



Appointment of

Director of Science Engagement

Part Time

Wonderseekers



WINCHESTER
SCIENCE CENTRE
AND PLANETARIUM

Contents

Foreword from the Chief Executive	3
About the Charity	4
Strategy	5
Equality, diversity and inclusion	6
Organisation and management	7
Role specifics	8
Role purpose / key responsibilities	9
Why work for us?	11
Application process	12



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Foreword from the Chief Executive

Thank you.

Thank you for your interest in joining our team. It's a big decision to apply for a new role, to leave an existing job and to take the plunge to join a new organisation. There are so many unknowns when taking on a new job. What will my new boss be like? What is the organisation's culture like? If I need to take a day off will I be allowed? Can I work from home? Will there be regular cake in the office or staff room? Hopefully this document will answer some of those questions and demystify what working for our Charity is like.



Getting across the workplace culture of an organisation in a job advert or a job description is really hard, but if I had to sum up our workplace culture in one word I would choose – family. I often describe us as a family employer. We understand the pressures and needs of family life and especially after such troubling times. Our charity recognises that home life comes first and the Senior Management team and I are keen to reassure and encourage our colleagues to manage their work-life balance.

And then there's the work family. Everyone here knows their colleagues have got their backs. I am incredibly proud of our work family. Recent experiences have only cemented my belief that every member of the team here is looking out for their colleagues, wanting to help and going over and above to achieve this.

We are at an exciting point in the history of this charity. We have bounced back well from the pandemic and we are in a stable and secure financial position with a clear vision and mission to deliver upon. We are looking for candidates that want come and not just work here, but to join our work family, help us to create a world where through the wonder of science people and planet thrive.

Thank you again for your interest in the role. If you feel you share our family values and want to make a difference then I urge you to apply. We are incredibly motivated to make sure our staff represent the diverse audiences that we serve, so please do read the section on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. If you have any questions, or would like an informal chat with me or one of the Senior Management team before you apply, please do speak to Laura.

Looking forward to meeting you,

A handwritten signature of Ran Ward in white ink.

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PS. There regularly are amazing cakes in the office and staff room often baked by either Jennie or Lizi. They're really not good for the waistline but they taste so good!

About the Charity

Wonderseekers, the Charity behind Winchester Science Centre, has been sparking children's curiosity in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) since it was founded in 1986.

We believe that through science, children can choose to live healthier, more sustainable lives and contribute to a better world for all.

They can:

- discover the wonder of science and make sense of the world around them and their place within it,
- use science methodology as a framework for critical thinking and problem solving,
- develop their self-confidence and resilience through practical experience and experimentation.

However, inequality of access to science for young children means that many miss out.

Our new strategy demonstrates our ambition to build on our Charity's long heritage, develop our experience in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, continue our focus on all disciplines of science and take on an environmental agenda in response to climate change.

We remove social, cultural and intellectual barriers so that all children can be inspired by and engage in science, with a particular focus on children whose lives are impacted by disability or impairment and social and economic deprivation.

We specialise in communicating science to children through 'WOW!' experiences that are fun, inclusive, immersive, interactive and accessible. We reach out to children in innovative ways through our Science Centre, in schools, communities and online, and love to work collaboratively with children, industry and academic partners, charities and individuals to have the greatest impact.

Find out more about our Charity's strategy, governance and achievements over the past year by [downloading our latest annual report](#).

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Strategy

By doing this:

Speaking up for early intervention, equity, diversity and inclusion and the environment in science.

Creating, curating and sharing digital resources and experiences.

Connecting children to nature through environmental science, outdoor spaces and our activity programme.

Accessible, fun and diverse science experiences through our Science Centre.

Extending activity through schools and community-based programmes to deliver equitable access to science.

And by working with:

Communities

Schools

Families

Partners

Underpinned by our values:

Sustained, repeated and diverse science engagement from an early age.

Fun, positive, people-led and participatory activities.

Accessible and inclusive experiences, where children feel welcome and valued.

