



Chair The Heart of the City

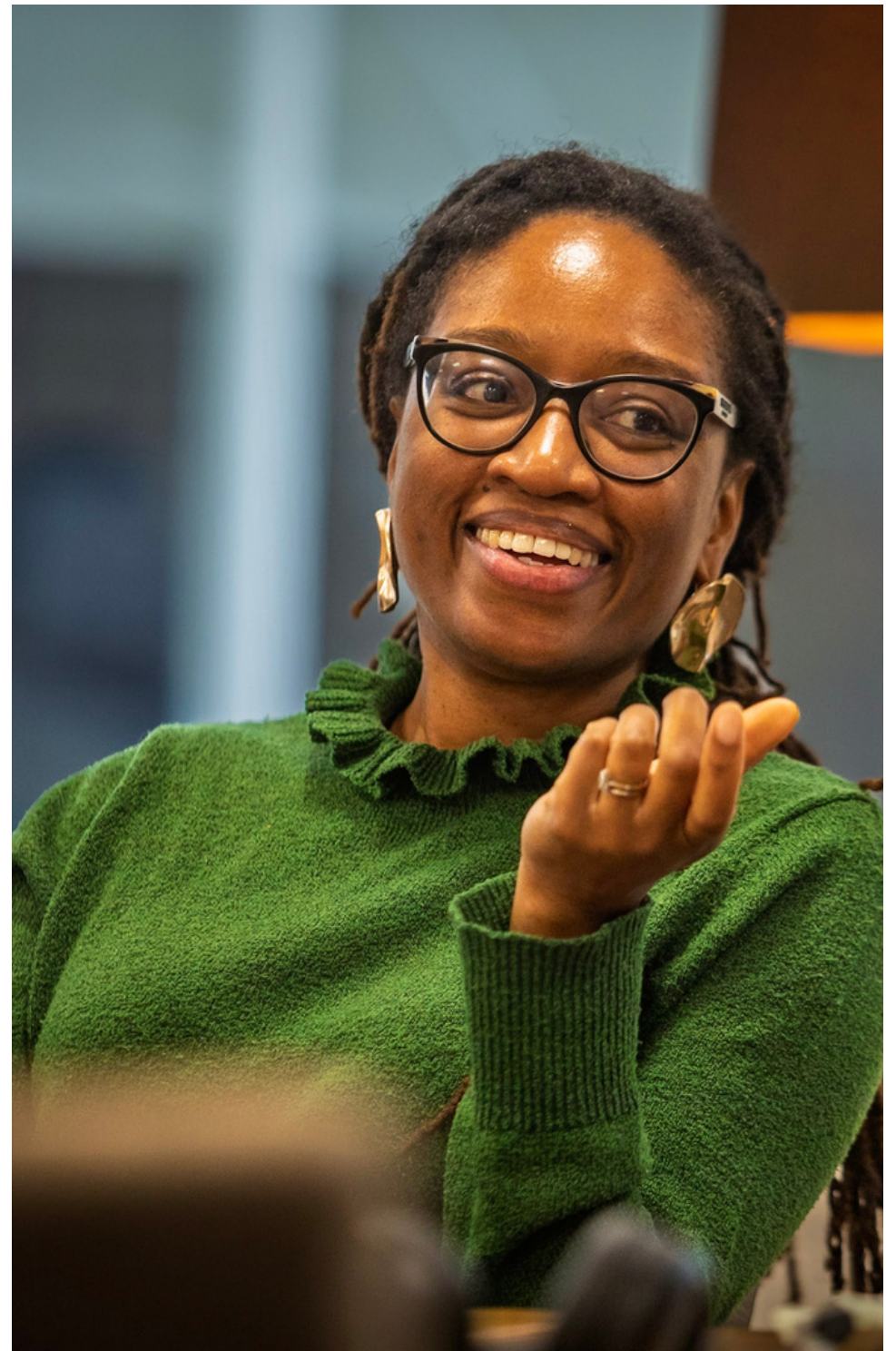
Recruitment Pack

August 2026

Who are we?

Heart of the City is an award-winning charity helping small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) across the UK build responsible, sustainable businesses that make a positive impact.

We help SMEs turn responsible business ambition into practical action, to help **transform** their business.



Welcome from the Board of Trustees

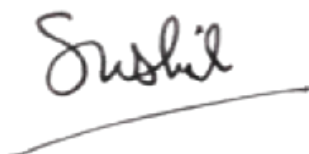
Thank you for your interest in applying for the role of Chair of Heart of the City.

