
Sophia Mirchandani MA, AMA

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Curriculum Vitae

Sophia is a professional with extensive experience across the heritage and cultural sectors including work with national sector bodies, local authority services, independent and volunteer run trusts.

She is a clear strategic thinker with excellent analytical and communication skills. Coupled with a pragmatic and flexible approach, she is focused on getting the best results for each project or organisation. She enjoys working as part of the client team on research, project planning and development; assessing options and feasibility; business planning; consultation; audience development and public programming. She is skilled at facilitating organisational visioning and strategic planning as well as mentoring for project, interpretation and activity planning and evidence-based decision making.

Since establishing CCN in 2007 Sophia has also worked on national research, benchmarking, impact studies and evaluation projects for The National Archives, HLF/NLHF, ACE. Prior to that she worked at the Museum of London, local museums, regional support agencies and abroad.

She has been an expert advisor, mentor and monitor for NLHF for over 20 years and is regularly commissioned to support the development and delivery of major capital and service development projects, mentoring engagement, activity and interpretation plans, for example, the National Portrait Gallery 'Inspiring People'; Kew Gardens Temperate House project; V&A Exhibition Road development and new 1600-1815 galleries; Hull: Yorkshire's Maritime City; NT Sutton Hoo; 'The Hold' Suffolk Archives (new build).

"During the course of this large and at times complex project, Sophia provided expert advice and guidance to the group. The insights she was able to draw from her wide experience were very valuable... I am sure that the Temperate House project would not have been such an outstanding success, particularly in terms of achieving our step-change in interpretation and community engagement, without her guidance and mentorship". Richard Barley, Project SRO and Director of Horticulture, Learning and Operations, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Selected Relevant Projects

NLHF: Research and evaluation for the Policy and Regional teams including Review of Development Services (2015); BAME & Social Priority Research (2011); comparator and good practice research. Monitoring review (2019)

Chamberlain Highbury Trust: Strategic & business planning for economically viable development of Highbury Mansion Grade II* & Grade II grounds (2019- present). NLHF R1 awarded Sept21

Stover Country Park: Research and development of Activity and Interpretation plan inc. community engagement and consultation (2021)

Fulham Palace Trust: Trustee visioning, strategic planning, business planning, interpretation and programming for development of Grade I listed site (2016/2019, reappointed 2021)

Great Yarmouth Winter Gardens: NLHF Heritage Horizons development support for Activity and Interpretation Plan.

Royal West Academy: Strategic planning, options and feasibility studies & NLHF application support inc. consultation, business and activity planning (2017-20)

Natural History Museum: NLHF R1&R2 lead and DCMS OBC Strategic Case (March 2021)

for the Urban Nature Project inc. national collaborative programme for urban biodiversity.

Tate Liverpool expert advice and support for capital and service / audience engagement project and R1 application to NLHF (pending Nov2021).

Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh: Public Engagement consultant to NLHF, supporting Palm House restoration, learning and interpretation.

Qualifications and membership

MA (Cantab) Archaeology

MA Museum Studies (Distinction) University of Leicester

National Trust London and SE Regional Advisory Board member (2018-present)

Associate Member of Museums Association

Association of Independent Museums

Trustee, ASpace & Gods House Tower

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