Continuous evaluation.

Outcomes:

Children are connected to nature.

Children use their science enquiry skills.

Children want to play their part.

Children value and see the relevance of science.

Long-term impacts:

Children can live in a more equitable society.

Children choose to live healthier lives.

Children choose to contribute to a better world for all.

Children can and want to protect and heal our natural world.

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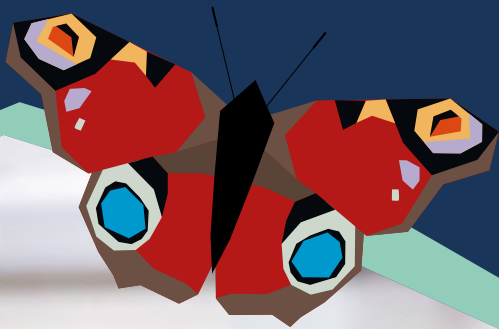
Equality, diversity and inclusion

Our charity is committed to breaking down barriers to STEM and wants to help everyone regardless of age, background, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, religion or belief, disability, impairment or any other protected characteristic to be in STEM.

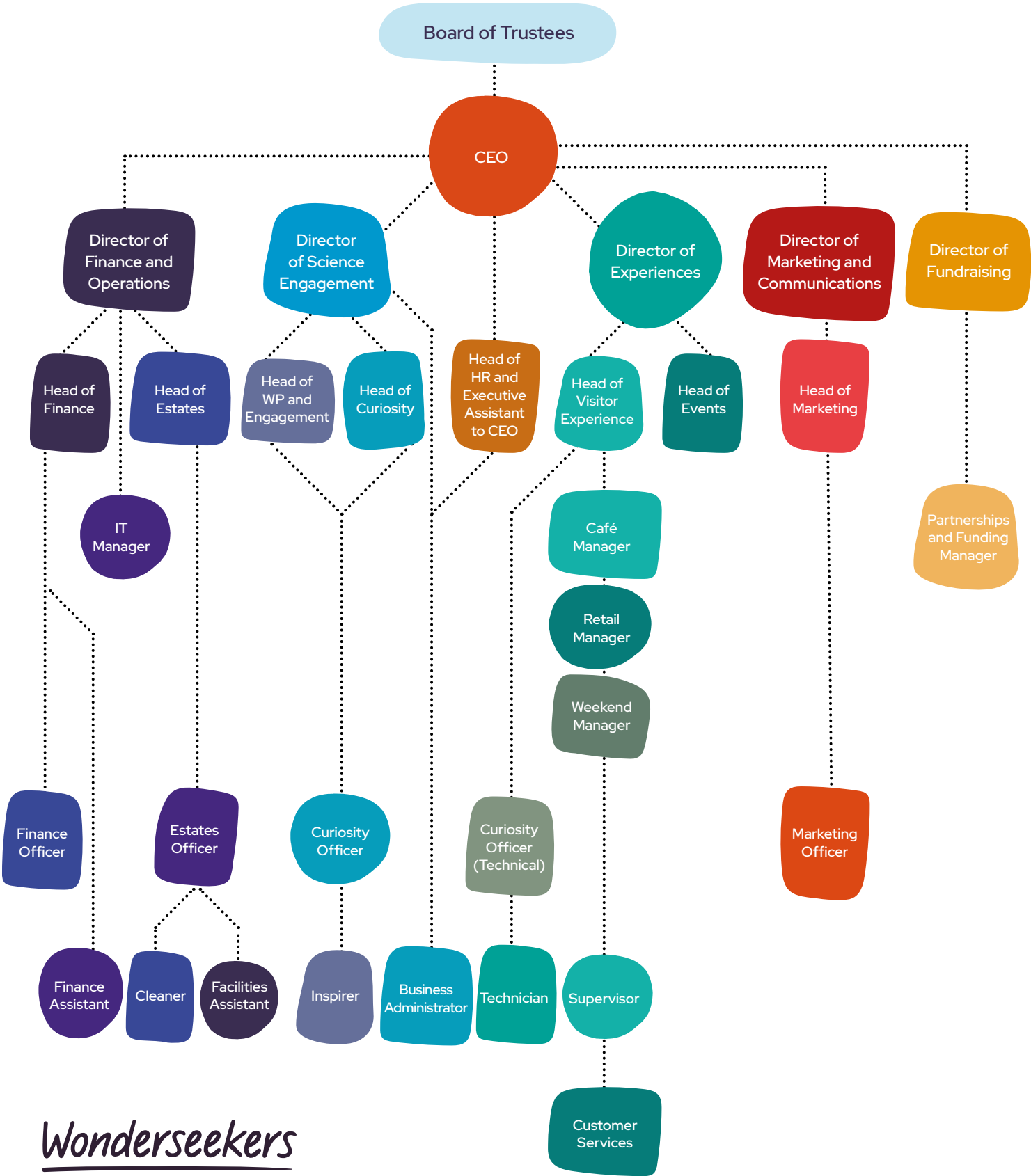
Equality and inclusion are at the heart of everything we do. We want to create a truly diverse and inclusive workplace. If you are disabled and have the essential skills and experience to do the job, we will invite you to an interview.

