



Leading art education charity Art UK seeks new Trustees

Information Pack

Art UK seeks to appoint three new Trustees to support this dynamic and entrepreneurial charity, which democratises access to the UK national collection of art and shares it with a global audience. The charity is looking for Trustees with experience and expertise in three particular areas: fundraising, higher education and digital innovation.

About Art UK

[Art UK](#) is an art education charity and the online home for every public collection of art in the United Kingdom. It makes the UK's extraordinary national collection of art freely accessible to everyone online – for enjoyment, learning and research.

The Art UK platform brings together over one million artworks from almost 3,500 British institutions, making this one of the largest ever arts partnerships assembled in the UK. It showcases this art to an annual global audience of 5.5m users. A quarter of its audience is in the USA.

Art UK provides significant support to museums and galleries in the UK, by providing them with a shared digital platform to showcase their art collections, reach new audiences, and generate income. Most of these collections would not be able to present their art online without Art UK. Donors who support Art UK support every public collection of art across the United Kingdom.

The Art UK platform is rich in story content, public engagement opportunities and learning resources – including teacher resources to equip children with vital visual literacy skills. A shared e-commerce infrastructure helps collections generate much needed commercial income.

Trusted and highly valued by the museum sector, and backed by significant partnerships, Art UK is entrepreneurial, innovative and ambitious. It democratises access to art, ensuring creative discovery is not limited by users' location, education, income or background. Art UK is for everyone, everywhere, all the time.

Art UK is the operating name of the Public Catalogue Foundation, a charity registered in England and Wales (1096185) and in Scotland (SC048601).

Role Specification

All Trustees should be able to demonstrate the following essential criteria:

- Will have an understanding of, and commitment to, the vision and values of Art UK and its future development
- Will have experience of using sound judgement in strategic decision-making, with good communication and interpersonal skills
- Will have a passion for the visual arts and be able to articulate compellingly how digital technologies democratise access to culture
- Will help develop and maintain robust relationships with external stakeholders and serve as an ambassador for the charity, expanding its network, profile, and impact

Fundraising Trustees (Philanthropy and Higher Education Sector): Essential Criteria

We are looking to recruit two Trustees to actively support the charity in its fundraising efforts while also, alongside the other Trustees, guiding the charity more generally on its strategic direction.

While Art UK is supported by public funders and private funders such as trusts and foundations, our future impact depends on our ability to expand our circle of private supporters and broaden our funding base by growing income from the Higher Education sector. We are seeking to recruit Trustees who will support us in both of these areas.

We are looking for one new Trustee who will support our philanthropic fundraising efforts, opening doors to relevant individuals and family foundations, building meaningful relationships between potential funders and our executive team, and inspiring giving. This person:

- Will have strong connections to individuals and family foundations who might support the charity, and/or extensive experience of major gift fundraising for charitable causes
- Will be able to articulate compellingly how support for Art UK benefits all public collections of art in the UK
- Will commit time and energy to connecting the charity with potential donors and helping to develop donor relationships

We are also looking for a new Trustee who will be able to guide the charity on how best to raise funding in the Higher Education sector. This person:

- Will have strong connections with the HE sector and United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI), and an understanding and experience of securing significant external research funding, including from UKRI, major foundations and other competitive sources
- Will have a strong understanding of how HE partnerships might be used to further the cause of the charity and how best to show HE funders the impact Art UK is making
- Will be able to articulate compellingly how Art UK supports HE and wider UK research and innovation

Digital Innovation Trustee: Essential Criteria

We are looking to recruit one Trustee to actively support the charity in its ambitions to integrate new technologies, in particular artificial intelligence, into its workflows in a responsible way that benefits the collections and audiences that use the Art UK platform. This Trustee will also, alongside the other Trustees, guide the charity more generally on its strategic direction.

The charity, as with many other not-for-profit organisations, is at the start of its journey to integrate AI into its work. However, the charity sees significant opportunities to use AI to benefit its audiences, particularly in the area of artwork search and discovery, and the charity is already working with partners to explore such opportunities.

