

Art Fund_

Appointment of Chair

December 2023

Saxton Bampfylde

The logo for Saxton Bampfylde features the name in a white serif font. A thin, white, curved line underlines the text, starting under 'Saxton' and ending under 'Bampfylde'.

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“We are
enthusiastic about
the power of art to
expand people’s
lives.”



Mother and son visit the
National Maritime Museum.
© Amaal Said / Art Fund 2022

Welcome from Jenny Waldman, Director

I am delighted that you are considering the role of Chair at Art Fund.

Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. We exist to help enrich the UK's museum and gallery collections and to ensure that as many people as possible can access and enjoy them. I joined Art Fund three years ago, and this opportunity to be a force for good, to galvanise support and help change things for the better, continues to inspire me.

The pandemic had an extreme effect on the museum sector and Art Fund has been a leading player in supporting museums, galleries and historic houses across the UK to navigate their way through the changing landscape. We work closely with our network of 850 museums and respond to their needs and aspirations. We're excited to see how they want to develop - to expand and diversify their collections and workforce to reflect and serve their communities, to maintain and develop curatorial skills, to make ambitious acquisitions and create and tour ground-breaking exhibitions. All this at a time of shrinking subsidy and economic uncertainty makes for a challenging environment. But at Art Fund we like a challenge! With the support of our members, patrons and donors we can provide grants, encourage visiting and advocate for museums' essential role and value.

As you read this pack, I hope you get a sense of a charity that is built on 120 years of history, has evolved to meet current needs and looks to the future, leading the way in pioneering support for an inclusive and welcoming museum and gallery sector across the UK. It's an incredibly exciting time to join Art Fund as we enter the third year of our ambitious five-year strategy for 2022-2027.

As we embark on this, we need a Chair with vision and integrity who can lead our Board of Trustees, oversee our vision and strategy and work closely with me to support, advise and shape our future. Someone with knowledge and understanding of the arts and heritage sector, with a passion for the benefits visiting museums and galleries can have for everyone.

If that might be you, I hope you feel inspired to apply, and the selection panel and I very much look forward to continuing the conversation.



Museum of the Year Awards 2023 at
The British Museum © Hydar
Dewachi / Art Fund 2023

Introduction

Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. We exist to help protect and enrich the UK's museum and gallery collections and to ensure that as many people as possible can access and enjoy them.

Together with our supporters, donors, and 130,000 National Art Pass and Student Art Pass members, we help save important works of art and artefacts, fund professional development and widely promote the benefits of visiting museums to new audiences.

From the smallest local history collection to the largest world-leading art institution, museums play a vital role in the health and happiness of our society. Providing inspiration, education and opportunities for collaboration, they help communities thrive, and can provide a lifeline in times of trouble, as the pandemic has shown.

We believe that supporting this rich resource is an essential, ongoing and collective endeavor.



What We Do

Build and sustain collections

We give grants to help museums and galleries acquire works of art for their collections, as well as help to place gifts and bequests. We also support museums in maintaining the irreplaceable works in their care.

Save works of art

Works of national significance can be lost through neglect or sale into private hands. We work hard to place such items in UK public collections for present and future generations to enjoy.

Develop professional skills

The high quality of UK collections depends on the expertise of museum professionals, from curators to conservators. We support the museum workforce by funding training and career development opportunities.

Share art with people

Connecting people with art and culture is at the heart of what we do. We champion the benefits of museums and galleries far and wide and help museums to build their relationships with visitors and local communities.



What We Do

Advocacy

We believe that access to art is vital for a healthy society.

Beyond the funding and other support we offer museums, we work hard to advocate for their importance in society – from commissioning research to lobbying government on issues that matter to the sector.

We are committed to supporting the museum sector in improving access to art for all. You can read our statement on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, as well as our Statement on Environmental Sustainability.

People

As a team we are enthusiastic about the power of art to expand people's lives.

Our board of trustees oversees the direction of Art Fund and considers all major grant applications and gifts and bequests of art.

The day-to-day running of the charity is in the hands of our Director and senior management team, supported by our hard-working staff.



Museum of the Year Awards 2023 at
The British Museum © Iona Wolff /
Art Fund 2023



Earth Day © David Oates /
Art Fund 2023

The Future

In the last two years, museums have evolved rapidly, and Art Fund is moving fast too. The pandemic has helped confirm our strengths. We're:

Independent: not relying on any once 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 130,000 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 have developed a new five-year strategy for 2022-2027 which builds on our 200-year history to connect our foundational role – saving art for the nation – with newer activities, under four pillars:

1. Funding art

A future where the most remarkable art and objects – from different cultures and in different forms – are in public collections, open to everyone.

2. Audience-making

A future where everyone feels empowered to discover, visit and use our wonderful museums and galleries.

3. Amplify the museum sector

A future where museums and galleries are confident and valued, central to their communities, and constantly becoming more inclusive and more sustainable.

4. Strengthen our organisation

A quietly radical force for good, with a business model, a diverse workforce, the best digital capability, and processes that are easy, productive and green.

The 2022/23 Art Fund annual report is available to [read here](#)

The 2022-27 Art Fund Vision and Strategy is available to [read here](#)

Governance and Funding

As an independent charity, we receive no funding from government. We are supported by our National Art Pass and Student Art Pass members, as well as donations, legacies and gifts from individuals, grants from trusts and foundations, and the public's response to campaigns and special appeals. Being independent gives us the ability to be flexible, act quickly and make bold decisions in support of the sector. A large part of our core costs are covered by returns from investments which means we can direct the vast majority of our income straight to museums. Our independence allows us to pursue what matters most, led by what museums tell us they need.

