
Press release

Migration Museum appoints new Trustees to help deliver major new cultural destination

The Migration Museum has appointed five new trustees to its Board to help the charity build on the success of its current home in the heart of a busy South London shopping centre and establish a highly relevant and accessible permanent cultural destination that puts migration at the heart of national stories, narratives and conversations.

The Migration Museum's new trustees are:

- **Ayesha Hameed**, a Community and Public Engagement Specialist who currently leads the Engaging Londoners in Recovery programme at the Greater London Authority.
- **Eric Langham**, an internationally recognised planner of new museums and cultural projects and founding partner of cultural consultancy Barker Langham.
- **Kuljit Dhillon**, an experienced senior leader in policy development and delivery across a range of sectors, who is currently Assistant Director of Strategy at the General Medical Council.
- **Margot Finn**, Professor of Modern British History at UCL, whose current publications explore the history of the East India Company and its impact on British society, politics and culture.
- **Nilufar Fowler**, an experienced marketing communications business leader, who is currently Global Chief Client Officer at Mindshare, a WPP company.

Ayesha, Eric, Kuljit, Margot and Nilufar will serve alongside existing board members:

- **Charles Gurassa (Chair)**, who has a wealth of expertise in leadership roles across the corporate, charity and heritage sectors, including as Non-Executive Chair of Channel 4 and Oxfam GB.
- **David Olusoga OBE**, historian, producer and presenter of series include *Civilisations* and *A House Through Time* and books including *The World's War* and *Black & British: A Forgotten History*.
- **George Alagiah OBE**, *BBC News at Six* presenter and author of books including the award-winning *Passage to Africa*; *A Home from Home*, a look at multicultural Britain; and critically acclaimed novel *The Burning Land*.
- **Mohan Mansigani OBE (Treasurer)**, a finance director with extensive private equity and charitable experience, including as financial trustee of St John's Ambulance.
- **Robert Winder**, journalist and best-selling author of *Bloody Foreigners: The Story of Immigration to Britain*, *The Last Wolf: The Hidden Springs of Englishness*, and *Soft Power: The New Great Game*.
- **Sarah Caplin**, former TV executive for both the BBC and ITV and founder of children's charity Childline and The Silver Line, a helpline for older people.

The appointments follow a wide-ranging recruitment process led by the Migration Museum's Chair Charles Gurassa and CEO Sophie Henderson.

Charles Gurassa, Chair of the Migration Museum, says:

"I'm delighted to welcome Ayesha, Eric, Kuljit, Margot and Nilufar as new members of the Migration Museum's board. Each of our new Trustees brings a unique range of skills and experience that will complement our existing board and team.

"The recruitment of these new members to our new board is another important step towards our goal of delivering a major national cultural institution which tells the story of migration and how it has shaped us all."

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Notes for editors

New Trustee biographies

Ayesha Hameed

Ayesha Hameed is a Community and Public Engagement Specialist with over a decade of experience working to transform systems and practice in the public and housing sectors to ensure community voice is at the heart of everything they do. She currently leads the Engaging Londoners in Recovery programme at the Greater London Authority and has developed the organisation's work on community and citizen-led engagement. She led the Social Integration policy team and has worked on key issues affecting Londoners, including, Covid-19, Brexit, migration, workforce diversity and serious youth violence. Ayesha is committed to championing the value of lived experience, and person-centred approaches in policy and decision making to amplify the voices of under-served communities. She is a public authority representative on the Grenfell Memorial Commission and has previously worked for the London Borough of Hounslow and A2Dominion Housing Group.

Eric Langham

Eric is an internationally recognised planner of new museums and cultural projects. He is a founding partner of Barker Langham, one of the world's leading cultural consultancies. Eric directs Barker Langham's visitor experience work and has provided creative, strategic and curatorial direction for national museums, World Heritage Sites and cultural giga-projects in Europe, Asia and North America. His global portfolio includes creative visioning for major new institutions including the National Museum of Qatar, the House of European History in Brussels, the United Kingdom Holocaust Memorial and the Grand Canal Museum in China. Eric is a Trustee and former Commissioning Editor for the Association of Heritage Interpretation, a Fellow of the Museums Association, an Associate Fellow at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies (University of Exeter), an expert advisor to the Foundation for Jewish Heritage and a mentor and expert advisor to UK's National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Kuljit Dhillon

Kuljit Dhillon is the daughter of Punjabi Indian parents who came to England in the 1960s. Kuljit grew up in Hertfordshire and studied Social Policy at Kingston University before entering the civil service in 2002. During her career as a civil servant Kuljit has worked on policy and strategy in a number of government departments. Kuljit was Secretary to the Stern Review into Rape Complaints, led policy development for the 2010 Equality Act, and has advised Ministers as a senior civil servant in the Cabinet Office. In August 2021 Kuljit left the civil service to join the General Medical Council as Assistant Director of Strategy. Kuljit is a Parent Governor on the Academy Council of her son's school and has previously been a trustee on the Board of Women's Pioneer Housing.

