

Overview

Chair of the Barbican Centre Trust

The Barbican Centre Trust is the charitable arm of the Barbican, a not-for-profit arts centre that aims to create space for people and ideas to connect through its adventurous and innovative international arts programme, community engagement and creative learning activity. We invite fresh perspectives, provoke conversations and reflect and respond to today's world.

The Trust aims to support the Barbican Centre in offering the widest possible access to culture, giving everyone the opportunity to encounter and enjoy creativity, and to find their creative voice. The vital funds it raises help keep the Barbican's programme accessible to everyone, and to invest in the artists it works with. Each year the Barbican needs to raise more than 60% of its income through ticket sales, commercial activities and fundraising, with the Trust playing an ever more important role in achieving this.

The Barbican Centre Trust works to cultivate and grow a community of major supporters, corporate sponsors and grant makers, who enable the Barbican to continue investing in its arts and learning programme. Trustees lead the way in making introductions and strengthening connections with individuals, corporates and trusts who can help achieve ambitious fundraising targets. Using their networks and expertise, Trustees help unlock transformative opportunities, securing crucial income for the Barbican's programmes.

The Barbican Centre Trust and its Trustees have separate responsibilities to the Barbican Centre Board. The Barbican Centre Board and its sub-committees are responsible for the oversight of the Barbican Centre as a department of the City of London Corporation. Links between the two bodies are assured as the Chair of the Barbican Centre Trust sits *ex officio* on the Barbican Centre Board, and the Chairman of the Board sits on the Trust.

Role purpose

The Chair will play a proactive role in supporting the Trust's ambitions to grow their fundraising targets and act as an ambassador, advocate and champion for the Barbican. They will work with the Board to maintain the Charity's mission and vision, providing inclusive leadership to the Board of Trustees, ensuring that each Trustee fulfils their duties and responsibilities for the effective governance of the charity. The Chair will work closely with the Director of Development.

It is essential the role holder shares the Centre's commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, and we would particularly like to hear from candidates whose professional and personal experience will bring new perspectives, understanding and capacity to the Board.

The Chair of the Trust is also a member of the Barbican Board and plays an important role in connecting the fundraising activity of the Trust with the artistic, learning and community work of the Centre.

Key responsibilities

Fundraising and ambassadorial:

- Play a significant role as a leading advocate and champion for the Barbican, promoting awareness of the Centre and its fundraising activities, with principal funders, other key stakeholders, and within your networks
- Regularly attend and engage with the Barbican's work, across the breadth of its artistic, learning and community work
- Actively participate and engage in events and development activities, including hosting events where appropriate, working closely with the Development team and senior staff to foster excellent relationships with potential and existing donors in attendance
- Proactively support annual fundraising targets, including leading by example by supporting the Trust financially
- Examine and develop ways in which the Barbican can significantly increase income to the Trust
- Provide advice and leadership on planning, identifying and soliciting significant gifts, working with the Development team and Directors to make introductions and close key gifts with individuals, corporates and trusts
- Act as a sounding board for the Barbican's development planning and projects, advising on fundraising policy, campaigns and how philanthropy can maximise the Barbican's potential

Governance and leadership:

- Play a key role in guiding the Barbican Centre Trust's future strategic direction providing leadership to the Board of Trustees in setting strategy, agreeing policy, monitoring performance and ensuring effective governance of the Barbican Centre Trust
- Work constructively with, and offer guidance to, the Director of Development of the Barbican, and build relationships of trust with the Barbican's Board, Managing Director and Executive team
- Ensure that the Barbican Centre Trust's principles of good governance and its charitable mission are upheld by all Trustees, fulfilling duties in line with the organisation's Articles of Association; lead on discussions to improve and renew governance practice as necessary
- Champion equality, diversity and inclusion within the Trust, and proactively support it within the Barbican
- Ensure the Trust maintains its organisational resilience through the development of robust policies, risk management, charitable accounting practices and internal controls – ensuring these are reviewed in line with all regulatory and legal requirements on a regular basis
- Lead on future Trustee recruitment, in collaboration with the Director of Development and the Board
- Play an active role as a member of the Barbican Board, ensuring that the Trust's views are represented at Barbican Board meetings, as well as being a full participant in the broader work of the Barbican Board

Person specification

- Passion for the performing arts and a conviction that the arts have the power to transform lives and communities, including an interest in the power of creative learning to connect with young people
- Knowledge and experience of high-level fundraising and the willingness to broker conversations with personal and professional contacts to support the Barbican Centre Trust, including with high net-worth individuals, grant-making trusts and foundations, and corporates
- Willingness to support the Trust financially
- The highest standards of integrity; willing and able to represent the mission and vision of the Barbican Centre Trust and uphold its reputation along with demonstrable commitment to diversity and inclusivity, including a commitment to increasing levels of representation on the Board
- Strong track record of successful senior leadership in a generous and highly collaborative style, with experience at Board level, ideally including in a chairing capacity
- A charismatic style, with strong networking capabilities
- Sound judgement and the capacity for strategic thinking

Time commitment

- Individuals will need to demonstrate the willingness and commitment to meet the needs of this role, which is likely to require a commitment of c2 days a month
- The Trust is in the process of reviewing its term of office, and it is likely that the Chair's initial term is for three years, with the option for one more consecutive term of three years.
- There are currently six Barbican Centre Trust board meetings, and six Barbican Centre Board meetings each year. In addition the Chair is required to sit on the Finance and Risk sub-committee. The frequency of Trust board meetings is under review.
- The Chair is invited to attend Barbican events: press nights, fundraising events, and other meetings and/or events as appropriate. The Chair may also feel it appropriate to host private events in support of the Barbican, for example previews for corporate and individual supporters.
- Meetings are held at the Barbican Centre.
- The Chair is a voluntary position and not accompanied by any financial remuneration