

Dame Sylvia Crowe Garden Volunteer Profile 2026

The Design Museum displays forward looking contemporary design across a range of disciplines: architecture, transport, product, fashion, graphic design and more. It is our wish to give all our visitors the very best experience - from the moment they arrive, to the memories they share with associates, friends and family after they have left.

Named in memory of the pioneering landscape architect who co-designed the landscaping for the Commonwealth Institute in 1962, the Dame Sylvia Crowe Garden is a green urban space adjacent to the Design Museum. Designed by [West 8](#) in 2014, the garden was neglected from the start of the pandemic until the Growing Together project began on site in 2022. The Growing Together project explores design and horticulture as catalysts for positive social change.

Dame Sylvia Crowe Garden volunteers are an intergenerational group of local people. The original cohort, recruited in 2022, were all 50 years +, some were at risk of experiencing social isolation or loneliness, some had limited or no access to green space at home, some were recovering from mental health challenges.

Volunteer recruitment in 2026 focuses on candidates aged **18 years +, with limited or no access to green space at home. Priority will be given to candidates living locally to the museum, people who are new to London and/or at risk of experiencing isolation or loneliness.**

See more information about the Growing Together project online [here](#).

What does the role involve?

Volunteers share stewardship of the garden with the Museum and contribute to making the garden into an inclusive learning and research space. They welcome all staff, volunteers, and visitors to events and activities taking place in the garden, listen to their needs, answer questions and facilitate activities. They help inspire people to get involved with regenerative design, sustainable horticulture practices and climate action.

Volunteer tasks include helping with :

- Planting, watering, dead heading, weeding, litter picking and tidying the lower and upper levels of the garden.
- Making compost and deadhedges
- Maintaining pathways and wayfinding on upper level
- Maintaining tools, furniture, resources and information panels
- Saving and sowing seeds and propagating cuttings
- Harvesting crops
- Other light gardening duties
- Discussions about next stages of garden development
- Supporting the delivery of Growing Together public events

- Engaging with visitors at Growing Together public events, acting as a garden host.
- Being an advocate for the garden and the museum

Shift options

Dame Sylvia Crowe Garden Volunteers will attend regular volunteering sessions.

- During 2026, the gardening sessions will take place on **Tuesday afternoons (2.00 – 4.30 pm) every other week (February to November)**.
- Seasonal garden events and activities take place approximately once per quarter on weekend days, but this may vary.

We ask that applicants consider a commitment of a **minimum of one gardening session per month and a minimum of two garden events over a minimum of 1 year**. This will be reviewed regularly.

Skills and experience

The museum is looking for people with:

- A warm, welcoming and open manner
- Ability to be proactively positive and helpful
- Willingness to learn and share skills and knowledge
- Ability to take instruction and act on your own initiative
- Confidence speaking to a variety of people
- Ability to be physically active for the 2.5-hour gardening shift and events
- An interest in nature and design

The Design Museum offers volunteers:

- An induction package and on-going support
- Reimbursement of out-of-pocket travel expenses up to £8 per session
- Refreshments during each session
- Access to Design Museum exhibitions free-of-charge
- Discounts in the Design Museum shop and café
- Free tickets, when available, to Design Museum events/talks
- Regular group visits to innovative urban green spaces
- Discounted/free access to partner cultural institutions

To apply

Please complete a Dame Sylvia Crowe Garden Volunteers application form [here](#)

If your application is successful, Assistant Curator of Public Practice Naomi Zaragoza, will be in touch to arrange an informal interview to discuss the role further.