

Turner Contemporary is seeking committed and energetic individuals to join our Board of Trustees

Introduction

At Turner Contemporary www.turnercontemporary.org, we believe in the power of art to transform people and places, doing things differently to achieve our vision; “Art Made Essential – to be leaders in social and economic sustainability; vitally connecting art, people and place, at home and around the world.”

Since opening in 2011, Turner Contemporary has become one of the most successful galleries in the UK. We’ve achieved more than 3.5 million visits and put over £80million back into the Kent economy. The gallery has been a catalyst for the social and economic regeneration of Margate, connecting with thousands of people from the local community through our ambitious artistic and learning programmes.

Located in a building designed by David Chipperfield Architects, on a site overlooking the North Sea, our exhibitions of historical and contemporary art and learning programmes have fast earned the gallery an international profile and reputation. With free admission, great art is accessible for all.



Credit: Benjamin Beker

We are committed to challenging traditional practice to make ourselves more accessible, repositioning art as more relevant to society. Our distinctive, audience-focused approach is integral to our success and inspires interest, nationally and internationally.

Turner Contemporary is a charity governed by a Board of Trustees, chaired by Clive Stevens. The organisation receives revenue funding from Arts Council England and Kent County Council and the whole team works creatively to generate additional income. To deliver our ambitious vision and to develop our resilience and sustainability for the future, we need to increase and diversify earned income from our trading activities and secure significant annual fundraising

targets, particularly given the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the gallery, Margate and the wider cultural sector.

After more than nine successful years of operation, Turner Contemporary is currently working with stakeholders on a small-scale capital project to move the gallery on to the next stage of our development. Last year, we hosted the prestigious Turner Prize exhibition and awards ceremony. 2021 marks our tenth anniversary year. We have an ambitious programme of exhibitions planned for our reopening in the spring. Turner Contemporary is also leading on a cultural tourism programme, *England's Creative Coast*, and is a partner in *Pioneering Places*, a programme of work to deliver child-led leadership and place making.

Turner Contemporary's values are:

- **Enterprising** – we create value for ourselves, our community and our partners by being responsive to new opportunities; we encourage collaboration, creativity and initiative from our team
- **Welcoming** – we are friendly and warm, while maintaining professionalism in practice and behaviour; we ensure that the principles of inclusivity and equality are evident in how we work with our colleagues, audiences and communities
- **Questioning** – our philosophy is one of investigation, being attuned to audience need, unlocking understanding and asking tough questions, especially of ourselves
- **Belonging** - equity, equality, diversity and inclusion are essential to our ethos now and in the future.

All our trustees must understand our commitment to diversity and be able to build our profile, fundraise effectively and consolidate our financial position.

We are particularly keen to hear from candidates from all backgrounds currently underrepresented in the cultural sector due to barriers linked to ethnicity, class, disability or gender.

Context

JMW Turner (1775-1851) was a regular visitor to Margate both as a child and later in life. The gallery was established to celebrate his links to the town and the north Kent coast. Turner Contemporary is based in an area known as Thanet, comprising the towns of Ramsgate, Broadstairs and Margate and surrounding villages. Within easy reach of London and continental Europe, it has outstanding environmental assets, including "Blue Flag" beaches and the UK's longest stretch of coastal chalk.

The investment in and development of Turner Contemporary has been the catalyst for significant transformation. However, although Margate is now experiencing considerable development and regeneration, the economy within Thanet is still extremely fragile. In 2016, Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita in Thanet was 63% of the county average and productivity in Thanet is estimated to be about 80% of the county-wide average. Margate contains high levels of deprivation, with low wages, poor levels of education, skills and training, poor health, high levels of crime and high unemployment.

The gallery undertakes annual visitor research with Canterbury Christ Church University which feeds into our planning. We commissioned a Social Value Report in 2016; the findings can be found at:

<https://www.turnercontemporary.org/media/documents/COaST%20Turner%20SROI%202015-2016%20FINAL%20.pdf>

Recruitment

We are currently recruiting up to five individuals to become trustees. By joining the Board of Turner Contemporary, you can:

- Make a difference to local communities by supporting and contributing to the structure of a vibrant arts organisation that connects people with creative experiences, promoting creativity, improved health & well-being, personal growth and community cohesion;
- Help us to attract a more diverse audience to the gallery, bringing your skills to enable us to diversify our audience;
- Shape and oversee the continued development of Turner Contemporary;
- Engage with the challenges of running an arts organisation and offer support to the Executive team;
- Support the organisation in achieving its fundraising targets;
- Gain knowledge and a deeper understanding of the arts and cultural sector by being a part of Turner Contemporary's team;
- Refine your skills and gain new ones;
- Meet and work with other talented, motivated and inspiring people, sharing and expanding your networks and connections;
- Inspire and enrich your personal and professional life through working with Turner Contemporary.

We are looking for individuals with a passion for the visual arts, social justice and regeneration. We require new trustees with skills and expertise in one or more of the following areas in particular: all aspects of charity finance, fundraising, PR & digital marketing, commercial, legal and property matters.

The Role of the Board

1. Financial

The Board has three main roles in relation to financial monitoring and management of the organisation:

- Planning
- Monitoring
- Decision-making

2. Oversight

The Board's responsibilities are to oversee the following:

- Vision and Mission: the Board approves and supports the vision, mission and values which guides the organisation's direction;
- Business Planning: the Board approves the organisation's Business Plan and ensures it is a working document to guide Turner Contemporary's development and growth;
- Risk Management: the Board monitors the Risk Register and determines the level of risk the organisation can take;
- Performance: the Board identifies the key performance indicators by which progress will be measured.

3. Time commitment

We expect trustees to attend four board meetings per annum, which are held in Margate or virtually on a weekday morning or afternoon. We also expect trustees to sit on at least one subcommittee that also meets quarterly, and to attend events at the gallery. We organise an annual Away Day for trustees and there are opportunities to attend workshops and facilitated sessions from time to time.

We expect trustees to actively contribute in meetings. This includes:

- Preparation: reading Board and subcommittee papers which are sent out in advance and trying to resolve points of clarification before the meeting, wherever possible;
- Punctuality;
- Listening and Questioning: be willing to question and challenge, yet be supportive of other people's views and contributions;
- Supporting decisions: support the decisions of the Board, even when you may not have agreed with the decision;
- Maintaining confidentiality;
- Agreeing to fulfil actions between meetings;
- Engaging with Turner Contemporary: developing a knowledge of the organisation to support the Director and senior team. Attend events and activities that Turner Contemporary organises.

4. Fundraising and Networking

Turner Contemporary is a small charity which requires significant financial support. We receive some public investment from Kent County Council and Arts Council England but as this continues to decrease, the Board has a role in securing additional fundraised income. This can take many different forms including introductions, attending cultivation events and donating or becoming a patron.

How to Apply

Being a trustee is a voluntary unpaid role, although some expenses can be covered where appropriate. If you would like to find out more please contact Clive Stevens, Chair of Turner Contemporary via info@turnercontemporary.org

For more information about what being a charity trustee involves, please visit www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved

To apply please send a CV and covering letter of no more than two sides of A4 telling us a bit about yourself and why you would like to become a trustee at Turner Contemporary.

Please send your application to: applications@turnercontemporary.org

Closing date for applications: 8am, Monday 14 December 2020

Applicants will be contacted in January. Online interviews will be held on Friday 22 and Saturday 23 January 2021.

Thank you for your interest in Turner Contemporary. We look forward to receiving your application.