Art UK seeks a Stoke-on-Trent-based Trustee

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 has recently moved its HQ from London to the campus of Staffordshire University in Stoke-on-Trent and we want to recruit a Trustee who can help guide the charity on growing its contribution to the cultural life of Stoke and the surrounding area – through the design and delivery of new activities and the formation of mutually beneficial partnerships.

The successful candidate will:

- Live and/or work in Stoke-on-Trent or the surrounding region
- Have a long-standing interest in art and a commitment to democratising access to the nation’s art collection
- 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.

We are particularly interested in adding a Trustee from the Stoke-on-Trent region who has experience in the following areas, although these are not essential requirements for the role:

- Audience Diversification, and/or
- E-commerce

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 nation’s 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 Bakhshi**  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 of these is the Advisory Board. There are also a small number of Steering Panels providing expert guidance on aspects of the charity’s work and opportunities for project stakeholders to be involved in shaping the charity’s work.

**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. At least one meeting a year will take place in Stoke-on-Trent.

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 nation’s 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 50,000 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 and the Scottish Government) and private sector funding from grant-giving trusts (Bloomberg Philanthropies), corporates, individual donors, collection subscription income and commercial income.

In January 2022, Art UK relocated its only English office to Stoke-on-Trent and is based within the Incubation Unit at Staffordshire University. We also have a small office in Glasgow. 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.

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.

Closing date for applications is 9am, Tuesday 15 March 2022.

Please note that we will not be making an official announcement about Art UK’s move to Stoke-on-Trent until the end of April 2022.

Art UK
c/o Staffordshire University Incubator Unit, 2nd Floor, Mellor Building, College Road, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2DE
8 February 2022