

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

CANDIDATE PACK

In this information pack you will find further information on our search for a new Chair of Trustees to join Design West, together with details on the application process with **Moon Executive Search**.

AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIR



"It has been my privilege to chair the Board of Trustees for the last six years. During this time Design West has developed significantly in stature & influence. The Director & a very capable team have developed a wide range of collaborations & partnerships across the South West assisting towns, cities & communities to shape their environments through engagement & dialogue.

The impact of the built environment, on all our lives, has never been as important as it is today. Design West has a great deal to contribute to support & influence all those involved in creating our built & green environments to ensure a better future.

I leave this exceptional organisation in the very capable hands of the Board of Trustees & a dedicated Director & her team. I will look forward with interest to seeing Design West continue to thrive as it enters the next phase of development. I am in no doubt that Design West is playing an important role at a critical time & I wish everyone involved the very best for the future."

Nick Childs, Chair of the Board



WE SHAPE BETTER PLACES

Founded in 1996, **Design West** is a centre of excellence for design & placemaking. Our mission is to inspire the public, politicians & professionals across the built environment to design, better, healthier, places to live, work & relax. We learn from our heritage to build our future. A registered charity we put design & social value at our heart. Design West is the new name for The Architecture Centre & Creating Excellence.

A WORLD DESIGNED FOR LIFE

Our programmes inspire, inform and involve people in the design of the world around them. We work across sectors & society to innovate, co-design & challenge. We are international & local, bringing the best people together to shape better places.

We are collaborative, creative, expert, independent, open & visionary.

OUR HISTORY

Design West began life as The Bristol Centre for the Advancement of Architecture a group of architects, engineers, academics & passionate citizens who cared deeply about the impact of good design on society.

In the 1990s the charity raised funds to purchase a prominent site on the quayside in Bristol, an 18th century warehouse & former sail loft, that had suffered two serious fires & was standing in disrepair. Preserving its sturdy maritime character, Architects Niall Phillips turned the space into a gallery & office space.

Opening its doors to the public on 11 September 1996, 16 Narrow Quay became home to The Architecture Centre, the first architecture centre outside London & a place where anyone could find out about the built world around them. Sasha Lubetkin, daughter of RIBA Gold Medal-winning architect Berthold Lubetkin, its inaugural director.

In 2018 new director Dr Anna Rutherford & chair Nick Childs began raising funds to regenerate the building again. Always a regional base with international reach, in 2021 the charity joined forces with respected place-maker, Creating Excellence, to extend our work across the South West. In 2021 Design West launched as a lively new venue for Design & Placemaking on the dockside. Home to talks, events, education programmes & the co-ordinating hub for Bristol Open Doors.

Learning from our heritage to build our future, Design West shapes better, healthier, places to live work & relax. On the ground floor, The Architect café-bar welcomes visitors into the building, the charred timber beams of the old sail loft a nod to the past.



CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Design West seek a new Chair of the Board of Trustees. Design West is a global centre of excellence for design & placemaking, based in Bristol. Our mission is to inspire public, politicians & professionals across the built environment to design, better, healthier places to live, work & relax. A registered charity, we put design & social value at our heart. Our vision is a world designed for life.

As chair of Design West you will influence the future of design & placemaking, across the South West & beyond.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ROLE

Design West is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation managed by a board of trustees & an executive. The Chair provides leadership, working closely with the Director & executive team to support the work of the charity & ensure good governance.

You will have board level experience, as a chair, non-executive or executive director, an understanding of good governance, financial acumen & you will possess excellent relationship building skills. Experience as a charity trustee is welcome. You will have a passion for architecture, design & placemaking and the ability to act as an effective advocate & ambassador for Design West.

The ideal candidate will have experience & knowledge of partnerships, fundraising & development, & an extensive network of political & professional connections that can be brought into play.

THE BOARD

Design West has grown considerably in recent years in both scale of operation & influence. You will join an influential board of trustees (drawn from government, academia, business & the design, development sector) & a dynamic team. As Chair, you will work closely with the Director & fellow Trustees to develop the business plan, ensuring that the organisation continues to thrive, & that its reputation as a centre of excellence is recognised regionally & nationally. As the organisation's most senior non-executive, you will relish the challenge of contributing to this highly successful organisation.

Our current chair is retiring after six successful years, which culminated in us completing a merger to expand across the South West, & in the refurbishment of our harbourside venue. We look forward to our next chapter.

We need our Board of Trustees to be representative of the region, our strategic partners & our audiences. We encourage applications from people of all ethnicities & backgrounds.

Key Objectives

The primary tasks of the Chair of the Board of Trustees will be to:

- Ensure the Board fulfils its governance responsibilities & company objectives in accordance with charity law
- Work with the Director & board to set the strategic direction & business plan
- Ensure Design West maintains an effective, engaged, & diverse board of trustees
- Ensure that the organisation remains solvent & well managed
- Support the Executive Team in the implementation of the business plan
- Nurture the relationship between the Board & the Senior Management team
- Ensure we deliver on our commitments to equality, diversity, & inclusion
- Act as advocate & spokesperson for the organisation when required & build relationships with internal & external stakeholders as appropriate

Key Responsibilities

- Provide leadership & direction to the Board
- With Trustees, oversee the development of long & short-term objectives, priorities, & goals for the organisation
- Chair quarterly meetings of Trustees
- Provide support, advice & a sounding board to the Director
- With the Director and trustees, ensure prudent financial management & approve the financial risk review & reserves policies
- Act as ambassador & spokesperson where appropriate to help raise the profile of Design West – regionally, nationally & internationally,
- Make every effort to see the work the organisation produces & attend events & openings as appropriate & encourage other Board members to do the same
- Be aware of & abstain from any conflict of interest

Time Commitment

Around 10 hours/month which includes meeting preparations plus quarterly Board meetings & possible ad hoc attendance at events. Board meetings are usually held in central Bristol, weekdays in the afternoon. The role is unremunerated but reasonable expenses may be claimed.

HOW TO APPLY

Moon Executive Search are managing the recruitment process. If you are interested in the role, please send a copy of your latest CV with a supporting statement explaining your motivations for applying for the role, how your skills knowledge & experience match the outline and what you can additionally bring to the role. To ensure fairness

Email to: recruit@moonexecsearch.com

FAO Sandy Hinks, Head of Charity Practice, Ref: Mc2296

Closing Date: Sun 8 January (Midnight)

Informal conversations can be arranged with Tom Russell (Trustee) or Nick Childs (Current Chair)
Tom Russell tom@emmettrussell.co.uk ; Nick Childs nickchilds56@gmail.com