



# Deaf Heritage Steering Group

## Join the Deaf Heritage Steering Group

The British Deaf Association is seeking members for a new Deaf Heritage Steering Group.

Thanks to funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, we are beginning an exciting project to help preserve, protect and celebrate Deaf heritage, British Sign Language and Deaf culture.

We are looking for Deaf community members and people with relevant expertise in Deaf history, heritage, archives, museums, research or community engagement.

You do not need formal qualifications. Lived experience and enthusiasm for Deaf heritage are equally valuable.

The group will help shape the future of Deaf heritage in the UK and guide the development of a new Deaf Heritage Strategy.

Reasonable expenses will be covered.

## Purpose

The Deaf Heritage Steering Group will provide advice, guidance and challenge throughout the Deaf Heritage project.

The group will help ensure that the project remains community-led, inclusive, representative and focused on protecting, preserving and sharing Deaf heritage.

The Steering Group will support the British Deaf Association (BDA) by:

- Advising on project priorities and activities
- Helping identify important Deaf heritage stories, archives and collections
- Ensuring diverse Deaf perspectives are represented
- Reviewing project plans and outputs
- Supporting community engagement and outreach
- Acting as ambassadors for the project
- Contributing to the development of the BDA Heritage Strategy

The Steering Group is advisory and does not have legal or financial responsibility for the project.

## Membership Criteria

We are seeking a diverse group of individuals with an interest in Deaf heritage.

Members may include:

### **Deaf Community Representatives**

People with lived experience of:

- British Sign Language
- Deaf culture
- Deaf clubs and organisations
- Deaf education
- Deaf sport
- Deaf arts and performance
- Regional Deaf communities
- Youth and intergenerational perspectives

### **Heritage and Specialist Representatives**

Individuals with expertise in:

- Deaf history
- Archives and collections
- Museums and heritage
- Libraries and research
- Digital preservation
- Linguistics and BSL
- Community engagement
- Accessibility and inclusion

Applications are welcomed from both Deaf and hearing people who can contribute relevant knowledge and experience.

## **Desired Representation**

The BDA will seek balanced representation from:

- Different UK nations and regions
- Different age groups
- Deaf people from Black, Asian and other ethnically diverse communities
- Deaf LGBTQ+ communities
- Deafblind people
- Deaf people with additional disabilities
- Heritage professionals
- Academics and researchers

The aim is not to fill quotas but to ensure a broad range of perspectives.

## **Membership Terms**

### **Length of Appointment**

- Initial term: 12 months
- Opportunity to continue into future heritage phases

### **Meetings**

Members will be expected to:

- Attend approximately 10 meetings over 12 months
- Review papers before meetings where possible
- Participate respectfully and constructively
- Declare any conflicts of interest

Meetings will be delivered in accessible formats.

### **Accessibility Commitment**

The BDA will:

- Provide BSL as the primary language of meetings
- Provide interpreters where required

- Provide accessible meeting materials
- Cover agreed travel and reasonable expenses
- Ensure all members can participate equally

## Code of Conduct

Members agree to:

### **Respect**

- Treat all participants with dignity and respect
- Value differing opinions and experiences

### **Inclusion**

- Promote equality and accessibility
- Support an environment free from discrimination

### **Confidentiality**

- Respect confidential discussions and information
- Not share sensitive information without permission

### **Collaboration**

- Work in the interests of the project rather than personal agendas
- Support collective decision-making

### **Professional Behaviour**

Members must not engage in:

- Harassment
- Bullying
- Personal attacks
- Discriminatory behaviour

Failure to follow the Code of Conduct may result in removal from the group.

## Time Commitment

Approximately:

- 10 meetings per year
- 2–4 hours per month

## Responsibilities

- Attend meetings regularly
- Provide feedback and advice
- Share relevant expertise and lived experience
- Help identify opportunities and risks
- Champion the project within networks and communities

## What Members Will Gain

Members will have the opportunity to:

- Influence the future of Deaf heritage
- Contribute to preserving BSL and Deaf culture
- Develop knowledge of heritage practice
- Work alongside heritage professionals and community leaders
- Help shape a nationally significant Deaf heritage programme