

THE ARTS SOCIETY

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS INTERESTED IN BECOMING A TRUSTEE (2025)

WHO WE ARE

In 1968 the organisation was established as the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts (NADFAS). Its legal status is now a company limited by guarantee with charitable status.

Its charitable objects include all the Arts and it subsequently rebranded in May 2017 when it became The Arts Society.

In 2025 The Arts Society launched its current strategy with the strategic aim of increasing the overall membership in order to ensure its financial sustainability, and to enable it to meet its charitable objects and bring the arts to more people.

THE TRUSTEE BOARD

The Arts Society Board of Trustees has ultimate responsibility for the organisation including strategy, compliance, finance, and staff. Trustees are both charity Trustees and Directors of the charitable company. All Trustees are expected to abide by the Trustee Code of Conduct.

The Arts Society regularly reviews the skills and expertise of the Board to ensure we have the correct mix to support our strategy and aims. All Trustees serve an initial three-year term. Trustees may put themselves forward for a second term and will be subject to election.

THE DUTIES OF ALL TRUSTEES

- To ensure The Arts Society complies with its governing document (Articles of Association), with charity, company and employment law, health and safety and environmental regulations, and any further relevant legislation or regulations.
- To ensure The Arts Society uses its resources exclusively in pursuance of its charitable objects for the public benefit.
- To contribute actively to the Trustee Board's role in providing firm, strategic direction to the organisation, setting overall policy, defining goals, setting targets, and evaluating performance against agreed key performance indicators.
- To appoint the Chief Executive and monitor their performance.
- To be an ambassador for The Arts Society and to safeguard its reputation.

The Government have published specific guidance on the role of a Charity Trustee, which you can find here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved>

We encourage any interested applicants to read the guidance to understand the requirements and commitments of being a Trustee.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

At this time we are particularly seeking a candidate with **strategic financial skills** to chair the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

We are also looking for expertise in **managing digital information and social media** or a background in, or links with, **other Arts/ Heritage Organisations** or experience in **Fundraising**.

In general, candidates should:

- have skills, experience and perspectives which are external to the organisation and an interest in the arts.
- have an understanding of organisational governance.
- have strong strategic and analytical skills.
- be well networked in their respective areas.
- be in a position to commit time to the Trustee Board and more widely to The Arts Society.

Previous experience of being on a Trustee Board is not necessarily a requirement, and applications are welcome from any persons who feel they could contribute to the development and success of The Arts Society in a Trustee role.

OTHER SPECIFIC EXPERTISE

In performing these duties, each Trustee should use any specific skills, knowledge and experience they possess to ensure the Board makes sound decisions. This may include:

- scrutinising, analysing, and challenging Board papers
- focussing on key issues
- leading discussions
- participating in committees and on panels
- providing guidance especially on new initiatives which reflect their specific expertise

Background in the following may enhance an application depending upon the composition of the Board at any particular time:

- legal frameworks and advice
- managing digital information and social media
- marketing, communications, public relations and engagement
- the arts and wellbeing
- fundraising and income generation

- strategic financial skills and monitoring and controlling the use of finance and resources
- strategic development and growth
- organisational change management

COMMITMENT REQUIRED

The role is non-executive and is anticipated to require the equivalent of on average 3 days per month.

(This will be higher for the Chair and/or if Trustees are also on sub-committees of the Board.)

This time commitment is not just meetings but will include reading time, and email/phone communication.

Board meetings take place on weekdays, between five and seven times a year. They are a mix of in person and online meetings. If held in person, these are usually held in Central London. Any Board Member who attends fewer than two out of any four consecutive Board meetings may be asked to resign.

We intend to provide a Board Induction Session for newly appointed Trustees and on-going training and development is available as required.

REMUNERATION

Charity Trustees are not paid but reasonable travel and subsistence expenses will be reimbursed.

INCLUSIVITY

The Arts Society is committed to inclusivity and applications will be welcomed from all backgrounds.

Applications are invited from members of local Societies. Please note a Trustee cannot be appointed and remain a chairman of a Society or a member of an Area Committee.

NEXT STEPS

Please read and review all the information supplied regarding the Trustee role including The Arts Society 2025 Strategy, The Essential Trustee guidance, the Articles of Association, and the Trustees Annual Report 2023.

If you would like to be considered for Trusteeship, please apply by completing the nomination form and submitting a current CV and headshot photo to:

jenny@theartssociety.org

Under the current Articles applications must be received by **7th July 2025**.

The Appointments Committee will review all applications to be put forward for election, with the results announced at the 2025 AGM on 16th September.

It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure they are eligible to be a Trustee and the required information is submitted. Incorrect or incomplete applications may be rejected.

The Arts Society is a dynamic and welcoming organisation, committed to growing in numbers and influence. We very much look forward to welcoming new Trustees to the Board who will help us fulfil our mission and meet the challenges that lie ahead.

Thank you for your interest in The Arts Society.