We recognise that through diversity our Charity can grow and we are committed to providing an inclusive recruitment process to support this. We want to work with a great team, with people who share our values and can make a huge contribution to sparking curiosity. We believe the team must reflect the diverse communities we work with so to support this, we are very willing to facilitate flexible working, changes to the infrastructure, systems and processes in order to welcome the most diverse candidates possible.

If you wish to have a conversation about accessibility, the role or the application process please do get in touch with Laura (see last page for contact details).



Organisation and management



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Role specifics

Director of Science Engagement

Line manager CEO

Salary £40,000-£44,000 pro rata, per annum depending on experience and agreed working hours.

Annual leave 25 days plus bank holidays FTE (pro rata depending on agreed FTE). Option to buy/sell some leave. The post holder is not expected to work most bank and public holidays.

FTE 0.4-0.5 FTE

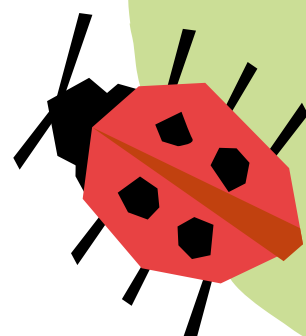
Contract 14 month fixed-term contract (maternity cover).

Start date June 2023. This role is intended to cover some of the duties of the current Director of STEM who will begin maternity leave in mid-June to early July 2023. We hope it will be possible for there to be some handover time.

Working pattern Approx 16 hours per week, weekday. We are a family friendly organisation and support our employees to work flexibly to maintain a healthy work/ life balance. We encourage open discussions with potential candidates on working hours. This role could be fulfilled somewhere between 15 to 18 hours per week. The hours will be covered during weekdays, ideally to include Mondays due to existing SMT meetings. Please state on your application form your preferred number of hours / work pattern and this can be discussed further at interview.

Location The post-holder must be available to work all hours on-site in Winchester, SO21 1HZ. Due to the part-time nature and responsibilities outlined, office based working is desirable, with occasional home working possible.

Deadline There is no set deadline for this role – if you are interested, please get in touch at your earliest convenience. We will swiftly be in touch with suitable candidates to arrange an informal discussion and interview.



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Director of Science Engagement

The role

We are looking for an outstanding and inspiring expert in science communication and engagement to join our Senior Management Team during a pinnacle time for our Charity. We are on a mission to make the world a better place for children, by supporting them to foster a lifelong love for science and particularly our natural world. Children are our future, and the Director of Science Engagement will lead on and ensure the high quality scientific and educational content across the Charity.