It has been a privilege to serve as Chair over the past six years. During that time, the charity has undergone significant development, moving from a reliance on large grant funding to a more diversified and sustainable funding model. Throughout this journey, our focus has remained firmly on our mission: supporting SMEs to grow into the responsible businesses of tomorrow.

The next Chair will join at a pivotal moment in the charity's development. Strong foundations are in place, creating an exciting opportunity to help shape our strategic direction for the next three years, strengthen key partnerships and support the organisation's continued growth and impact. The recruitment process for Chair is being led on behalf of the Board of Trustees by Martin Powell.

Heart of the City is a small but highly effective charity and one of the very few UK organisations dedicated to helping SMEs embed responsible business practices. Working with businesses of 10–250 employees across a wide range of sectors, we provide practical support that enables organisations to take meaningful action on social value, sustainability and climate change. To date, we have supported more than 1,700 SMEs on their responsible business journey.

As expectations from customers, corporates, investors and public bodies continue to increase, the need for this work has never been greater. If you are committed to our mission and excited by the opportunity ahead, We encourage you to apply.



Sushil Saluja
Chair of Trustees



Martin Powell
Trustee and Recruitment Lead

**Since the City of London Corporation and Bank
of England established us in 2000,
we've worked with....**

1,700+

Small and Medium Size Enterprises

**to grow responsible and
sustainable businesses**

What we do

At the Heart of the City, our vision is a world where **every business can be a force for good**. Our mission is to equip, inspire and coach small businesses to achieve commercial success while making a positive contribution to people, places and the planet. We believe that responsible business practices are not only good for society and the environment, but also help businesses become more resilient, competitive and sustainable in the long term.

We are an award-winning charity with deep roots in the UK business community. Established in 2000 by the City of London Corporation and the Bank of England. Heart of the City became an independent charity in 2006 but continues to receive strong support from its founder members, who are our Co-Presidents and are represented on our Trustees Board.

With more than two decades of experience, we have supported over 1,700 businesses across the Square Mile, Greater London and beyond, helping them embed responsible and sustainable business practices into their operations.

As specialists in supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), we work closely with large corporations and public sector organisations to help businesses within their supply chains develop their social and environmental impact. Through practical training, expert guidance and access to our extensive network of volunteer specialists, we help SMEs create policies, action plans and measurable commitments that drive meaningful change while delivering business benefits.

Our programmes are primarily funded by corporate sponsors and public authorities. They include:

- **Net Zero Accelerator:** which supports SMEs to measure emissions, set reduction targets and develop net zero action plans. More than 400 businesses have participated, collectively committing to reduce emissions by 385,000 tonnes.
- **Supplier Readiness Programme:** Delivered with MSDUK, helps ambitious SMEs strengthen their ability to compete for corporate contracts and supports organisations seeking more diverse and innovative supply chains.
- **Responsible Business Essentials:** Our new programme which provides a comprehensive six-month journey covering people, community and environmental impact, giving SMEs the knowledge, tools and confidence to accelerate responsible and sustainable growth.

Governance

The Heart of the City was established in 2000 by Lord Eddie George (former Governor of the Bank of England), The Lord Mayor and the Chairman of the FSA. It was registered as a company limited by guarantee in October 2006 and a registered charity in December 2006.

The City of London Corporation and the Bank of England can both nominate a Trustee to the Board.

The charity has a Council of Members. The Council, which comprises the Lord Mayor/Lady Mayor of the City of London and the Governor of the Bank of England (both acting as co-Presidents), the Chair of the City of London Corporation's Policy and Resources Committee, and senior business leaders. Council members are ambassadors for the charity, championing the growth of effective responsible business practice within their own companies and within member businesses. The Council typically meets at least once a year.

The Board of Trustees

- meets four times a year and trustees are also expected to attend several of the charity's events, including
- A half-day away day with staff, helping to set the direction of the charity

Matters reserved for the Board are:

- Determination of major strategic and financial policies of Heart of the City
- Periodic review of the charity's strategic plan
- Approval of the annual business plan and budget
- Approval of eligibility policy for beneficiaries and activities of the charity
- Determination of reserves policy
- Appointment and agreeing terms of the Director and broad organisational structure
- Setting a framework for the identification and mitigation of major risks to Heart of the City and its objectives; and for maintaining a proper internal control environment
- Appointment of the external auditors
- Approval of the annual report and accounts
- Budget-setting and review of accounts
- Periodic reviews of its own performance and of its relations with the executive

Our Trustees

Heart of the City trustees bring a mixture of business and responsible business knowledge to the charity:



Sushil Saluja (Chair)

Sushil has served as for almost six years of Heart of the City. He is a serving Alderman of the City of London Corporation, since March 2026. He is also a governor of Greenwich University and a Trustee of the British Council, where he chairs the commercial board. e is a senior business leader and advisor, focused on

