

Dame Sylvia Crowe Garden Volunteer

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 seeks to reduce inequalities in access to green space and creative learning opportunities; facilitate design thinking, knowledge exchange, and innovation; enable intergenerational encounters; and benefit health and wellbeing.

Dame Sylvia Crowe Garden volunteers are an intergenerational group of local people with limited access to green space and creative learning opportunities. The original cohort, recruited in 2022, were all 50 years +, some were at risk of experiencing social isolation or loneliness, and/or recovering from mental health challenges. Volunteer recruitment in 2023 focuses on local residents aged 18 years +, with limited or no access to green space at home who are new to London, and/or a refugee, and/or at risk of experiencing isolation or loneliness, and/or recovering from mental health challenges.

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 are transforming 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
- Maintaining water butt, compost bins 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 to share with those facing hardship
- Other light gardening duties
- Discussions about next stages of garden development
- Coordinating Growing Together public events
- Engaging with visitors at Growing Together public events
- Being an advocate for the garden and museum

Shift options

Dame Sylvia Crowe Garden Volunteers will attend regular volunteering sessions. Current options for volunteering are:

- Tuesday afternoon (2.00 – 4.30 pm) once a week (March to October) or once a fortnight from (November to February)
- Seasonal Assembly events and activities approx. one Sunday per quarter

We hope to increase options to include Sunday morning (10 am - 12.30 pm) or afternoon (2.00 – 4.30 pm) once a month from November 2023 onwards.

We ask that applicants consider a commitment of **a minimum of two sessions per month over a minimum of six months**. 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 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 shift
- An interest in horticulture and design

The Design Museum offers volunteers:

- An induction package and on-going support

- Reimbursement of out-of-pocket travel expenses up to £10 per day
- 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
- Occasional 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, the Garden Volunteer supervisor, Ashley McCormick, will be in touch to arrange an informal interview to discuss the role further.