity’s current corporate governance arrangements to ensure that such arrangements remain fit for purpose.
* Chair and facilitate board meetings, giving direction to Board decision -making and ensuring that decisions taken at meetings are implemented.
* Build and maintain positive relationships with stakeholders, including staff and volunteers.
* Represent the organisation at events and meetings and act as a spokesperson as appropriate.
* Network on behalf of the organisation to connect with key influencers, partners and funders and bring them into the charity’s work.
* Lead the process of supporting and appraising the performance of the Chief Executive. The candidate will also sit on the Finance Management Sub-Committee & Fundraising Sub-Committee.
* Liaise with the Chief Executive and the wider management team to keep an overview of the charity’s progress and provide support as appropriate.
* Monitor potential risks and challenges facing the organisation, supporting the steps taken to mitigate them.
* Assist with the recruitment and development of Board members, fostering a diverse and inclusive Board.
* Set a supportive, positive and proactive culture at Board level, reflecting the Thames21 core values and encouraging Board members to actively contribute their skills and expertise to the organisation.

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| **Qualification, development & knowledge** | **Essential** | **Desirable** | **Assessed by** |
| Previous experience as a Chair or Trustee is desirable but not essential. |  | X | Application and interview |
| Have experience of leading and managing growth and change. | X |  | Application and interview |
| Broad knowledge and understanding of the challenges facing charities. | X |  | Application and interview |
| Ideally, broad knowledge and understanding of environmental issues, particularly on rivers and climate resilience/biodiversity. |  | X | Application and interview |
| **Skills and Competencies** |  |  |  |
| A dynamic leader with demonstrable experience at a strategic level from the SME sector. | X |  | Interview |
| Ability to build and nurture relationships with diverse stakeholders. | X |  | Interview |
| Strong experience of financial oversight, and ideally, sound understanding and experience of fundraising |  | X | Application and Interview |
| Strong communication and interpersonal skills. | X |  | Interview |
| Commitment to the mission and values of Thames21. | X |  | Application and Interview |
| A financial qualification is desirable but not essential. |  | X | Application |

**Diversity**

The environmental and biodiversity communities have not, to date, represented the brilliant diversity of British society. The environment sector is one of the least ethnically diverse sectors in the UK.

We primarily serve a London community, and we would love our board and organisation to better reflect the diversity of this great city. We encourage applications from people of all backgrounds. We particularly welcome applications from women, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities, who are all currently under-represented on our Board.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you are interested in applying, please email your CV and covering letter of no more than two sides, stating your suitability for the position to: [**recruitment@thames21.org.uk**](mailto:recruitment@thames21.org.uk) by no later than **31st March 2024**, however interviews will be conducted if and when suitable candidates apply before the above closing date.

We appreciate the time you will have taken to apply to this role, and we do appreciate that it is disconcerting when you don’t hear back from a role you have applied for. However, due to the high number of applications we expect to receive, we are unable respond to or give feedback on individual applications, but we do want to be able manage expectations.

Therefore, if you do not hear from us within 4 weeks of the closing date, please assume that your application has **not** been successful on this occasion.