



Appointment of
Independent Governors



Opportunity

Plymouth College of Art is looking to appoint a number of Independent Governors. As a Member of the Board of Governors you will make a positive contribution to helping us achieve our mission, engage fully with our strategic decision making processes, and be an important ambassador at a local, national, and increasingly international level. If you think your skills and experience could contribute to the College's continuing success then we would like to hear from you. We are particularly interested in working with those individuals with a background in Further Education, HR/Employment, ICT/Cyber or Arts Practitioners and a strong interest in the arts and creative industries.

We know the most effective governing body is a diverse one that properly represents the multi-faceted nature of our society. We celebrate equality, diversity, inclusion and difference, and welcome candidates from all communities. For this non remunerated role, we will reimburse out of pocket expenses.

How to Apply

To register your interest, please send a covering letter with a CV, or to arrange an informal conversation, please email Liz Wiltshire-Meads at lwmeads@pca.ac.uk.



The College

Founded in 1856, Plymouth College of Art (PCA) is a dynamic and innovative independent specialist art college, offering one of the richest and most diverse specialist studio and workshop environments for art, craft, design and media practice in the UK educational sector. In recent years the College has invested £8m in industry-standard craft, design and digital fabrication workshops. We offer a range of art, craft, design and media programmes from Masters and BA (Hons) to Foundation Degrees and Extended Diploma courses, in July 2014 completed our transfer from the FE to the HE sector and was awarded Taught Degree Awarding Powers in 2019.

In September 2013 we founded the ground-breaking Plymouth School of Creative Arts and built its new home, The Red House, opened formally by Director of Tate, Sir Nicholas Serota, in October 2015. In so doing we have established a new progressive continuum of creative learning and practice from age 3 to Masters level, a project that is attracting international attention.

The PCA Gallery is an established visual arts venue in Plymouth, and we have a record of strong commitment to supporting the work of arts and cultural organisations, our local authority, industry and the Plymouth community. We partner with Plymouth Arts Centre and its arts cinema is based on our main campus and is the city's only independent cinema.

The College has a growing profile in European and international networks, including emerging partnerships in China, India, and the USA.



The Board of Governors

The Board of Governors at Plymouth College of Art is constituted as a higher education corporation. The Board is composed of 17 governors who have experience of higher and further education, the creative industries, commercial and public service sectors and a range of professional practices. The Board has ultimate responsibility for decisions which shape College strategy, and for ensuring the proper and effective use of resources. The Board has a structure of five committees, and working groups as necessary, to undertake strategic business control and monitoring:

- Finance and Estates Committee
- Audit Committee
- Nominations and Governance Committee
- Remuneration Committee
- Employment Committee

Governors are recruited taking into account, wherever possible, equality, diversity and inclusion issues. The Board is particularly proud of being in the minority of HE Corporations to have achieved an equal gender balance. The Nominations and Governance Committee consider individual's skills and experience to make certain there is a fit with the mission, vision and objectives of the College. High standards of ethical, personal and corporate conduct are expected from members, in accordance with the Standards in Public Life, commonly referred to as the 'Nolan' principles. All governors are encouraged to participate in development and training programmes, briefings, seminars and workshops.



Testimonials from Governors, past & present

"It's a real privilege to be involved with such an energetic, friendly and above all artistic organisation! The aim, which we are well on our way to delivering, of establishing a continuum in arts education from aged 4 to postgraduate level in the City is truly visionary and exciting. There is a palpable sense of buzz and creative activity as soon as you walk through the front door. The scale of the operation means that there is a much greater sense of community than you would find in a larger institution. That's not to say that there are not problems or difficulties as this ambitious vision is being delivered. The breathtaking pace of change can be challenging and the constraints of the estate in central Plymouth make accommodating expanding numbers of students difficult. For all that I would enthusiastically encourage anyone to join the Board and help us make Plymouth College of Arts a justly world-renowned institution and transform the lives of the many people it comes into contact with."

David Noyce, Board of Governors Chair

"I enjoy being part of a creative and engaging team. The College does something really worthwhile: it gives life-changing opportunities to a wide and growing number of people and I love to see people's work and to hear individuals' experiences when we meet students. We are shaping and investing in the future of individuals and of the College but also we are part of making Plymouth a much more exciting place to be. It is good fun and there is always a challenge and - literally - never a dull moment!"

Hilary Lade, Independent Governor

"As Governors, we are always thinking about the student and that's why my opinion is valued because I am there as the student voice. Knowing I am helping to make decisions to give students the highest quality experience possible is what makes it most enjoyable.

The decisions for future development plans are important although exciting and to be apart of this, seeing Plymouth College of Art soar, is the most rewarding part because we see the positive effects it has on the students."

Charlie Lake, Student Governor and SU President

"Every time I walk through the doors of Plymouth College of Art I am excited to see what new examples of the students' work are on display in the entrance hall. For me, one of the most rewarding things about being a governor is the opportunity to meet students. To have the privilege of seeing their work and listen to them explain about the processes and inspiration behind its creation. The students are inspiring, and their creative energy and enthusiasm always makes me wish that I could enrol on a course at Plymouth College of Art as well!"

Jane Sutherland, Independent Governor



The Role of Governors

- to act in the best interests of the Corporation (and therefore the College);
- to support the decisions of the Corporation and its committees once they have been reached, on the basis of collective responsibility, even though you may have spoken against a proposal during the debate at a meeting;
- to attend the organisation's events (such as student awards, presentations and open evenings / days) to gain an appreciation of the work of the organisation, and to meet students, employers and staff;
- to participate in training events, in order to enhance contribution to the Corporation;
- to understand that individual governors have no specific powers, e.g. that statements may only be made on behalf of the Corporation by those authorised to do so; and
- to give due priority to attending meetings of the Corporation and its Committees with a minimum time commitment of six hours per month.

Governor Person Specification

In order to fulfil its remit, Corporation will seek to appoint members with a variety of skills and experience from industry and commerce, the professions, the creative industries and education. All Governors should also be able to demonstrate most of the following:

- an active interest in higher and further education and the Creative Industries sector;
- a commitment to lifelong learning and the role of the College as a major provider of education and training of the highest quality;
- an understanding of issues of equality and diversity;
- a willingness to promote the College within the communities it serves;
- an ability to work positively with others, to make reasoned decisions and to act honestly, and to contribute as a member of a team.

Useful links

Governor information on Plymouth College of Art website;

- Instrument and Articles

- Statement of Primary Responsibilities

- Board member profiles

- Corporate strategy

- Annual Report and Financial Statements

www.plymouthart.ac.uk/misc/governance-charitable-status/our-governance/The Leadership Foundation - HE Governance training and resources

www.lfhe.ac.uk/en/governance-new/index.cfm

