Art UK seeks a Trustee based in Scotland

INFORMATION PACK

About Art UK

Art UK is a cultural education charity on a mission to make the art in UK public collections accessible to everyone, for enjoyment, learning and research. We enable audiences at home and around the world to learn about the UK’s art by digitising artworks, telling the stories behind the art, and creating exciting opportunities for public interaction with art, both online and offline. No other country in the world has a resource like Art UK.

New Trustee sought

Art UK plays a key role showcasing art in Scottish public collections to a global audience with artworks from over 450 Scottish collection venues shown on its platform. Approaching one third of the charity’s staff are based in Scotland; in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow (where we have a small office). Art UK has increased substantially the number of stories about Scottish art and artists posted on the Art UK site, often commissioning local writers to pen these. It has also created a large number of learning resources targeted at Scotland’s Curriculum for Excellence. Through these activities and others, Art UK aims to grow significantly its contribution to Scottish cultural life.

To reflect the importance of Scotland in its work, the charity looks to have at least one Trustee based in Scotland and is now recruiting such a person.

The successful candidate will:

- Live in Scotland
- Have a long-standing interest in art and a commitment to democratising access to the UK’s publicly owned art collection
- Have a strong familiarity with the visual arts scene in Scotland
- Have at least a general awareness of digital media, and will certainly understand the potential for digital to transform public access to the art they own
- Have sufficient time to contribute to Art UK and become actively engaged in its development and, if possible, in fundraising for its activities in Scotland.

We are particularly interested in adding a Trustee who has experience in one or more of the following areas, although these are not essential requirements for the role:

- Audience Diversification
- E-commerce and retail more broadly
- Fundraising
- Marketing

We welcome and encourage applications from candidates who are under-represented in the creative industries, particularly individuals who experience physical, mental, or social barriers to accessing the arts.
The Board of Trustees

The new Trustee will join a dynamic and entrepreneurial organisation, and a dedicated and passionate Trustee Board. In a friendly environment, the new Trustee will be able to make a substantial contribution towards the charity’s mission to open up access to the UK’s national art collection in imaginative and compelling ways, whilst at the same time contributing to the sustainability of public art collections across the UK.

The Board of Trustees has ultimate responsibility for ensuring Art UK follows a strategy that delivers public benefit in accordance with the charity’s Articles of Association. The Trustees ensure that the charity acts responsibly with regard to the management of risk and financial control, and in accordance with the law. The Board currently comprises the following Trustees:

- Charles Gregson  Former financial services and media executive (Chair)
- Noura Al-Maashouq  Co-Chair, UNICEF Next Generation London
- Hasan Bakshi  Centre Director, Creative Industries Policy and Evidence Centre, NESTA
- Rana Begum RA  Visual artist
- David Ekserdjian  Professor of Art History, University of Leicester
- George Entwistle  Former Senior Executive, BBC
- Clare Lilley  Director, Yorkshire Sculpture Park
- Bob Lisney OBE  Former local government major project director
- Thomas Marks  Writer and critic, and former Editor of Apollo magazine
- Kathleen Soriano  Curator, arts and culture consultant, broadcaster
- Kim Streets  Chief Executive, Museums Sheffield
- Andria Zafirakou MBE  Art and Textiles teacher, Alperton Community School

Russell Tovey, actor, and host of the Talk Art podcast, is the 2022 Patron of the charity.

The Board delegates certain responsibilities and decision-making to two executive committees that are made up of Trustees and senior management. High regard is paid by Trustees and Management to external guidance as evidenced by our range of advisory bodies. Unlike the Board of Trustees these bodies do not have governance responsibilities. The most senior is the Advisory Board. There are also a small number of Steering Panels providing expert guidance on aspects of the charity’s work, which are made up, typically, of project stakeholders. Finally, there is a Philanthropy Board comprising Trustees and external appointments who focus on individual giving.

Terms of appointment

Length of Term

Four years. Trustees may, however, serve two consecutive terms.

Time commitment

Trustee Board meetings take place quarterly. The meetings are usually in-person, but are held on occasion via Zoom, if restrictions do not allow for in-person meetings. Trustees have the option to dial in, if they cannot attend an in-person meeting. Board meetings are accompanied by relevant reading material that is provided in advance.

Outside these meetings there will be contact from time to time with the Director, Deputy Director, Trustees and members of the senior management team. Trustees are also invited to attend a selection of the events run by the charity during the year.

Compensation

This is an unpaid role, but Trustees are reimbursed for all necessary travelling expenses.
More about Art UK

Over 80% of the UK’s publicly owned art is not on public view, and until Art UK started its work much of this art had not been photographed. Our work is helping to radically change this, making what is publicly owned, publicly accessible – to anyone, anywhere. Originally focused on oil paintings, our scope has widened to include prints, drawings, watercolours, sculpture and photography.

We play a major role supporting public art collections by improving their accessibility and sustainability. Our platform currently shows over 280,000 artworks by 51,000 artists, with new content being added each day. It is an ambitious collaboration between 3,400 institutions, making it one of the largest arts partnerships put together in the UK. Our innovative Art Detective initiative helps public collections solve mysteries behind their artworks and our Shop generates much needed commercial income for them. The Art UK website had 4 million unique visitors in 2021.

Our recently launched schools learning portal makes all our learning resources easily searchable through one interface and links all UK schools to the national art collection. A key strategy in 2022 is increasing the interactive nature of Art UK by re-launching our artwork tagging project for specialists and members of the public alike.

The charity is funded through a mixture of public funding (Arts Council England, National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Scottish Government and Creative Scotland) and private sector funding from grant-giving trusts, corporates, individual donors, collection subscription income and commercial income.

The charity has two offices, one in Glasgow and one in the West Midlands. The majority of the Art UK team works from home, from Aberdeen to Kent.

Art UK is the operating name of the Public Catalogue Foundation, a charity registered in England and Wales (1096185) and Scotland (SCO48601).

For more information, please visit www.artuk.org.

Application process

Please send a CV and covering letter/email to Lauren Colley, Art UK’s Head of HR, Operations and Resourcing, lauren.colley@artuk.org who will then share applications with the Nominations Committee of Trustees. Please send this by 31st March.

The Nominations Committee will read all applications and choose a shortlist of candidates for interview. Successful candidates will then follow a short induction process before attending their first Board Meeting.

If you would like to discuss this role with an existing Trustee or receive additional information, this can be arranged through Lauren Colley.

Art UK February 11th 2022