We currently use a wide variety of science communication methods, our largest platform being face to face engagement through Winchester Science Centre and our community projects. We want to expand this further into supporting young people to become advocates for science through our activity programmes, digital engagement, and heritage with a key focus on environmental sciences. The Director of Science Engagement will have a proven track record for innovative activity and experience curation, ideally for children aged 3-12 and their families.

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Director of Science Engagement

Key responsibilities

Senior Management

- Work with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Senior Management Team (SMT) to deliver on our new 2023 charity strategy, For People and Planet 2023
- Join the SMT to ensure our audiences receive outstanding and relevant science communication, using a fun and engaging methodology
- Work alongside the SMT to plan, support fundraising and deliver on significant capital and community engagement projects
- To maintain and create strong links with significant stakeholders for the charity
- Support the CEO to report to trustees, through written papers, board meetings and attending committees .

Scientific Support

- To consult with Heads of Department and SMT on our charity's scientific content on global and local issues such as climate change and biodiversity loss
- To consult and advise development of new science activities programmes for the future, working particularly with the Director of Experiences
- To advise on future capital projects, to ensure facilities are optimal for future science communication activities
- To work with Heads of Department across the charity to ensure a holistic approach, continuity and shared vision for science communication
- To maintain a current and relevant understanding of the sciences, particular environmental science and disseminate this to staff. .

Education and Pedagogy

- To support the charity to maintain our brilliant educational experience for all audiences
- To support pedagogy innovation within the Curiosity and Widening Participation Teams to remain relevant a push the boundaries of science communication, including leading some training
- To support and consult with the Head of Widening Participation to ensure our engagement methodology supports our priority audiences and all content is accessible to support our mission for equity in science.

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Why work for us?

Employee Benefits

- Annual leave – Receive 25 days plus bank holidays as standard
- Buy and sell annual leave – Flexibility around holiday entitlement to help manage your work/life balance.
- Long service annual leave bonus – Be rewarded with up to 30 days holiday for sticking with us.
- Café and shop discount – Grab some rocket fuel for your shift or stock up on gifts at almost cost price
- Family friendly leave – We offer a generous package to support you and your family, taking away some of the worries and enabling you to welcome and bond with your new little person
- Cash back health scheme – receive cash payments on every day health and wellbeing essentials like optical, dental, physio and more. Access confidential advice, receive face to face counselling, speak to a GP 7 days a week, and get discounts on everyday essentials.
- Wellbeing procedure – We are here for you during life's many ups and downs. This includes mental health, the menopause and financial difficulties.
- Mental Health First Aiders – our team are on hand to look out for colleagues and signpost to professional support
- Financial wellbeing scheme – a free financial health check and educational content focussing on financial wellbeing and planning for the future
- Financial loans
- Cycle to work scheme
- Flexible family-friendly working environment
- Flexible IT and home working by arrangement
- Paid for training and development opportunities by arrangement
- Casual dress and comfortable uniform supplied
- Rural location with beautiful views and access to the South Downs for lunchtime strolls
- Free entry for family and friends
- Free social events including a family day in the summer and Christmas party
- Free on-site parking
- Pension contribution
- Inflationary pay rise

Some benefits are subject to length of service and may be pro-rata'd accordingly. Not all benefits are contractual and may be withdrawn or amended at any time. If you have any queries on staff benefits before applying for a role, please contact Laura Ollis.

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Application process

When you are ready to apply, [please click to go to our recruitment portal](#).

You will simply need to create an account, answer a few questions, and then upload your CV and cover letter. If you have any other questions or wish to arrange an informal phone prior to applying, please do not hesitate to get in touch with lauraollis@winchestersciencecentre.org. Ben would be delighted to chat to any prospective candidates.

What's next?

If you're successful in being shortlisted based on your application, we will arrange a time for you to swing by for a chat so we can get to know you better, and for you to get to know the WSC family for yourself.

We know interviews can be quite daunting but we're not here to catch you out - we just want to know what makes you brilliant, why you should be part of our growing family, and how you can support our charitable aims to make a difference. We can't wait to meet you!

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