Margot Finn

Margot Finn is Professor of Modern British History at UCL, where her research and teaching focus on the period from 1750 to the present. Her current publications explore the history of the East India Company and its impact on British society, politics and culture from the 18th to the 21st century. These include *The East India Company at Home, 1750-1850* (open access, UCL Press, 2018) and *New Paths to Public Histories* (Palgrave Pivot, 2015). A former trustee of the Victoria and Albert Museum, she also takes a lively interest in the impact of colonialism, empire and migration on present-day cultural and heritage organisations.

Nilufar Fowler

Nilufar is an experienced business leader in the marketing communications industry. She currently works for Mindshare, a WPP company specialising in media, data, technology and transformation services, as their Global Chief Client Officer. Prior to that, she has held multiple positions in different agencies and countries, including two CEO roles. Nilufar is the daughter of first-generation Asian immigrants, who arrived in the UK in the early 1960s, so is passionate about the mission of the Migration Museum.

Chair biography

Charles Gurassa

Charles Gurassa has extensive senior leadership and governance experience across the charity, corporate and heritage sectors. As well as being Chair of the Migration Museum, Charles is Chair of Oxfam GB, Non-Executive Chair of Channel 4, Chair of Great Rail Journeys, and a Trustee of English Heritage. Recent non-executive positions include Senior Independent Director of Merlin Entertainments plc and Deputy Chair of easyJet plc. Charles is a

former Chair of Virgin Mobile plc, LOVEFiLM, Phones4U, MACH, Tragus, Parthenon Entertainments and Alamo/National Rent a Car and former Deputy Chair of the National Trust. His executive career included roles as Chief Executive of Thomson Travel Group plc, Executive Chair TUI Northern Europe, Director TUI AG and as Director, Passenger & Cargo business at British Airways. He is a former Non-Executive Director at Whitbread plc, trustee of the children's charity Whizz-Kidz and a Member of the Development Board of the University of York.

About the Migration Museum

The Migration Museum explores how the movement of people to and from Britain across the ages has shaped who we are – as individuals, communities, and nations. Migration is a pressing contemporary issue and is at the centre of polarised debate. But there's an underlying story of comings and goings stretching back many centuries. And this story goes to the heart of who we are today. Britain has thousands of museums, but none focused on this important theme that connects us all – unlike countries from Australia to France to Brazil. The time is right for a highly relevant visitor attraction that shines a light on who we are, where we come from and where we are going.

From our current home in the heart of Lewisham Shopping Centre, we stage engaging exhibitions and events, alongside a far-reaching education programme for primary, secondary, university and adult learners. We have a growing digital presence, encompassing digital exhibitions including *Heart of the Nation: Migration and the Making of the NHS* and high-profile campaigns such as *Football Moves People*, which reached over 5m people during the men's Euros in summer 2021. For more information, visit: www.migrationmuseum.org.

The story so far

The Migration Museum was founded by Barbara Roche, who first made the case for a migration museum for Britain almost 20 years ago, stemming from her time as Britain's immigration minister, and from visiting similar museums in other parts of the world – notably Ellis Island in New York.

Barbara assembled a founding team of people from different professional backgrounds who shared her passionate belief that Britain's migration history should be placed at the heart of our national story, including author Robert Winder, whose book *Bloody Foreigners: The Story of Immigration to Britain* she was inspired by. Together, they began to scope what a national migration museum might look like. Sophie Henderson, a former immigration judge and barrister, came on board as Director in 2013, and began to assemble a staff team to realise this vision.

Between 2013 and 2017, we staged pop-up exhibitions and events and ran education workshops at venues across the UK, including the Southbank Centre, the National Maritime Museum and City Hall in London, the Museum of Oxford, Leicester railway station, and the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh. From 2017 to 2019, the Migration Museum was based in a former London Fire Brigade workshop in Lambeth, south London.

Since 2020, the Migration Museum has been based in a dynamic venue in the heart of Lewisham Shopping Centre in south-east London, where we received almost 14,000 monthly visitors prior to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and where we will continue to be based during Lewisham's tenure as London Borough of Culture in 2022. Longer term, we continue to seek permanent locations for a national Migration Museum for Britain.

Over 14,000 students from 400 schools, colleges and universities have participated in workshops run by the Migration Museum's education team since 2013. We have delivered teacher training to hundreds of new teachers and are engaged in consultation and input into the national curriculum through our partnerships with major examination boards, including Edexcel, which launched its new Migration History GCSE option at our museum.

We convene a sector-supporting Migration Network, in partnership with the University of Oxford's Centre on Migration, Policy and Society, Counterpoints Arts, Horniman Museum and Gardens, Museums Association, National Museums Liverpool, National Trust, and Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums. The Network brings together organisations from across the UK heritage sector and beyond to share knowledge and best practice on how to increase and improve work on migration themes across all regions and nations of the UK.

We have secured the support of a wide range of distinguished friends – high-profile supporters with a wide range of professional backgrounds and from across the political spectrum who back our vision and ambitions.

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