



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport



Victoria and Albert Museum

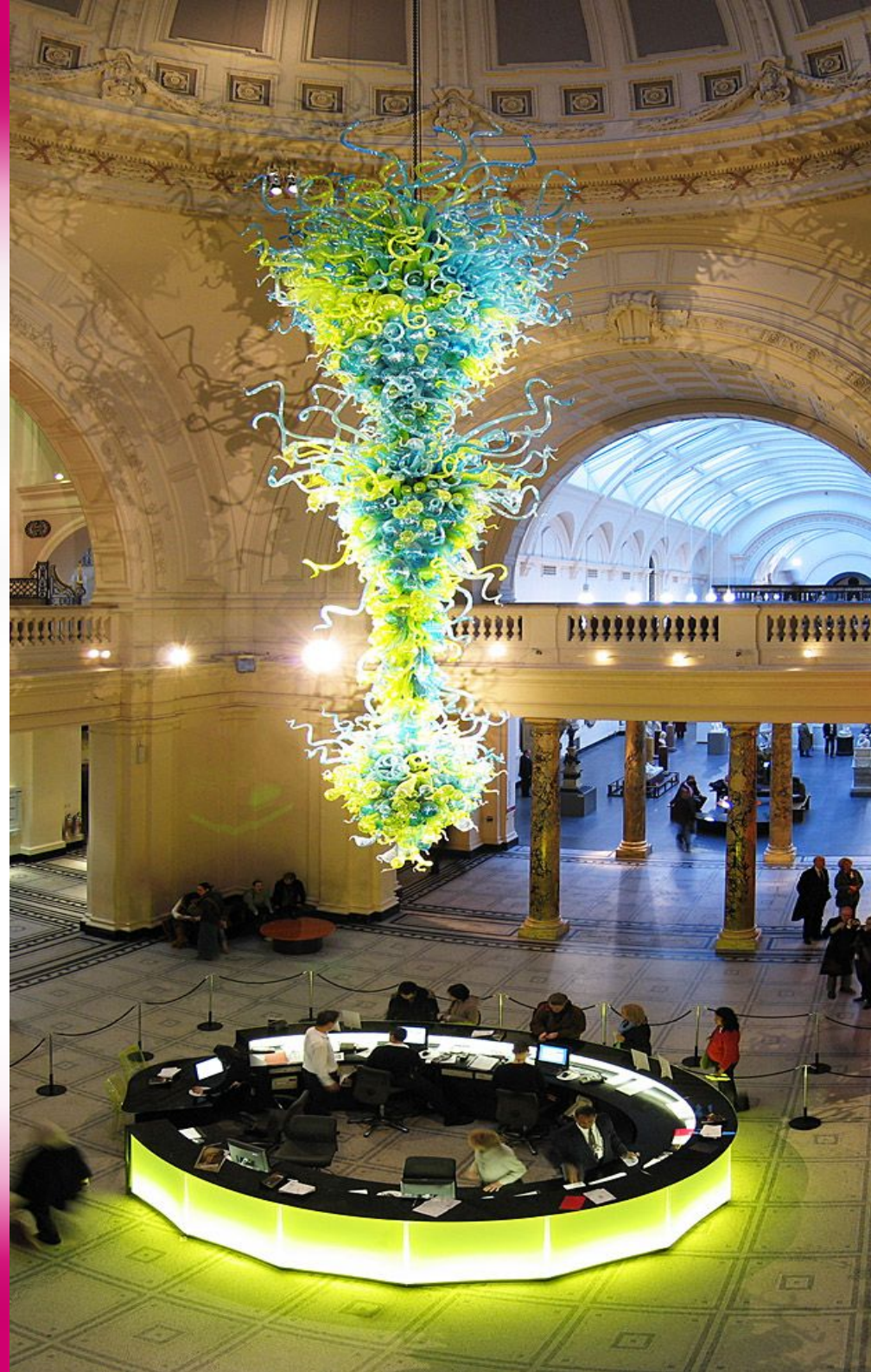
Chair

Applicant Pack

Introduction

The Prime Minister wishes to appoint a new Chair to the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A)

This is an exciting opportunity to use your skills to benefit a family of museums dedicated to the power of creativity. Our mission is to champion design and creativity in all its forms, advance cultural knowledge, and inspire makers, creators and innovators everywhere.



Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A)

The V&A is a family of museums dedicated to the power of creativity— its power to entertain and move, to enrich our lives, open our minds and change the world. We celebrate and share that power through a programme of exhibitions, events, educational and digital experiences, a collection of 2.8 million objects, and through our support for new works and commitment to conservation, research and sustainable design. Together, our work tells a 5,000-year-old story of creativity, helping to advance cultural knowledge everywhere, and inspiring the makers, creators and innovators of today and tomorrow. We are always working to broaden our audiences so that everyone can be part of the V&A – because the V&A and the power of creativity belong to us all.

The V&A holds many of the UK's national collections and houses some of the greatest resources for the study of architecture, furniture, fashion, textiles, photography, sculpture, painting, jewellery, glass, ceramics, book arts, Asian art and design, theatre and performance.



National



Since 1852

About the V&A

The V&A is an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), and is a charity exempt from registration under the Charities Act of 1993. It operates at arm's length from the Government and is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Prime Minister. The V&A receives Grant-In-Aid funding from Parliament, provided through DCMS, but also generates a significant proportion of its own income. However, since Spring 2020, the V&A has, like all museums and galleries, been heavily affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and is currently building back in the aftermath of reduced visitors and income.

Further information about the V&A can be found on its [website](#) and additional details, including the Annual Report & Accounts and the Annual Reviews, within the [Reports, Strategic Plans and Policies](#) section of the website.



The role

This is a unique time for the museum as it looks to build back from the pandemic, whilst delivering an ambitious new strategy that will see the V&A transition into a group of museums, including one of the world's most significant new museum projects in V&A East.

The new Chair will need to demonstrate robust and inclusive leadership to support this growth and change.

The successful candidate should be of significant standing, with a noteworthy background in a creative, commercial or academic field. They will act as an ambassador for the museum to government, key industry contacts, supporters and donors, and must therefore demonstrate excellent communication and relationship building skills within a complex environment.



You will adhere to the [Seven Principles of Public Life](#), [the 12 Principles of Governance](#) and [The Code of Conduct for Board Members of Public Bodies](#).

Time Commitment

On average, the Chair is expected to spend up to 4 – 8 days per month on V&A business, including six half day Board meetings per year, committee meetings, V&A events and meetings with the Director and Senior Management Team and high level influencers as required.

Location

Board meetings are usually held at the V&A in South Kensington, however there is an annual away day for Trustees which may be held outside London.

Remuneration

None. Reasonable travel expenses are paid

Term of Appointment

4 years



Assessment Criteria

If you are not appointed to the Chair role, there may be an opportunity for appointment to a Trustee role - this will be discussed at interview.

All candidates must meet the following Essential Criteria:

- An understanding of and an enthusiasm for the objectives and work of the V&A
- Knowledge and appreciation of the cultural, business and political issues related to the V&A
- The ability to act as an advocate and an ambassador for the V&A with governments, senior policy makers, donors, sponsors, supporters, and customers
- Good communication skills and a proven ability to work constructively with the other Trustees and wider stakeholders
- The ability to chair organisations successfully at Board level, supporting and guiding the Director and Executive Board in delivery of the agreed Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives
- A commitment to public service and improving opportunities for everyone
- A commitment to preserving cultural heritage, and improving education and understanding of British and World history.

