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REG CHARITY NO: 313609

Soane Youth Panel Member
Sir John Soane's Museum, London, UK

About us

Sir John Soane, the son of a bricklayer, became one of the most celebrated architects of his day. When he died in 1837, he left the home that he designed to the public. Today the Museum fulfils his wish and presents his collection of art, sculptures, books and furniture as it was in 1837, so visitors can step back in time into his beautiful and unusual house.

Role overview

The Youth Panel is a group of young people aged 15–24 who help the Museum shape activities, events and opportunities, particularly those we offer for a younger audience. Launched in 2017, the panel has become an important way for the Soane to engage their work with young people. The panel has worked on several projects, from developing youth-focused events to curating an exhibition, and from writing blog posts to creating artwork and online content as part of Museum programming.

Please find some examples of previous Youth Panel projects linked here:

2025: Make It You: Soane Youth Panel Exhibition | Sir John Soane's Museum

2023: The Grand Tour with the Soane Youth Panel | Sir John Soane's Museum

2020: Youth Panel responses to the 2020 Architecture Drawing Prize Youth Panel Picks | Sir John Soane's Museum

How much time do you need to donate?

We encourage all members to commit to attending monthly meetings. We are open to different lengths of participation, but as a guide young people often stay with the panel for 6 to 12 months and you can stay for as long as you like, up until your 25th birthday. The Youth Panel currently meets in person on Wednesdays at 4.30-7pm. Please note that sessions take place primarily in term-time at the Museum in central London.

The role

You will have the opportunity to collaborate with a wide variety of Soane staff as they develop new and exciting projects. All activities that you take part in are created and developed in line with individual members' interests and skill needs. We focus on providing you with transferable skills that you can take forward into whatever path you choose for the future.

We're looking for someone who is:

- Aged 15 24
- Living, working or studying in London, and able to attend the majority of youth panel meetings
- Happy to work as part of a team
- Interested in learning new skills and meeting new people

- Keen you don't have to know a lot about or be familiar with museums to take part, enthusiasm is key!
- Eager to make Museums more accessible for young people
- Happy to attend in-person training sessions before you start

What you'll gain from being a part of the Youth Panel:

- Knowledge and understanding of how a museum works, and an insight into different jobs within the sector
- Experience of working on specific projects as part of a small team with wider Museum staff
- Training this will include a welcome training session and may also include project-specific training
- Invitations to take part in talks and events as part of the Volunteer programme
- Support from experienced staff including the Volunteer Manager, Learning Manager and Public Programmes & Young People Manager
- Information about opportunities and events aimed at young people from other organisations
- Reimbursement for out-of-pocket travel expenses up to a maximum of £12.50 per day.

How to apply

To apply please fill out the application form online on Better Impact linked on the website.

We welcome applicants from all sections of the community, as we want to reflect the diverse demographics of young Londoners. You don't need to have volunteered before or visited Sir John Soane's Museum, or any Museum. We won't be able to offer informal discussions to everyone who applies but we will provide feedback on applications if it is requested.

We are likely to receive more applications than we have places on the Youth Panel. We will prioritise people from groups under-represented in museums, including the following:

- From the global majority/ethnic minorities
- From lower income households
- Care-experienced
- Estranged
- Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen and Boaters
- Asylum Seekers and Refugees
- Young carers

and those who have not previously had the opportunity to participate in a museum youth panel.

Please contact the Public Programmes & Young People Manager, Rhiannon Litterick at rlitterick@soane.org.uk, if you have any questions about the role or to apply in a different format. If you have an access needs you would like to let us know about at this stage, please get in touch and we'll be happy to answer any questions.