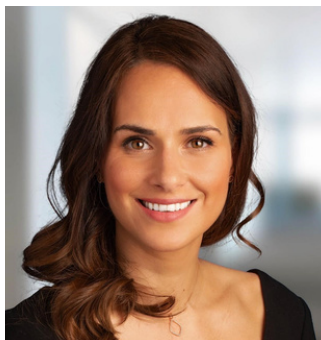
international business, technology-led transformation and education. With over 30 years' prior experience at Accenture, Sushil has led business units in EMEA (based in London) and Asia Pacific (based in Hong Kong) and launched FinTech accelerators in Hong Kong and Dubai. Sushil graduated in engineering from Pembroke College, Cambridge. He was previously a Trustee of the Princes' Teaching Institute (PTI) and on the board of TheCityUK.

Rob Elder

Rob is the Bank of England's Agent for Greater London, since May 2018. He joined the bank in 1998, and for twelve years supported the Monetary Policy Committee as an economist and then senior manager. Between 2010 and 2012 he represented the UK on the board of the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC.



When he returned, he worked in our press office, and most recently, supported our Financial Policy Committee by running a team monitoring developments in the UK banking sector. Between 1990 and 1998 Rob worked as an economist and forecaster at HM Treasury, British Telecom and Manchester University. He also taught English in Japan for a year. Rob studied economics at Manchester University (first degree) and Warwick University (master's degree).



Taraneh Burton

Taraneh Farzaneh is the Corporate Affairs Business Partner for the UK Corporate Bank, with over 20 years' experience across government relations, public policy and corporate communications. In her current role, she works closely with the UK Corporate Bank to shape and deliver the corporate affairs strategy - bringing together public policy, government engagement and communications to support commercial priorities, manage reputational risk, and strengthen the bank's external positioning.

She has spent much of her career focused on major policy, legislative and reputational developments affecting SMEs. This experience has given her a deep understanding of the policy landscape affecting businesses and the role corporate affairs can play in driving sustainable growth

Our Trustees

Heart of the City trustees bring a mixture of business and responsible business knowledge to the charity:



Shravan Joshi MBE

Shravan has served as an elected councillor for the Bishopsgate ward of the City of London Corporation since 2022. Shravan is a prominent figure in the Corporation of the City of London, serving as the Chairman of the Planning & Transportation Committee.

He is currently Deputy Chair of the Investment Committee and Freedom Applications Sub Committee. With a background in investment banking and the energy sector, he has been involved in various advisory roles and has been recognised with an MBE for his services to Equality and the British Hindu community. His extensive experience includes advising on policy and commerce, advising firms on policy, governance, and commercialisation, and serving on multiple City committees and boards.

Suzanne Scatliffe

Suzanne is Global Head of Sustainability at Clifford Chance, where she leads the global sustainability strategy and programmes. Suzanne was formerly Global Head of Sustainability for AXA XL for over 5 years and has over 18 years' experience in CSR and sustainability roles in the insurance, technology, and education sectors, and is a certified Sustainability Practitioner (IEMA)

and Fellow of the Institute of Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability (ICRS). She served as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF) UK from 2018-2021 and volunteers as a Heart of the City Mentor, helping small businesses in the UK develop CSR and Sustainability initiatives.



Martin Powell

Martin is Group Sustainability Director at AXA, leading the sustainability outcomes across the group. He previously held roles with Siemens in London and New York in urban development and sustainability. He has been involved in building strategies and developing pathways for organisations to achieve SG improvement as well as roles in energy purchasing and green funds. Prior to this, he was the Deputy Mayor of London for Energy & Environment to the former Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, responsible for policy in water, waste, air quality, energy, climate change mitigation and adaptation and biodiversity. He was also the Executive Director for the design and delivery of the City's environmental programmes. As Managing Director of Cambridge Management & Research he worked for the Energy Saving Trust and the Institute for Sustainability and was also Special Advisor to the C40 Cities Group chaired by Michael R Bloomberg during his time as Mayor of New York. An Engineer, he built his career working with organisations as a consultant to structure their projects and programmes. He has two published books - "Better Cities, Better Life" and "Smart Cities - Cities in the Digital Age" and his "The Climate City" from Wiley publishing which involves contributions from 30 experts in the sustainable city sector.



Your role as Chair

This is an exciting time to join the Heart of the City trustee board. You will join a small but ambitious Charity with strong foundations and networks across the public and private sector. This is an opportunity to shape the next chapter for the Heart of the City, with a strong focus on developing a robust, sustainable three-year Strategy. The Strategy will be supported by work to further diversify funding streams, that provide greater financial resilience without compromising our mission to support SMEs to become responsible businesses and play a full role in responding to the Climate Emergency.

