



THE ARTS SOCIETY

Information for applicants interested in becoming a Trustee (2024)

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. It expanded its charitable objects to include all the Arts and subsequently rebranded in May 2017 when it became The Arts Society.

In 2023, The Arts Society launched its current strategy (2023-2036) with a vision for a hybrid future.

OUR MISSION

- Enriching lives through the arts.

OUR PURPOSE

- Making the arts accessible to all.

OUR PROPOSITION

- Making art mean more to more people.

THE ARTS SOCIETY'S VALUES:

- **Pioneering** - we bring imagination, curiosity and courage to everything we do. We enjoy exploring new and different ways of working.
- **Knowledgeable** – we always strive for the highest standard of expertise and rigour, which requires dedication and commitment
- **Connected**—we are one team. The only way to achieve our vision is to be relevant, responsive, and coherent in our approach
- **Welcoming**—we are approachable and open, sociable and generous in our attitudes, and we respect each other's expertise and ideas

THE TRUSTEE ROLE:

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

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 objects.
- To develop, approve and safeguard the Mission, Purpose, and Values of The Arts Society.
- 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 <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:

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.

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 that time:

- legal frameworks and advice
- managing digital information and social media
- marketing, communications, public relations and engagement
- the arts and wellbeing
- monitoring and controlling the use of finance and resources
- fundraising and income generation
- strategic development and growth
- organisational change management

TIME COMMITMENT:

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

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

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

Board meetings take place on weekdays, currently five 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.

Newly appointed Trustees attend a Board Induction Session 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.

DIVERSITY:

The Arts Society is committed to improving its diversity and that this is reflected at Board level. Applications will be welcomed from all backgrounds.

HOW TO APPLY:

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.

Please read and review all the information supplied regarding the Trustee role including The Arts Society 2023-2026 Strategy, Charity Governance Code, 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 the Company Secretary at tim@theartssociety.org

Under the current Articles applications must be received by 13 June 2024.

The Appointments Committee will review all applications to be put forward for election with the results announced at the AGM 2024 in August.

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.

THANK YOU:

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.