



Manchester Craft & Design Centre

Chair of the board

Unremunerated, volunteer position

Manchester Craft & Design Centre

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MCAD is Manchester's space for craft, community and making

Thank you for your interest in becoming Chair of Manchester Craft and Design Centre. This is an exciting time for our organisation as we embark on delivering our recently refreshed vision and strategy. We are looking for an energetic individual who will be a figurehead for the Board, artistic director, and staff team.

Our vision

We promote craft in all its forms, expanding the definition and relevance of craft for *everyone*. We nurture and develop emerging and established talent, support viable creative careers, and showcase innovative and ambitious craft practices.

MCAD is a place of enterprise, production and creativity and reflects the rich diversity of Manchester's 21st century communities. We welcome everyone to experience and engage with making and our creative community. We safeguard a space for everyday creativity in the heart of the Northern Quarter and look outwards beyond our building.

Our organisation

Manchester Craft & Design Centre is located in a glorious former fish and poultry market in the city's thriving Northern Quarter. A registered charity, Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation (NPO), and part of Manchester City Council's Cultural Partnership, for 40 years we've been home to some of the region's most talented independent designers and makers. Selling textiles, jewellery, accessories, ceramics, glass, prints and homeware, each of the 20 studios offers so much more than just a shopping experience – it's a place to be inspired and to connect with the world through making. We play a significant role for craft in the Northwest and nationally.

Our exhibitions and curated events programmes promote local, UK and International craft and design. The building is open to the public six days a week and provides unprecedented access to incredible practitioners and their processes, is a safe creative space for our neighbours to meet and participate and allows creative businesses to thrive within a supportive community.

Our strategic objectives are to:

- 1) Create space and activities for craft and community to flourish
- 2) Nurture and celebrate the talent of practitioners and makers
- 3) Be a powerful advocate in our sector and to funders for craft and making
- 4) Ensure financial, social and environmental sustainability for MCAD

Our values

All of our work will be developed through the lens of equality and environmental sustainability. These are intrinsic values placed at the heart of our decision-making.

1) Welcoming

We welcome all who wish to visit, work and learn with us. We create spaces that are vibrant, social and safe. We base our plans on listening to our key constituencies, creatives and diverse communities and pursue ways to make our work more useful and relevant to more people. We actively seek to remove barriers to participation and leadership for those who might be excluded from our programmes, activities, staff team and governance.

2) Transparent

We behave with integrity and accountability around our decisions, programmes and strategies. We passionately believe in equality of opportunity and the value of craft and making in the world today. We look outwards for partners and projects with shared values.

3) Supportive

Our approach is compassionate and people-centred, in our dealings with our creative community, staff, audiences and collaborators. We work towards shared wellbeing with everyone we encounter. We embrace our civic role to take action on social injustice and climate change and improve our local area.

4) Empowering

We seek to inspire and support creative and sustainable ways of living and working. We create opportunities for visitors to experience and participate in the positive power of making. We support creative careers and skills development, particularly for those with the least advantage and opportunity.

5) Vibrant

We support artistic, creative and entrepreneurial risk. We are confident and capable of making change. We are an innovative, listening and learning organisation, accumulating and embedding knowledge. We are energetic and well networked, generous in sharing our learning, and actively advocate for our sector.

Our future

Still in a phase of recovery in a world adapting to a life after COVID-19, we are taking the exciting step of *listening* to our communities and audiences, and carefully reviewing our activities to create a truly relevant MCAD for the future. We are changing how we do things; starting to be more dynamic with our approach to creative entrepreneurialism and creating a space that invites all to experience the intoxicating joy of everyday craft.

Having been a keystone in the regeneration of the Northern Quarter, we continue to make a major contribution towards the growth of Manchester's cultural vitality. We are working with MCC to make our current premises more fit for our direction of travel and exploring the feasibility of a capital transformation which will be directly underpinned by our values and ambition.

