

Art Fund_

Appointment of Trustees

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Saxton Bampfylde

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Letter from the Chair

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in joining the Board of Trustees at Art Fund. Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art and museums. For over 120 years, we have supported museums, galleries and historic houses across the UK, helping them to enrich their collections and connect more people with art. Today, with a growing community of over 148,000 members and a network of over 1,000 museum partners, we play a leading role in championing a vibrant, inclusive and resilient cultural sector.

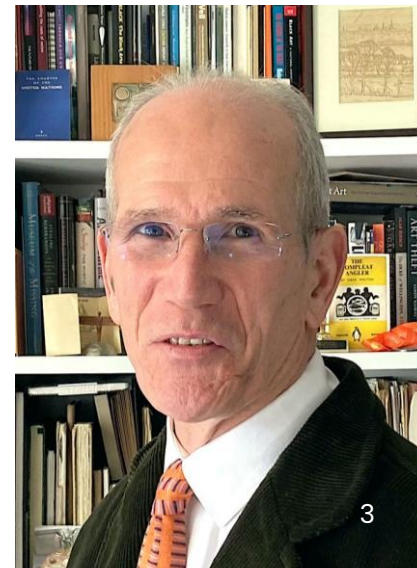
We provide vital funding for acquisitions and programmes, encourage millions of visits through our National Art Pass, and advocate for the essential role that museums play in people's lives. At a time of continued financial pressure, political uncertainty and changing audience expectations, our independent voice and support are more important than ever. Our current strategy (2022–2027) has focused on four key priorities: funding art, growing and diversifying audiences, amplifying the voice of the museum sector, and strengthening our organisation. Alongside this, our commitment to diversity, inclusion and sustainability underpins all that we do.

As we approach the conclusion of our current strategic period, we are now beginning to shape our next five-year strategy. This is a pivotal moment for Art Fund and my fellow Trustees will play a vital role in guiding this work and helping to define our future direction. Being a Trustee of Art Fund is both a privilege and a responsibility. We are seeking individuals who bring sound judgement, curiosity and a collaborative spirit, alongside a commitment to our mission.

You may come from a wide range of sectors, backgrounds or experiences, but you will share a belief in the power of museums and galleries to enrich lives and strengthen communities. I hope, as you read more, that you are inspired by the opportunity to contribute to an organisation with a proud history and an ambitious future. We would be delighted to hear from you.

With best wishes,

Sandy Nairne
Chair of the Board



About

For 120 years, we've been helping museums and people to share in great art and culture – because we believe that access to art is vital for a healthy society.

We do three things, all intertwined.

- We fund art, helping the UK's museums to enrich their collections for today and forever.
- We build audiences, with our National Art Pass opening doors to great culture.
- And we amplify the museum sector, through our Museum of the Year award and creative events that bring the UK's museums together.

Everything we do is made possible by our 148,000 members, who buy the National Art Pass, as well as the support of trusts, foundations, partner funders, and philanthropists. We have been an independent membership organisation from the very beginning, when, in 1903, the activist Christiana Herringham organised a new fund to help make sure that great art would be in public collections, open to everyone.

Our independence allows us to pursue what matters most, informed by what museums tell us they need.

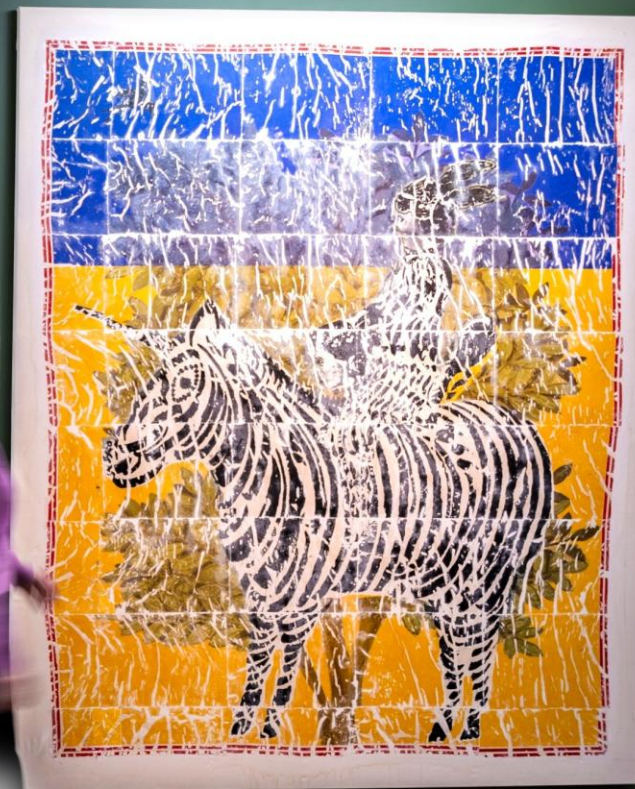
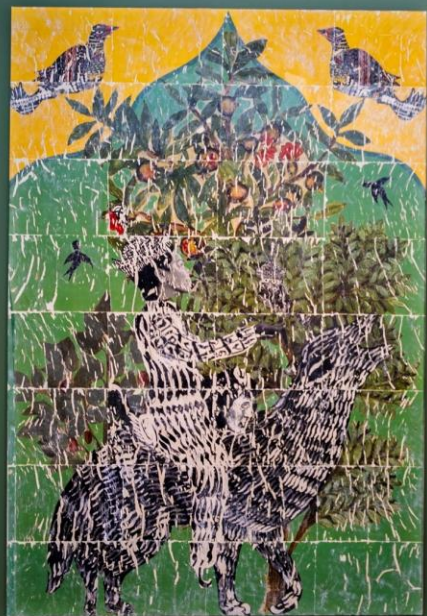
We are incredibly proud to run the Art Fund Museum of the Year award, which is the world's biggest museum prize.