The incoming Chair will support the team to develop a three-year Strategy to support the growth of the Charity. The plan will explore:

- The Mission of the Charity and how it should grow
- Diversifying and securing new sources of funding
- Broadening our programmatic offer to SMEs
- Defining the strategic relationship between Heart of the City and the City of London Corporation

Unlike most small charities, Heart of the City has an extensive network and governance structures with prestigious organisations. The Chair will help manage key relationships with the Bank of England and Corporation of London, as well as key Council Members. The Chair will be instrumental in managing an effective and focussed set of Trustees to help shape, scrutinise and deliver the Charity's mission.

By the end of the three-year period as Chair, you will have supported the development and implementation of a Strategy, which meets the vision of the Charity, helped develop a sustainable and resilient funding model, ensured that the Charity is making an impact and reporting on its achievements and maintains effective relationships with key strategic partners.

Time commitment

We are looking for someone who is able to commit 1 to 1.5 days per month.

Typically the Chair will:

- Regular Fortnightly meetings with the Managing Director
- Attendance at quarterly Trustee Board meetings (usually two hours in the working day one strategy half day with all trustees and staff
- Attendance at council meetings (Up to two a year)
- Supporting Introductions to potential members or partners
- Ad-hoc attendance and speaking at Heart of the City events

The Chair will contribute to ad-hoc requests including:

- Sharing their views on responsible business in interviews for our newsletter, social media or webinars
- Championing our work at other external events and meetings, on social media and on their own biographical profiles

Role responsibilities

Strategy and Leadership

- Lead and manage an effective board which is responsible for developing and setting Heart of the City's strategy and policies.
- Provide clear direction and focus to the board.
- Encourage a respectful board culture which upholds the highest standards of integrity and probity.

Relationship management

- Develop and maintain a positive and long-term relationship with its main stakeholder, the City of London Corporation, ensuring ongoing funding while maintaining the independence befitting of a charitable foundation.
- Work closely with the Managing Director providing support and advice, on behalf of the board, whilst respecting the chief executive's responsibility for the day-to-day management of the charity.
- Ensure that the strategies and actions approved by the board are effectively implemented by the Managing Director.
- To represent and promote Heart of the City externally at all levels.

Governance

- Ensure the highest standards of governance is met.
- Set the agenda, style and tone of board discussions to promote fast and effective decision-making and constructive debate in board meetings.
- Ensure the skills of the board match the needs of the organisation.
- Ensure that the effectiveness of the board is evaluated at least every two years.
- Address the development needs of individual board members with a view to enhancing overall effectiveness as a team.

Person specification

We do not expect one person to fulfil all specifications but would welcome applications from individuals who are able to demonstrate most of the following:

Experience & Knowledge

- Senior Executive experience in the Corporate, Charity or Public sector.
- Strong understanding of SMEs, their motivations and challenges.
- Strong commitment to sustainability and responsible business practices.
- Proven track record of setting strategic direction and leading senior teams.
- Well-connected senior network across businesses.

Skills & Attributes

- Excellent chairing, facilitation and sound judgement in complex situations.
- Strong strategic thinking with the ability to align resources to long-term mission and impact.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills, able to engage audiences from SME leaders to senior stakeholders.
- Strong ambassadorial and relationship-building skills.
- Excellent listening, questioning and consensus-building abilities.

Commitment

- Commitment to Heart of the City's mission, values and responsible business agenda.
- Willingness to devote the time and energy required to fulfil the role effectively.

Appointment details

Location

The Heart of the City is based at the City of London Corporation, in the Guildhall, near Bank station. Most board and committee meetings are held at the charity's offices, but also trustee offices. Trustees based in London firms may be asked to host the board once per year.

Remuneration

This role is offered on a voluntary basis.

Length of appointment

Trustees are appointed for a three-year term and can serve two terms. In exceptional cases a further term of three years may be agreed by the board.

How to apply

To apply, please submit your CV and a short covering statement (maximum 2 pages) outlining:

- Why you are interested in joining the Heart of the City
- What you would bring to the role, including any specific skills, experience or perspectives

Please send to Pete Daw, Managing Director at pete@theheartofthecity.com.

If you would like to discuss the Chair role informally first, please also contact Pete at the email address above.

Applications close at midnight on 27 September 2026.

Trustees aim to meet with the candidates in the weeks commencing **12 October 2026**.



www.theheartofthecity.com
linkedin.com/company/theheartofthecity