Everything we do is built towards supporting the sector in improving access to art for all. Our activity is made possible by our 130,000 members, who buy the National Art Pass, as well as the support of trusts, foundations, partner funders, and donors.

Our Board of Trustees oversees the direction of Art Fund and considers all gifts and bequests of art and grant applications for acquisitions. The day-to-day running of the charity is in the hands of our Director and senior management team, supported by a hard-working group of nearly 70 members of staff.

The Board is made up of four committees (finance and general purposes, remuneration, ethics, and nominations), five subcommittees and several funding panels.

The Trustees are:

Katrina Brown
Sir Nigel Carrington
Professor Richard Deacon CBE, RA
Dr. David Dibosa
Anupam Ganguli
Clare Gough
Tessa Jackson OBE
Madeleine Kennedy
Professor Susan Lambert
Abadesi Osunsade
Dr. Satish Padiyar
Jeremy Palmer 'Treasurer'
Professor Marcia Pointon
Axel Ruger
Monisha Shah
Desmond Shawe-Taylor



The Role

Summary

Art Fund is led by its Board of Trustees who are responsible for overall governance and strategic direction of the charity. Trustees also make decisions on grant applications from museums and galleries across the UK for acquisitions of works of art and for a range of other activities including curatorial and conservation programmes. After nearly ten years leading Art Fund as Chair, Lord Chris Smith of Finsbury is stepping down from the role and we are looking to appoint a successor. This is a hugely exciting time to join Art Fund. With an excellent team in place, we are one year into a visionary and ambitious five-year plan, and our support for the sector has never been more important.

Role purpose

To provide leadership to the Art Fund Board of Trustees and work closely with the Director to support, advise and help shape the strategy and direction of Art Fund.



Key Responsibilities

Leading governance

- Ensure the Board sets a clear vision and strategy for Art Fund;
- Lead the board in monitoring and supporting the implementation of the strategy;
- Ensure the Board's business is focused on Art Fund's strategic priorities;
- Set the culture of the Board, balancing and valuing the support, contributions and challenge from all Trustees;
- Meet regularly with all trustees to review their contributions to the Board and take feedback on its effective operation;
- Report to the Art Fund's members, Chairing the AGM;
- Ensure the board has the required skills and commitment to govern well, and that identified skills gaps are filled; and
- Collaborate with the Governance Manager to ensure effective governance procedures and committee structures.

Ambassador for Art Fund

- Represent Art Fund at key donor and stakeholder events, hosting and speaking where required. This will include Museum of the Year Awards, the Annual Trustees dinner and fundraising events.

Working with the Director

- Build a professional relationship with the Director that allows for honest conversations, support and acting as a sounding board;
- Meet regularly with the Director;
- Ensure there are transparent and effective processes for Director recruitment; and
- Ensure that the Director provides information that allows the board to fulfil its function.

Leading Board meetings

- Work with the Director and Governance Manager to plan for board meetings, ensuring that agendas focus on the board's key responsibilities and strategic priorities; and
- Chair meetings effectively, promoting an open culture that allows ideas and discussion to thrive while ensuring clear decisions are reached as quickly as possible.



Time commitment

Your minimum commitment in an average month is likely to be about 2-2.5 days, of which many would be fixed meeting dates, planned well in advance.

The initial term of office is for 4 years, with the potential to be reappointed for a further 4 years.

There are five Board meetings a year, usually held at Art Fund's offices in King's Cross, London. We also hold a Strategy awayday, sometimes outside of London in September every year.

In addition to grant decisions made at Board meetings, the Chair is also asked to review and sign off time-sensitive between-meeting grant application requests, following other trustee comments and with briefings from our programmes team.

The Chair is also a key external ambassador for Art Fund and hosts a Trustees Dinner for key donors once a year. In addition to this, we ask our Chair to speak at our Museum of the Year awards and regularly invite them to host lunches for donors to coincide with Board meetings.

The Chair also chairs our Remuneration Committee which meets up to two-times per year and is expected attend our Finance & General Purposes Committee which meets 4 times per year. The Chair may also be asked to chair an annual Nominations Committee to review the current make-up and skillset of the Board.

In your first few months you should allow for additional days for induction (including meeting members of Art Fund's team). This is an unpaid role but expenses (such as for travel and childcare) are paid for attendance at Board and Committee meetings and other Trustee activities, in accordance with our expenses policy.

Person Specification

Essential

- Exceptional integrity and inclusive leadership skills, with low ego and the experience required to chair a high performing board;
- A knowledge of and understanding of, and passion for, the arts and heritage sector;
- An understanding of public benefit and of current and future challenges for the sector;
- Astute commercial and financial acumen, including around income generation and fundraising;
- An understanding of, and ability to engage with, the multiple generations;
- A natural focus to look to the future, rather than the past
- Good judgement and politically astute, with emotional intelligence and excellent strategic and diplomatic skills;

- Comfortable being an ambassador for Art Fund. To be an excellent communicator, media savvy and a strong advocate for Art Fund and the sector;
- An excellent listener, with an empathetic collegiate style whilst also encouraging debate and bringing rigour and focus to Board meetings.
- To have the time and focus to ensure the role can be fulfilled to the highest standard.

Desirable

- Experienced in the political workings of central Government;
- A track record of fundraising; and
- Experience of working with cultural organisations in an executive or non-executive capacity.



The panel of judges celebrate with the team from the Horniman Museum and Gardens, winner of Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022. © Janie Airey/ Art Fund 2022

Terms of Appointment

Trustees are appointed for an initial term of four years which can be renewed by re-election for a further four-year term.

There are four board meetings per year in London at the Art Fund offices. The estimated time commitment is 2-2.5 days per month.



Earth Day © David Oates /
Art Fund 2023

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 PFND

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 Friday 5th January.

- 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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