



Manchester Craft & Design Centre

Open Trustee Recruitment 2025

Voluntary, unpaid position

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

Thank you for your interest in joining Manchester Craft and Design Charity Board as a trustee. This is an exciting time for our organisation as we embark on finalising and delivering a refreshed strategy for 2026-29. We have recently expanded our senior leadership team to include both Lena Munday as Interim Strategic Lead for FY2025-26 and Jessica Bennett as General Manager, who has joined our enthusiastic and committed 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 and Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation, we've been home to some of the region's most talented independent designers and makers for over 40 years. 45+ makers make and sell textiles, jewellery, accessories, ceramics, glass, prints and homeware, from 19 studios. We offer so much more than just a shopping experience – we're a place to be inspired. Our exhibitions and curated events programme 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. We are a safe creative space for our neighbours to meet and take part and allow creative businesses to thrive within a supportive community.

Our strategic objectives:

SPACE - Create space for craft and community to flourish.

NURTURE - Nurture and celebrate the talent of makers from education to sustainable creative careers.

ADVOCATE - Be a powerful advocate for craft and making.

SUSTAIN - Ensure our financial, social and environmental sustainability.



Our values

All of our work is 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

Following a period of consultation with audiences and communities, the development of a new strategy and the news that we will continue to be an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation through 2028, we are 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, working with partner organisations to deepen impact and creating a space that invites all to experience the joy of everyday craft. Through this, we will challenge perceptions about who *can* be a maker; and demonstrate the viability of craft as a career through access to a wealth of learning, training and professional development opportunities.

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 Manchester City Council to make our current premises more fit for our direction of travel.



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 here in Manchester. A personal love of the arts and learning is fundamental; as is a commitment to inclusion.

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 people of Global Majority, d/Deaf and 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. We would also like to include more people under age 30 on our board.

At this exciting and critical time in our organisational journey, we're particularly interested in hearing from people with skills, knowledge and expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- HR personnel
- Craft and Design expertise
- Legal expertise
- Exhibitions
- Governance
- Marketing & Communications
- IT

This role requires the following:

- commitment to the vision and values of MCAD
- willingness to devote time and effort to the role
- knowledge relevant to MCAD and its mission
- understanding or willingness to learn about the responsibilities of a charity trustee

What to expect

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.

Board meetings take place in a fully accessible room, typically on weekday evenings. While some meetings are hybrid on Zoom, we encourage Trustees to attend a minimum of two meetings a year in person.

Management Structure



Meet our current board

Emma Anderson (Chair)	Director, Macclesfield Museums, The Silk Heritage Trust
Jack Kirby (Deputy Chair)	Group Head of Collection Services, Science Museum Group
Mike Woodward (Chair of the Finance Committee)	Heritage & Culture Consultant, Management Accountant
Shiraz Anwar	Creative, Digital & Tech Founder and Innovation & Growth Champion
Bernadette Bone	Specialist Conservation Architect Director BB Heritage Studio
Professor Martyn Evans	Director of Manchester School of Art and Professor of Design, Manchester Metropolitan University
Dr Yekta Bakırlioğlu	Senior Lecturer in Design Management, Lancaster University
Paul Watt	SEND Case Manager, Lancashire County Council
Rachel Knight	Head of Exhibitions & Gallery Projects, Science and Industry Museum
Toby Sproll	Head of Account Management, Bruntwood
<i>Jennifer Tegg (Chair of the Enterprise Board)</i>	<i>Marketing and behaviour change consultant. Director at The Good Cause Project</i>

What next?

If you believe you can contribute through your experience and/or skills, you're welcome to get in touch for an informal conversation or simply send us an email at contactus@craftanddesign.com about why you want to be part of MCAD's family.

We will also be holding an open day on **Friday, 19 September 2025, 12:30-2:30pm** for those who are interested in becoming part of our board.

To apply, please send through a CV along with an expression of interest to contactus@craftanddesign.com by **Friday 3 October, 12pm**.

Shortlisted candidates will meet with some of our existing trustees at a time and in a way that suits you. Contact us on contactus@craftanddesign.com. We would love to hear from you.