We have values which make us distinctive and which will support our approach to policies and practice ranging from fundraising and investments, to grant-making and policy work, to partnerships and organisational culture.

- We're independent: not relying on any one source of funding, free to pursue what matters most
- Responsive: understanding the needs of everyone we work with, across museums, funders and audiences: clear but never strident
- People-powered: a special kind of membership organisation, with the financial strength and audience insights of 148,000 National Art Pass holders
- Pioneering: since 1903, making new ideas happen, happy to experiment and to fund experimentation, ready to take risks
- A quietly radical force for good: opening out art and museums for more people

We are committed to supporting the museum sector in improving access to art for all.

You can read our statement on [Diversity and Inclusion](#) as well as our [Statement on Environmental Sustainability](#).



“we support museums and galleries to acquire works of art, increase access for all and champion the value of art in society”

Our new Trustees

Art Fund is seeking to appoint two new Trustees to its Board who are committed to their vision and bring broad expertise and fresh perspectives at an important moment in its governance. This rewarding role offers the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to current priorities and future growth. The Board are looking to appoint candidates with specific expertise in two key areas; Marketing & Digital and Philanthropy & Commercial.

Marketing & Digital

The Trustee with experience in Digital & Marketing will bring board level insight on digital, CRM and mass membership marketing to Art Fund whose growth depends on effective communication with its 148,000 members and wider audiences. Applications from first-time trustees are welcome.

Candidates will ideally bring elements of the following experience;

- strategic oversight of digital transformation including CRM implementation, ensuring systems and data are aligned with member engagement and fundraising goals;
- experience of membership, consumer, or large-scale marketing organisations with understanding of subscription or loyalty models;
- the ability to provide advice on digital channels, brand and audience strategy to support growth in membership, income and reach, supporting the executive;
- a genuine commitment to museums, galleries and visual arts; and
- up to date experience of marketing & trends.

Philanthropy & Commercial

The Trustee will ideally bring some understanding of both philanthropy and commerciality, helping to shape and oversee the organisation's philanthropic strategy, and support the strategic finances of a complex organisation like Art Fund, and support effective stewardship of a c.£50m endowment.

Candidates will ideally bring;

- commercial experience, perhaps gleaned in areas such as investment banking, investment or wealth management, or be a leader who has run a commercial organisation with P&L responsibility;
- a genuine commitment to museums, galleries and visual arts;
- some knowledge of philanthropy and have the ability to act in an advisory capacity to the development team; and
- the ability to think through broader strategic and operational implications beyond the arts sector.

Role Description & Person Specification

Responsibilities of a Trustee include;

- contributing to the effective leadership of the board, ensuring it fulfils its obligations in helping to formulate and regularly review the strategic aims and objectives of Art Fund;
- safeguarding the assets of Art Fund;
- ensuring that there is a robust business plan in place and that the financial affairs of Art Fund are properly run and maintained;
- working with fellow Trustees to ensure that the organisation functions within the legal and financial requirements of a charitable organisation and strives to achieve best practice;
- developing a constructive and supportive relationship with the Director through regular communication and meetings, providing support and advice as appropriate in a non-executive capacity;
- acting as an ambassador for the Charity and supporting the Director in representing Art Fund to key stakeholders when required; and
- promoting the organisation to a wider audience of potential donors and beneficiaries.

Applicants should bring;

- a passion for the arts and an appreciation of the transformative nature of culture within society;
- a willingness to both represent and act as an advocate for Art Fund in the public arena;
- strong communication skills and the ability to contribute to Board-level discussion and wider policy and strategy development;
- ability to oversee effective strategy, policies and processes, promoting accountability throughout the organisation;
- tact and diplomacy, with the ability to listen and engage effectively;
- strong networking capabilities with excellent communication and relationship building skills; and
- willingness to assist with fundraising with an understanding of the fundraising environment in which Art Fund operates.

Terms of Appointment

Time Commitment

The initial term of appointment is for four years, with the potential to be reappointed for a further four years.

Trustees are expected to attend five three-hour Board meetings a year, usually held at Art Fund's offices in King's Cross, London. Preparation time is additional, with meeting papers shared at least one full week in advance.

Art Fund encourages active participation and Trustees often give more time, including contributing to between-meeting grant application requests and participating in Board Committees or grants panels.

In your first few months you should allow for an additional day for induction (including meeting members of Art Fund's senior team). This will be part of a full induction and ongoing development programme. An experienced Art Fund Trustee can also be a mentor for your first year if you would find this helpful.

Location

All Board meetings take place at Art Fund's offices in Kings Cross, London with an annual away day usually held outside of London to visit key museum partners.

2026 Board Meetings

- Monday 11th May 2026
- Monday 13th July 2026
- Wednesday 16th September 2026 – Away Day (All Day)
- Monday 12th October 2026
- Monday 7th December 2026

All Board meetings take place from 4pm-7pm in person in King's Cross.

Remuneration

Unpaid, voluntary, reasonable expenses paid

Due diligence

Due diligence will be carried out as part of the application process, which may include searches carried out via internet search engines and any public social media accounts.



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How to Apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to Art Fund on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at www.saxbam.com/appointments using code **EBYSA**

Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the online equal opportunities monitoring* form.

The closing date for applications is noon on **Monday 8th June**

* The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.

GDPR personal data notice

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent. You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please do not include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for referees without their prior agreement.



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