



WHO WE ARE

We bring people together through a shared curiosity for the arts.

Our events provide welcoming places - locally, nationally and globally - to hear expert lecturers share their specialist knowledge about the arts.

We have over 90,000 members, who contribute to and preserve our artistic heritage through volunteering and grants.

The belief that the arts have the potential to enrich people's lives is at the heart of everything we do.

We are The Arts Society.

We inspire, we do, we give.

REASONS TO START A NEW SOCIETY

Starting a new Society is an extremely rewarding experience. It brings together people from a variety of different backgrounds that share an interest in the arts. It is also a fantastic way to give something back to your local community and develop new skills in the process.

People start a new Society for a variety of reasons. Many have relocated to a new area where there is no group or an existing one is fully

subscribed. Some people are looking for new direction in life, others enjoy a challenge. All have a passion to open up the world of arts and heritage to others.

As a founder member of a Society you will become part of a unique group of people that has helped The Arts Society grow into the force for good it is today.

INSPIRE | DO | GIVE



STEPS TO FORMING A NEW SOCIETY

These are the basic steps for starting a new Society

It may look daunting but don't forget there will be lots of help, support and encouragement from The Arts Society



Call The Arts Society to discuss your idea for a new Society



Recruit an enthusiastic, talented and friendly team with an interest in the arts



Find a suitable venue



Open a bank account and draw up a budget



Recruit enough members to be financially viable - we recommend at least 150 but this will depend on your individual Society's expenses



Hold a taster event to help recruit members



Decide on your Society's name and adopt a constitution



Plan your programme of lectures



Your inaugural meeting - you are now 'up and running'. Congratulations yourself and your committee on a job well done!

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

We appreciate that these days people have busy lives which is why we encourage you to set the pace of forming your Society. In addition, there is a wealth of support to help you start a successful new Society.

MENTORING AND GUIDANCE

A dedicated and experienced New Societies Advisor will be assigned to you and will be on hand to guide you. Staff from The Arts Society are there to offer help and advice at every stage of the process, from finding a venue to planning your programme to the inaugural meeting and beyond.

INFORMATION PACK

A comprehensive information pack is also available which contains lots of useful guidelines and templates.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

To get you started, The Arts Society provides grants* to help with the initial start-up costs such as advertising and publicity.

FREE RECRUITMENT EVENT

To give people a flavour of what we offer, we can help you to hold a free taster lecture. These events are a great way for people to experience the quality of our Accredited Lecturers first hand and encourage them to join your Society. It is also a useful way of asking people to help on your Committee.

*subject to our application criteria

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

To find out more about forming a new Society please contact us at: membership@theartsociety.org or call 020 7430 0730 www.theartsociety.org

ARTS FOR ALL

THE VENUE

A good venue is key to the success of any Society. The following make for the ideal venue:

- Can take regular monthly bookings, ideally a year in advance
- Large enough for membership growth
- Seating and good sight lines
- Suitable audio / visual equipment (unless your Society intends to supply its own)
- Ability to lower light levels for digital (PowerPoint) projection
- Easy parking
- Disabled access
- Reasonable rates
- Refreshment facilities

We will give you guidance and can visit potential venues to help you assess their suitability.



THE ARTS SOCIETY

Starting a New Society