Very sadly, our director of almost 15 years, Kate Day, passed away unexpectedly in June 2022. For a small, tight team, this has been a challenging time, but we've come out of it with the determination Kate would expect, and that her legacy deserves. Recruitment is underway to find a new artistic lead for the organisation, who can drive the creative vision forward.

How you can get involved

We are working towards a Board that is representative of the diversity of modern Britain, and that more closely reflects the diverse communities we work with and alongside. A personal love of the arts and learning is fundamental as is a commitment to inclusion.

At this exciting and critical time in our organisational journey, we need a Chair who can drive MCAD into its brave and bold new future. The role will require strong leadership and the ability to engage with stakeholders at all levels.

Whether you've developed your skills through formal or informal routes, we are interested to know how your experiences make you the best person to take on this position. We particularly encourage applications from people who live in the communities where we work.

We recognise we currently under-represent Black people and People of Colour, Disabled people, and those with intersecting identities in our workforce and on our board; MCAD is actively working to address this and encourages applications from these backgrounds.

What to expect as chair

Manchester Craft & Design is a registered charity with a voluntary Board of Trustees and has a trading arm (MCAD Enterprises) which has its own board of directors. The Charity Board meets four times per year, and sub-groups such as the Finance Committee also meet quarterly. The AGM takes place before the November board meeting.

Board meetings take place in a fully accessible room, typically on weekday evenings. Since the COVID-19 pandemic we have conducted all meetings on Zoom, although we intend to adopt a hybrid approach from now on. Trustees are also expected to join other committees and task and finish groups. Attendance at our annual Makers Q&A and participation in special exhibition launches is also encouraged.

The Chair provides monthly one-to-one critical friend support to the Creative Director, as well as an annual performance review, regular goal setting and monitoring, and ad hoc meetings where required by the executive team. Maintaining a relationship of trust with staff, trustees, makers and stakeholders is paramount. You may also be required to attend meetings on behalf of the organisation with funders and other bodies, primarily in Manchester.

The key responsibilities of the Chair are to:

- Lead the board in effective strategic leadership and direction and ensure that decisions are taken in the best interests of the organisation
- Build and maintain a strong, supportive and constructive relationship with the artistic director and staff team, ensuring they are held to account for achieving agreed strategic objectives
- Promote and nurture a culture of openness and productive challenge
- Act as an ambassador for the organisation
- Facilitate and support trustee contributions
- Ensure trustees actively participate in meetings and help develop papers
- Ensure trustees regularly review major risks and opportunities, and satisfy themselves that actions are put in place to mitigate and exploit these appropriately

- Ensure that trustees fulfil their duties to ensure the financial health of the organisation and that systems are in operation to ensure financial accountability
- Undertake an annual Board evaluation including trustee skills audit and review of committees

We expect that the Chair will bring to the organisation:

- commitment to the vision and values of MCAD
- leadership and decision-making abilities
- willingness to devote time and effort to their duties
- strong networking and communication skills
- experience of organisational partnership working
- an understanding of the legal responsibilities and liabilities of a charity trustee and company director

Meet our current board

Julie Platt (outgoing Chair)	Head of Development, The Scottish Association for Marine Science
Mike Woodward (Chair of the Finance Committee)	Heritage & Culture Consultant, Management Accountant
Shiraz Anwar	Creative, digital and tech entrepreneur
Katy Ashton	Director, People's History Museum
Professor Martyn Evans	Director of Manchester School of Art, MMU
Wayne Hart	Independent Maker: Lettercarver, Typographer, Sculptor
Jack Kirby	Associate Director of Collections Services, Science Museum Group
Jenny Tegg	Marketing and behaviour change consultant. Director at The Good Cause Project
<i>Toby Sproll (Chair of the Enterprise Board)</i>	<i>Head of Account Management, Bruntwood</i>

What next?

If you believe you can contribute through your experience and skills, then please get in touch for an informal conversation or simply send us an email about why you want to be part of MCAD's family before 30 November 2022.

Shortlisted candidates will meet with some of our existing trustees a time and in a way that suits you.

Contact us on contactus@craftanddesign.com . We would love to hear from you.