Key dates

Please note dates are subject to change

OPEN FOR
APPLICATIONS

DEADLINE FOR
APPLICATIONS

PANEL SIFT

INTERVIEWS

October

October

November

November

Advisory Assessment Panel

- Ruth Hannant/Polly Payne - Directors General, Policy- DCMS Panel Chair
- Alan Coppin - Senior Independent Panel Member
- John Booth - Additional Panel Member

Diversity and inclusion

DCMS is committed to eliminating discrimination and advancing equality of opportunity in its public appointments. We particularly encourage applicants from underrepresented groups, those based outside London and the South-East and applicants who have achieved success through non-traditional educational routes. This ensures that boards of public bodies benefit from a full range of diverse perspectives and are representative of the people they serve. This will include embedding a commitment to the principles of levelling up and championing opportunity for all across the organisation, helping to ensure that the organisation is one in which a genuinely diverse range of views can be expressed, without fear or favour.

We ask all applicants to complete a diversity monitoring form. We hope you will help us by providing this information. Your data is not disclosed to the panel, but allows us to constantly evaluate any potential barriers to becoming a public appointee and what we can do to encourage a more diverse field to apply.

We try to guarantee an interview to anyone with a disability whose application meets the minimum criteria for the role. By 'minimum criteria,' we mean that you must provide evidence in your application, which demonstrates that you meet the level of competence required under each of the essential criteria.

If you wish to apply under this scheme, either state this in the covering email or letter when submitting your application or contact the team. This will in no way prejudice your application.

Reasonable adjustments

If you would like a confidential discussion regarding any reasonable adjustments during the process, please indicate this in your application or communicate with the public appointments team who will be happy to discuss this with you.





STEP 1

CV

on no more than 2 sides
of A4



STEP 2

Statement of suitability

Describe how you meet
the criteria for this role.



STEP 3

Equality information

and information relating
to any **outside interests**
or reputational issues

Apply Online

<https://apply-for-public-appointment.service.gov.uk/roles>



This appointments process adheres to the Cabinet Office Governance Code on Public Appointments, which is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Eligibility Criteria

You cannot be considered for a public appointment if:

you become bankrupt or make an arrangement with a creditor

your estate has been sequestrated in Scotland or you enter into a debt arrangement programme under Part 1 of the Debt Arrangement and Attachment (Scotland) Act 2002 (asp 17) as the debtor or have, under Scots law, granted a trust deed for creditors;

you are disqualified from acting as a company director under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986;

you have been convicted of a criminal offence, the conviction not being spent for the purposes of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (c. 53);

you become subject to a debt relief order or a bankruptcy restrictions order;

you fail to declare any conflict of interest.

Conflicts of Interest and Due Diligence

If you have any interests that might be relevant to the work of The Gambling Commission, and which could lead to a real or perceived conflict of interest if you were to be appointed, please provide details in your application. If you have queries about this and would like to discuss further please contact the Public Appointments Team.

Given the nature of public appointments, it is important that those appointed as members of public bodies maintain the confidence of Parliament and the public. If there are any issues in your personal or professional history that could, if you were appointed, be misconstrued, cause embarrassment, or cause public confidence in the appointment to be jeopardised, it is important that you bring them to the attention of the Advisory Assessment Panel and provide details of the issue(s) in your application. In considering whether you wish to declare any issues, you should also reflect on any public statements you have made, including through social media.

As part of our due diligence checks we will consider anything in the public domain related to your conduct or professional capacity. This will include us undertaking searches of previous public statements and social media, blogs or any other publicly available information. This information may be made available to the Advisory Assessment Panel and they may wish to explore issues with you should you be invited to interview. The information may also be shared with ministers and the Cabinet Office.

Contact us

Interested in
other DCMS
Appointments?

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS TEAM

publicappointments@dcms.gov.uk

Campaign Manager:

victoria.watts@dcms.gov.uk

[CLICK HERE](#) TO JOIN THE DCMS PUBLIC
APPOINTMENTS NETWORK

Hear about vacancies that match your
interests, attend events, and more.