

Become a trustee of Glengall Wharf Garden

We are taking steps to become a charity limited by guarantee. With pro bono advice from Simmons and Simmons, we have looked at a range of charitable structures to find one that suits our needs and our community.

We are now looking for a team of people who have an interest in the work of community gardens, and the relevant skills and experience that can help us step up, create a strategic plan and help fundraise for future activities. We want to build a board that reflects our local community, and consists of people with professional skills, but also local knowledge and experience and enthusiastic site users.

This is an exciting opportunity for people looking for a responsible role in a vibrant and growing enterprise. Successful candidates will join a friendly team of local people, and will help shape and support the garden through increasing the number of activities we deliver, help develop our site and reach out to more local people to increase our social impact.

At this point in time, we are open to discussing our vision with individuals who wish to find out more, or can advise and support us as we takes steps to become a charity, and also from those who are keen to step up and commit longer term.

We will have an EGM in late January to confirm our new status. In the following two months we hope candidates can help us inform the process of change.

More details about the skills we need are outlined below.

Glengall Wharf Garden

We are a lively and diverse community garden in Burgess Park. Situated within the park boundary, the land is protected from development by MOL and QE2 Playing Fields in Trust legislation. Totalling 2600m², the whole garden is built on hardstanding, once an old wharf on the defunct Surrey Canal. Adjacent to the Surrey Canal Walk, a key north-south route through the centre of Southwark we are just north of Peckham and south of Bermondsey. Situated in Old Kent Rd ward, we are in one of the most deprived parts of the borough and surrounded by a mix of social housing, conservation zone and future major redevelopment of the area to create a further 20k homes.

10 years ago, the wider park was revitalised, and a group of local people initiated the project as a response to grow more food locally. Once given the site, we established the garden in 2012.

We have the full support of Southwark Council, and currently use the site rent free.

Over the past 8 years, we've piloted many successful small projects that have aimed to work with our diverse community and these have included gardening for health and wellbeing, food growing, feasts, permaculture, events for all ages, courses and some site hire. We have developed the site along permaculture principles, and are a Permaculture Association Land Centre. We have a forest garden, raised beds, polytunnels, a compost loo, apiary and rescued chickens. Volunteers have led many of the sessions and projects, keeping local people at the heart of garden management and development.

Our Herb Tuesdays Project ran for three and a half years taking referrals from local health charities

and provided weekly gardening sessions for anyone feeling isolated or in poor health.

Grown in Peckham, our food growing project trained 5 apprentice gardeners in 2018 and grown produce that has been donated on a weekly basis to our local food bank.

Our future

We want to make a bigger impact locally, especially amongst people most in need, but also to provide a welcoming ecological community hub for any one who is interested in what we do and want to learn more about food growing, permaculture, bees and other garden based activities.

Funding has been sporadic, so we want to develop better plans to support strategic development of what we do, and find more diverse ways of funding projects including grants and social enterprise.

We want to ensure members, supporters and garden users will have a say in what we do and we aim to develop a strong strategic team who can help guide and advise, whilst supporting active members and freelance staff run projects on site.

We have a good basic framework but we'll benefit from better support structures for everyone involved.

What will we expect from trustees?

- To demonstrate wisdom, fairness and to support the garden's ethos.
- To attend a 2 hour meeting every 2 months,
- To attend the Annual Members Meeting
- To contribute another 2-10 hours per month on projects relevant to your skills and interest.
- Committee members typically serve a 3 years term.
- To attend events at the garden and volunteering days if possible
- All committee members must become members of the garden. The financial guarantee of any individual will be limited to £1.00

Please note, being a trustee is a position of legal responsibility.

What do committee members get in return?

- Developing experience in governance, enterprise and community engagement
- Satisfaction of contributing to the growth and development of a growing community enterprise
- Helping to make a bigger impact on reducing food poverty, and supporting people who'll most benefit from access to gardening.

What are we looking for?

We are looking for enthusiastic individuals with an interest in the garden and its aims. In particular we are looking for candidates with experience in one or more of the following areas:

- Legal matters. You do not need to be currently practicing, but have experience of working with

legal matters and documents. You would be asked to help with simple legal matters such as clarifying or amending society rules, employment matters or contractual matters (e.g our lease, our service level agreements with suppliers). This will ensure the group is meeting all of it's legal and contractual responsibilities.

- Financial expertise. We want to take a strategic approach to fundraising and develop ways to diversify income through site hire, social enterprise, learning and sales. We'll need help with funding bids and looking at ways to diversify income.
- Education and learning. We want to run more courses that will help share our knowledge and skills with the local community. Engaging schools, training gardeners and apprentices, weekend study groups. Developing a programme that can help raise funds from some courses to subsidise others.
- Food sector. An understanding of the food issues facing Londoners, including food poverty, and how to support those who may struggle to access local and fresh food. Links to local food networks will be useful to help us reach out to people in the community.
- Marketing. We want to be able to promote what we do for maximum impact and increased benefit and reach.
- Social care. Knowledge of how gardening and gardens are used to support people therapeutically for improving health and wellbeing. Knowledge of local CCG, social prescribing and local charities and organisations that could help us develop a therapeutic programme.
- Impact measurement. How can we monitor our social impact and look for ways to improve it. We have some reporting and monitoring in place, but would like to improve it. Could you help us design and implement a simple, but effective monitoring programme that will provide valuable feedback to shape our services and provide reporting to funders.
- Social Media and Digital Marketing to help keep us alive and kicking in the virtual world and ensure we increase our appeal to people of all ages.
- Business development of small to medium enterprises. Can you help us develop an ethical model, integrate our activities and services with income generation and social commitments, and help make the garden a site the whole community can use.
- Local knowledge and connections. How can we best make an impact in the local community, we need people who really know and understand the social change happening around us and can help us tap into networks to help us connect with people who'd benefit from accessing garden activities.

We are not taking applications just yet, but are keen to share this information with everyone locally.

If you are interested in helping us with any of the above, or are interested in the future role of trustee and would like to support us through this period of change, please get in touch with Sue Amos at burgessfoodproject@gmail.com.

The Management Committee: Application Form

Name:

Address:

Phone number: