Made In Hackney Chair of Trustees –

An opportunity to lead Made in Hackney into its next chapter

About Made in Hackney

Made in Hackney (MIH) is a pioneering food charity on a mission to tackle health inequalities, improve access to nutritious and climate-friendly food, and bring communities together through the power of plants.

MIH opened its doors in 2012 as the UK's first fully vegan community cookery school. Today, we are a thriving charity working at the intersection of food, health, climate and social justice. We support communities most impacted by systemic inequality while working towards a fairer, healthier and more sustainable food system for all.

We are a values-led organisation, with our work and ethos anchored by four core values:

- **Compassion** – inclusive, respectful and embracing diverse lived experiences
- **Community-minded** – bringing people together, collaborating and supporting others
- **Courageous** – pushing boundaries and leading the way
- **Committed** – focusing on high-quality and high-impact work

More information about our work can be found in our latest Impact Report
Made_in_Hackney_Annual_Report_and_FY25_Accounts(5) (1) (1) (1).pdf

The Opportunity

Made in Hackney is seeking an inspiring and collaborative **Chair of Trustees** to lead our Board through the next stage of the charity's development.

This is an exciting opportunity to provide strategic leadership to a pioneering organisation with a strong track record and an ambitious vision for the future.

Working closely with the Executive Director and fellow Trustees, the Chair will ensure that the Board is effective, well-governed and focused on achieving the charity's mission. They will bring strong leadership, sound judgement and a commitment to constructive challenge, while creating an inclusive environment in which Trustees can contribute their expertise and perspectives.

The Chair will also act as an ambassador for Made in Hackney, helping to build relationships, raise the charity's profile and develop opportunities that support its long-term sustainability and impact.

We are particularly keen to hear from people who can bring experience of leading boards, organisations or complex change, and who share our commitment to social justice, health equity and a fairer, more sustainable food system.

Key Responsibilities

The Chair will:

- Provide effective leadership to the Board, ensuring that it operates as a cohesive, inclusive and high-performing team.
- Work closely with the Executive Director, providing support, encouragement and constructive challenge while maintaining a clear distinction between governance and operational management.
- Ensure that the Board maintains a clear focus on MIH's mission, strategic priorities and long-term sustainability.
- Lead the Board in providing effective oversight of organisational performance, financial sustainability, risk and compliance.
- Ensure that Trustees have the information, support and opportunities they need to fulfil their responsibilities effectively.
- Encourage constructive debate and ensure that different perspectives are heard and valued in Board discussions.
- Support effective succession planning, Trustee recruitment and ongoing development of the Board, ensuring that its composition reflects the skills and experience needed for the charity's future.
- Act as an ambassador for Made in Hackney, representing the charity externally and helping to develop strategic relationships and opportunities.
- Support the Executive Director and Board in navigating significant opportunities, challenges and periods of change.
- Ensure that the Board continues to uphold high standards of governance and acts in the best interests of the charity and its beneficiaries.

What We Are Looking For

We are looking for an individual who combines strong leadership and governance skills with a genuine commitment to MIH's mission and values.

You will ideally bring:

- **Experience of chairing or leading a board, committee or organisation**, with an understanding of what makes effective governance.
- The ability to think strategically and provide constructive challenge while building trust and positive relationships.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, with the confidence to facilitate discussion, manage differing views and support effective decision-making.
- Sound independent judgement and the ability to understand and navigate complex issues.
- Experience of working with and supporting a senior executive or leadership team.
- An understanding of financial sustainability, risk and organisational oversight.

- The ability to act as an effective ambassador and advocate for the charity, building relationships across a range of stakeholders.
- A commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, and an appreciation of the value that diverse perspectives and lived experiences bring to governance.

Previous experience as a charity Trustee is highly desirable, although we are open to candidates who can demonstrate strong transferable governance and leadership experience from other sectors.

We would particularly welcome applications from people who live in Hackney or have strong connections to the borough and its communities.

Our Trustees

Our Board is proactive, collaborative and committed to supporting the charity to achieve its ambitious goals. Trustees bring a broad range of professional expertise, lived experience and perspectives, and work collectively to provide strategic direction, oversight and constructive challenge.

We are continuing to strengthen and develop the Board to ensure that it has the breadth of skills, experience and perspectives needed to support MIH's current priorities and future ambitions.

Commitment and Remuneration

This is a voluntary and unremunerated role. Reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed.

The Chair will serve an initial three-year term, with the potential for renewal in line with the charity's governing arrangements.

The expected commitment is approximately **6–10 hours per month**, with additional time required periodically, including;

- Quarterly Board meetings, with at least one meeting each year held in person, usually in the evening.
- An annual in-person strategic planning meeting.
- Preparation for Board meetings and review of papers.
- Additional meetings with the Executive Director and/or Trustees as required.
- Participation in relevant Board subcommittees or working groups where appropriate.
- Attendance at at least one MIH event each year.
- External engagement and representation on behalf of MIH where appropriate.

The Chair will receive a comprehensive induction, including meetings with key members of the team and an opportunity to review relevant organisational and governance information. Additional training and support will be provided where appropriate.

Location

Made in Hackney is based at Liberty Hall (E5 9AA). Board meetings are usually held in Central London or online.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Made in Hackney is committed to building a Board that reflects the diversity of the communities we serve.

We welcome applications from people of all backgrounds and particularly encourage applications from people whose perspectives and experiences are currently underrepresented in charity governance. We also positively welcome applications from people with lived experience of food poverty in the UK.

You do not need to have previously held the position of Chair of Trustees to apply. We are interested in the skills, experience, perspective and potential that you would bring to the role.

How to Apply

Please send a CV and covering letter explaining your interest in becoming Chair of Trustees and how your skills, experience and perspective would support Made in Hackney at this stage of its development.

Please send applications to our Executive Director - Claire Atchia McMaster: **claire@madeinhackney.org**

Closing date: 23 November 2026