MINERVA

City&Guilds of London Art School

Chair of Trustees

Candidate Pack

Autumn 2026

MINERVA

Introduction

The City & Guilds of London Art School is a distinguished specialist higher education institution with an international reputation for excellence in Fine Art, Conservation and Carving. Based in Kennington, South London, we combine exceptional teaching with high levels of student satisfaction and are governed by an independent Board of Trustees committed to supporting our academic mission and long-term success.

Throughout our more than 170-year history, we have remained true to our roots, led by practising artists, conservators and makers. As a result, our students benefit from being part of a warm, close-knit, dynamic and distinctive community of practitioners.

We are now seeking an outstanding individual to serve as Chair of Trustees. Providing leadership to the Board, the Chair will ensure the highest standards of governance, support the Principal, champion the Art School externally, and help guide us through a period of change and opportunity within the arts and higher education sector. This is a unique opportunity to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of one of the UK's most respected specialist art schools.

Candidates should bring senior strategic leadership experience, a strong understanding of charity governance and finance, and a track record of leading positive change, building strategic partnerships and raising organisational profile. An interest in creative education and the heritage sector are essential.

This voluntary appointment carries an anticipated commitment of approximately 30 days per year. The initial term is three years, with the possibility of reappointment.

This is an exciting opportunity to join our community.

MINERVA

About Us

The Art School is small scale and not for profit with its roots in South London, a diverse community which has long supported artists and makers.

We offer a rich creative experience that is contextualised across a range of frameworks such as art history, the history of ideas, professional and cultural knowledges, the imagination, emotional intelligence and collaboration to develop critical and technical expertise, innovation and aesthetic judgment. We focus on a range of technical skills as foundations for material literacy.

We educate artists, craftspeople and conservators within a culture of dialogue and mutual support. We want our students to exceed their own expectations. We motivate and support students in their specialisms giving them the appetite to go on learning through practice for the rest of their lives. Our innovative outreach programmes were recognised by the award of the BeLambeth Educational Institution of the Year 2024.

Our tutors contribute to the teaching on the course by drawing on their own practices and expertise. The technical, conceptual and theoretical knowledge they bring underpins the curriculum and supports students as they navigate their time on the course. Students and staff form a reciprocal community of learning as students are mentored and given the tools they need to navigate the creative industries.

MINERVA

Our graduates go on to make a significant contribution in their fields, in the UK and internationally, through the pursuit of excellence in traditional skills, research and innovation and using creativity to improve social outcomes for the wider community.

The Art School is registered as an Independent Higher Education Provider with the Department for Education's Office for Students and offers courses in its specialism at pre-graduate (UAL Awarding Body Foundation Diploma in Art & Design), undergraduate (BA Hons, Graduate Diploma) and postgraduate (MA) levels validated by **Arts University Bournemouth**. The Art School's previous validating partner was Ravensbourne University London, under whose aegis the BA cohorts completing in summer 2025 and 2026 will graduate according to transitionary 'teach out' arrangements.

Its current student cohort numbers around 300 of which around a quarter are at Foundation level.

For more information, please visit our **website** or read our current **Strategic Plan** and most recent **published accounts**.

MINERVA

The Role

The City & Guilds of London Art School is a small and distinguished specialist provider of higher education in Fine Art, Conservation, and Carving with a reputation for the quality of its teaching and high levels of student satisfaction. Based in Kennington, South London, the Art School is a charitable company, limited by guarantee with no share capital, governed by a Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is a diverse and independent group, responsible for the governance of the Art School. Alongside the Art School charity is a sister charity, the City and Guilds Art School Property Trust, that owns and manages the buildings. More information about the governance of the Art School can be found here: www.cityandguildsartschool.ac.uk/about-us/governance

The Chair of the Board of Trustees' Role

- The Chair of Trustees provides focused leadership of the Board of Trustees, ensuring the highest standards of governance of the Art School, holding the Board to account in the pursuit of the Art School's mission.
- The Chair is responsible for assurance of the standard of teaching and compliance with its statutory obligations, including the regulatory requirements of the Office for Students.
- The Chair, in partnership with the Principal and Trustees, acts as a champion and ambassador for the Art School, representing the charity, advocating its works and speaking at appropriate meetings and events.
- The Chair, supported by the Principal and Company Secretary, ensures the functioning of the Board as a unit, planning the schedule of business and chairing meetings.
- The Chair, supported by the Deputy Chair, undertakes an annual performance review of the Principal; and, supported by the Company Secretary, leads on the internal review of Board effectiveness.

It is expected that the Chair will offer a relevant executive and non-executive track record in organisations of comparable scale and complexity. They should be a powerful and compelling advocate for the Art School, with broad-based national and/or international networks. Financial and commercial acumen is essential, as is empathy with higher education and a commitment to the Art School's academic mission. This is a period of change for the arts and cultural higher education sector, including the Art School. Experience of change management and transition would be invaluable.

MINERVA

The Board is seeking a candidate with:

- senior-level, strategic, leadership experience.
- experience of charity governance and working as a Trustee.
- experience of change management and transition.
- a record of leading positive change, profile-raising, and strategic partnerships.
- financial management expertise and an understanding of charity finance.
- significant experience of chairing meetings and hosting events.
- experience of external representation, delivering presentations and managing stakeholders.
- a successful track record of fundraising at a strategic level.
- a strong interest in Fine Art, Conversation, and Carving and a belief in the value of creative and arts higher education.
- a strong commitment to the Nolan Principles of Public Life (Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty, and Leadership), with a proven ability to successfully navigate differing stakeholder interests and manage potential conflicts with objectivity, integrity, and complete transparency.

Time commitment

- The Board meets four times a year, typically on Tuesday afternoons on campus. The Chair is involved in an online pre-meeting with the executive team ahead of each Board.
- The Chair is required to attend the annual meeting of the Remuneration Sub-Committee, typically in February.
- The Chair is invited to attend meetings of the Property Trust Board as an observer, to aid communication between the two charities. The Property Trust typically meets three to four times a year.
- A strategic away day is convened annually with Trustees, the executive team, and wider members of the staff team.
- In person attendance at a number of key events throughout the academic year (degree shows, prizegiving ceremonies, fundraising and profile-building events) is also expected.
- Throughout the year, the Chair is in regular contact with the Principal to offer support and guidance on ongoing matters.
- Total time commitment is estimated to be approximately 30 days per year.

Length of appointment

The Chair is appointed by the Board for an initial term of three years, with the possibility for re-appointments for two further terms of three years.

Remuneration

Please note, this is a voluntary role, and members of the Board, including the Chair, do not receive any remuneration or benefits-in-kind.

The Art School is committed to equality of opportunity and values diversity, seeking to actively encourage participation at all levels. Our **Equality & Diversity Statement and Policy** sets out our approach and can be found here. We welcome applicants from all backgrounds and particularly encourage applications from Black, Asian and minority ethnic candidates, as they are under-represented within the Art School at this level.

MINERVA

How to Apply

Applications, which should be in the form of a CV and cover letter, should be sent to cglas@minervasearch.com no later than **16 October 2026**.

Interviews will take place on **20 November 2026.**