To support the charity with this ambition, Art UK seeks a Trustee who has strong experience from the technology sector in the area of AI or digital product development. This person:

- Will have worked in the industrial, financial or other relevant technology sector and gained considerable experience in applying AI tools to workflows, product design, data processing or data analysis
- Will have sufficient time to spare to guide the charity in its application of new technologies, in particular AI tools
- Will ideally have a network of contacts in the technology world

The Board of Trustees

The new Trustees will join a dynamic organisation and a dedicated, passionate Board of Trustees led by new Chair Ben Terrett CBE. This is an exciting moment of transition and ambition for Art UK as it massively scales up the artworks shown on the platform, starts to upgrade its platform, and launches the American Friends of Art UK.

The charity is committed to fostering an inclusive and positive workplace culture. The new Trustees will share the charity's commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, and bring a leadership approach that reflects these values.

The Board currently comprises 12 members, both longstanding and newly recruited, providing a wide range of skills and expertise.

- **Ben Terrett CBE** *CEO and Co-Founder of Public Digital*
- **Vice Chair: Catherine Holden** *Scotland-based independent culture and heritage consultant*
- **Vice Chair: Thomas Marks** *Strategic consultant and former Editor of Apollo magazine*
- **Hasan Bakhshi** *Centre Director, Creative PEC, Newcastle University*
- **Carola Boehm** *Professor, School of Digital, Technologies and Arts, Staffordshire University*
- **Caroline Campbell** *Director of the National Gallery of Ireland*
- **Jago Cooper** *Executive Director of the Sainsbury Centre and Professor of Art and Archaeology at the University of East Anglia*
- **Thomas Davies** *CEO, Machroes Holdings and active investor*

- **Avril Martindale** *Intellectual Property Lawyer*
- **Sherece Rainford** *Founder and Creative Director of Gallery OCA, which specialises in contemporary Caribbean art*
- **John Stack** *Director of Digital Innovation and Technology, The National Gallery*
- **Lisa Wong** *Finance Director at Glyndebourne Productions*

The Board takes ultimate responsibility for ensuring that Art UK follows a strategy which delivers public benefit in line with its charitable mission and Articles of Association. Trustees ensure that the charity acts responsibly and effectively, in accordance with the law, and in the management of risk and financial control, supported by a well-established Finance Committee.

High regard is paid by both Trustees and management to external guidance. The charity has excellent networks in the sector, and a number of Steering Panels provide specialist advice on various aspects of the charity's work. There is also a Philanthropy Board, made up of Trustees and external members, which focuses on a drive to increase significant individual giving.

Terms of appointment

Trustee Board meetings take place quarterly. The meetings are usually in-person, with at least one meeting in Stoke-on-Trent, where Art UK has a small head office, and the others in London. Members may also attend by Zoom (hybrid). On occasion, additional meetings are held online. Board papers are provided a week in advance, and minutes circulated within a week of meetings.

Outside quarterly Board meetings, the new Trustees will have regular contact with the CEO and Executive Team. Successful candidates will likely be asked to join one of a small number of Board sub-committees. They will also be encouraged to attend a selection of events run by the charity during the year. The length of the appointment is usually four years. Trustees may, however, serve two consecutive terms.

Candidates should be UK-based.

This is an unremunerated role, but the successful candidate will be reimbursed for all necessary travelling expenses.

Application

Please send a CV and covering letter/email about the specific Trustee role that interests you to Lauren Colley, Art UK's Head of People and Culture, lauren.colley@artuk.org by **5pm on Monday 29 June 2026**.

Applications will be shared with the Nominations Committee of Trustees who will read all applications and choose a shortlist of candidates for interview. First interviews will take place during the first two weeks of July, with second interviews to follow as required. We will contact all applicants to inform them of the outcome of their application.

Successful candidates will follow a short induction process before attending their first Board Meeting (Board meetings take place in March, June, September and December each year).

We welcome and encourage applications from people who are under-represented in the creative industries and those who have faced barriers to accessing the arts. We value the different perspectives and experiences that a diverse leadership brings to our work.

If you have any queries, wish to receive additional information, or would like to discuss this role with an existing Trustee or the Chief Executive, please contact Lauren Colley.

Art UK June 2026