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**Biographies for candidates for the Trustee Board of London Funders standing for election at the Annual General Meeting 2021**

**Overview**

Members can elect up to 12 Trustees to the Board of London Funders. At this AGM, five of the current 12 elected Trustees step down – three are standing for re-election, and two are retiring. With five vacancies, Members are therefore able to elect five of the six candidates who are listed below to serve as Trustees until the AGM in 2024.

The charity’s governing document asks members to be “mindful of the advantages in having an Board whose membership is: balanced between representatives of funders of different sizes, types and geographical locations; inclusive of people with disabilities and as regards gender and sexual orientation and age; and diverse as regards ethnic, cultural and religious background.”

For context, Members can review the role, diversity and skills audit of the current Trustee Board on the [London Funders website](https://londonfunders.org.uk/sites/default/files/images/Trustee%20diversity%20and%20skills%20audit%20report%202021_5.pdf).

**Person standing: Dominic Briant**

Representing: Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing/Migration Foundation

Nominated by: Jahanara Rajkoomar, Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing

Dominic is Head of Funding and Research at Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing (MTVH) and is the accountable lead for the MTVH Migration Foundation.

Dominic is an experienced leader in the non-profit sector. He is a specialist in grant-making and impact management. His experience includes ten years with the British Red Cross where he held a series of management and leadership posts in the UK and overseas.

In MTVH Dominic leads all funding and research programmes for social housing residents and communities including the MTVH Migration Foundation. He is accountable for impact management and advises other grant-making trusts on strategy and grant management including the Chalkhill Community and West Hendon Community Trust Funds.

Outside of his professional roles, Dominic was a founding Trustee of ‘Reset’ leading the refugee community sponsorship movement in the UK and he has completed graduate studies in Global Issues.

Dominic is on the ethical advisory committee of CCLA Investment Management and is a research advisor to Hilbert Investment Solutions.

**Person standing: Sally Dickinson**

Representing: Berkeley Foundation

Nominated by: Monica Needs, London Borough of Barking & Dagenham

Sally Dickinson is Head of the Berkeley Foundation, the grant-making charity established by Berkeley Group in 2011. She joined the organisation as its first full-time employee in 2013, and took on her current role in October 2017.

The Berkeley Foundation supports organisations across London, Birmingham and the South of England, working to ensure that young people and their communities have the tools and resources they need to thrive and be a force for change in the world. Under Sally’s leadership, the Foundation has focused its grant-making on areas critical to young Londoners, including mental health and wellbeing, youth homelessness, employment and skills, and youth leadership.

Most recently, she has overseen the development and launch of the Foundation’s new Resilience Fund, which aims to support the long-term resilience of small-to-medium sized charities supporting young people.

As well as leading the Foundation’s grant-making and long-term charity partnerships, Sally is also responsible for engaging Berkeley’s 2,800 staff in the Foundation’s work, and leveraging the company’s wider networks and relationships to increase the Foundation’s impact.

Prior to joining the Berkeley Foundation, Sally developed her understanding of the voluntary sector in roles at Oxfam and Volunteer Centre Southwark.

Sally has been a Trustee of London Funders since 2018 and Vice Chair from 2019.

**Person standing: David Farnsworth**

Representing: City Bridge Trust

Nominated by: Edith Galliers, London Borough of Redbridge

David trained in the City as a lawyer, and practised as a solicitor. He then spent 12 years, leading teams in the voluntary sector, including heading up the central London office of the Immigration Advisory Service and being CEO of Welsh Refugee Council.

David spent five years directing the Refugee Programme at the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund and also ran a consultancy working with leading charitable trusts and foundations committed to social justice.

David has been Director of City Bridge Trust, Chief Grants Officer for the City of London Corporation since 2013 and has recently been appointed Managing Director of the underlying charity Bridge House Estates.

David has been a trustee of London Funders since 2015 and Chair since April 2017.

**Person standing: Lynne Guyton**

Representing: John Lyon’s Charity

Nominated by: Erik Mesel, John Lyon’s Charity

Lynne joined John Lyon’s Charity as Chief Executive in April 2017. John Lyon’s Charity gives grants to benefit children and young people in North and West London. It grants around £12m a year to a range of organisations that seek to promote the life-chances of children and young people through education. Lynne holds a Doctorate in Economics from Cambridge University and had a career of 18 years in banking until 2012. Prior to joining John Lyon’s Charity, Lynne was Co-Chief Executive of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Foundation.

Lynne is a Trustee for the Institute of Imagination, a charity creating space to reimagine our world. Its goal is to spark imaginations everywhere and encourage creative learning for children. Lynne is a also a Trustee for Chiswick House and Gardens Trust, one of the best examples of Neo-Palladian architecture in London. She also mentors several women in the charitable sector. She lives in Chiswick with her husband, two sons and springer spaniel. She was named in the London Evening Standard’s ‘Progress 1000: London’s Most Influential People 2019’.

**Person standing: Andrew Matheson**

Representing: Southwark Council

Nominated by: Yolande Burgess, London Councils

Andrew Matheson is a commissioner at Southwark Council in Communities with responsibility for funding and coordination of over £6m of grants to the community sector. These include Community grants, advice services, Equalities, Healthwatch, infrastructure and advocacy services. He works closely with Southwark Funders to build effective links across sectors. He is responsible for current reviews of obstacles to Black, Asian and minority ethnic organisations making successful grant applications to the council and of how effective Southwark’s investment in the community sector is in reducing inequality.

He has experience of working in homelessness, estate management, advice work, welfare rights and training in local authorities and the voluntary sector including Lambeth Council, Citizens Advice and Disability Rights. He is Chair of London Borough Grants Officers Forum through which London local authorities share knowledge and London Councils reports on the pan-London Grants programme He is a current trustee of London Funders and seeking re-election as a local authority voice.

**Person standing: Matt Parsonage**

Representing: Clarion Housing Group

Nominated by: Phil Miles, Clarion Futures

Matt has been Head of Communities at Clarion Futures (the Charitable Foundation of Clarion Housing Group, the UK’s largest Housing Association) for over a decade and is still busy trying to understand how best to engage effectively with diverse communities across the country. Overseeing a wide-reaching programme of community interventions and support, Matt is committed to bringing innovation, creativity and energy to the Housing Sector for the benefit of residents living in social housing. He is currently overseeing (amongst many things!) the ongoing roll-out of Clarion Future’s Recovery & Resilience programme for the benefit of much-valued small and medium-sized community-based partners that made it through the pandemic.

Matt has extensive experience of developing and delivering a multitude of funding programmes thanks to his time spent at Clarion Futures and in previous posts with New Cross Gate New Deal for Communities (as Programme Manager during the early glory days of New Labour) and at Sport England where he helped design and deliver a Lottery-based grants scheme targeting groups of people in London that had traditionally missed out on sports funding. He recently stood down as Trustee with Chichester Community Development Trust after 8 very exciting years of incredible progress for that agency.

Matt is passionate about using whatever resources are available to make truly impactful change for the benefit of people that need it most. He also assumes he needs to listen to people to understand their issues before making decisions.

Matt is originally from Birmingham but has loved living in London for the last 25 years. He currently lives in East Dulwich (although sometimes he says Peckham Rye) with his wife and 12 year old son who is the definition of a handful. Matt loves cycling and can often be seen spinning out towards Biggin Hill on a Sunday morning (unless he is refereeing U-12s football which he also strangely enjoys).