

MCAD Enterprises

Non-Executive Director

Unremunerated, volunteer position

Open Recruitment 2026



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

MCAD Enterprises is a company that carries out commercial activities to benefit the charity.

MCAD 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.

About MCAD

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.

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.

About MCAD Enterprises

MCAD Enterprises is a company that supports the charity through commercial and enterprising activity. Through venue hire and other commercial activities we are working with the charity to change how we do things. To be more dynamic with our approach to creative entrepreneurship and creating a space that invites all to experience the joy of craft.

Having been a keystone in the regeneration of the Northern Quarter, Manchester Craft & Design Centre continues to make a major contribution towards the growth of Manchester's cultural vitality. We hope to ensure that our home in the Northern Quarter will be a place for creativity and community for generations to come.

How you can get involved

We are looking for Non-Executive Directors to join the MCAD Enterprises board. Supporting the team to make things happen. Creating greater visibility and financial resilience through a rich mix of income for MCAD, to support its charitable aims, complement its programming, and always uphold the organisation's objectives and values.

We are specifically interested in hearing from people with experience in

- Venue Hire and Events
- Public Programming; ideally in the cultural sector
- Business Development
- Retail
- Design and Craft
- Brand, Marketing and Communications

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.

We need board members that will use their expertise, contacts and creativity to support the MCAD team to raise revenue and really make things happen. The role will require creativity, collaboration and a can-do attitude to realise the commercial potential of the space, the makers and the audiences.

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

We recognise we currently under-represent Global Majority people, 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

The Enterprises Board meets four times per year and works closely with the Manchester Craft and Design charity board to ensure that we are working in alignment with their aims and business plan. The AGM takes place before the October/November board meeting.

Board meetings take place in a fully accessible room, typically on weekday evenings, and online attendance is also possible. Attendance at special events and exhibition launches is also encouraged.

We expect directors to take on responsibilities between meetings to support the staff team to deliver on commercial events and activities, using their expertise and contacts to add extra resource to the core MCAD team.

The key responsibilities are:

- Use your expertise, connections and creativity to establish a rich and varied range of income generating events and activities that will contribute to Manchester Craft and Design's charitable aims and financial resilience.
- Provide practical support and advice to make things happen, adding additional capacity and expertise to the core team.
- Promote and nurture a culture of openness and respect
- Act as an ambassador for the organisation
- Actively participate in meetings, thinking creatively about how we maximise our income potential.
- Identify risks and opportunities for MCAD Enterprises.

We expect that the Director will bring:

- a commitment to the vision and values of MCAD;
- willingness to devote time and effort to their duties
- strong networking and communication skills
- experience of partnership working
- a commitment to help generate income for the purpose of supporting the charity.

Meet our current Enterprise board

Our Enterprise Board is made up of representatives from the staff team, resident makers, charity board and other directors recruited for their specific skills and knowledge.

Jennifer Tegg (chair), Marketing Consultant, The Good Cause Project
Shiraz Anwar, Creative, digital and tech entrepreneur
Jessica Bennett, General Manager, MCAD
Anneka Woods, Marketing & Digital Officer, MCAD
Yekta Bakirioglu, Senior Lecturer, Lancaster University.
Amy Haigh, Manchester Art Gallery
Andrea Lord, Maker /Director
Bhaggie Patel, Maker / Director

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

If you wish to apply for a Non-Executive Director role with us, please send a CV and a one-page expression of interest, detailing how you feel your experience would be relevant to the role and why you would like to be part of the MCAD family.