

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Role Description

THE LONDON
SCHOOL
OF
ARCHITECTURE

1

Chair of the Board of Trustees

1.1 Introduction

The **London School of Architecture (LSA)** is an independent higher education provider based in London. It is England's first independent school of architecture since 1847 and was conceived in 2011 as a school for the 21st-century, where students combine practice-based work experience with academic study. A key mission of the LSA is to encourage and support wider diversity and access for students from under-represented backgrounds.

This reciprocal relationship between practices and students to tackle the growing crisis in the funding of architectural education has led to the school gaining considerable standing in its position as a practice-focused school of architecture, with its students being closely connected to industry. The LSA has a Practice Network of more than 200 practices who participate in supporting the school and its educational programme and values.

The programme has been commended for the 'level of engagement with the profession in the design of a sustainable and innovative programme' and 'the sense of empowerment and independence that the students demonstrate'.

The London School of Architecture is a not-for-profit organisation – it is both a registered charity and company limited by guarantee.

1.2 Role

Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Crispin Kelly has led the Board of Trustees since inception of the school and is a Founder Trustee and Chair of the LSA. As his term of office ends in 2023, the Board is now seeking to appoint his successor, someone who in partnership with the Director/CEO, Neal Shasore, the Board and the executive team, will help to shape and deliver the next phase of the London School of Architecture.

1.3 Responsibilities

- The leadership of the Board of Trustees, ensuring that it fulfils its collective responsibility for the governance of the London School of Architecture, and delivery of its values and objectives.
- Establishing an effective, supportive, and stimulating working relationship between the Board and the chief executive and LSA team, recognising the proper separation between governance and executive management.
- Working with the Board of Trustees and the Executive team to drive forward the LSA's commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)
- Evolving and supporting the future strategy of the LSA.
- Working closely with the Board and Executive to support and actively participate in the fundraising activities of the LSA,
- Playing a major role in representing the LSA externally, including building and maintaining successful relationships with the Practice Network,

patrons, donors, partners, and governmental organisations.

1.4 Person Specification

- Leadership experience of a significant organisation at main Board level as an executive or non-executive director, ideally with some prior experience in a chairing capacity, whether in the commercial, public, or not-for-profit sectors.
- Strong understanding of the role of non-executive chair, with a focus on leading and developing Board members and working closely with the Chief Executive to provide strong leadership to the wider organisation.
- Experience of the educational sector, ideally within architecture or design.
- A personal passion for architecture and the power of design to transform lives and enrich society.
- Well-networked and willing to participate actively in the LSA's fundraising and development activities.
- A fluent and persuasive communicator, who can represent the LSA effectively externally as well as internally.
- Committed and able to nurture a diverse and inclusive environment where staff, volunteers and Board members feel supported and able to reach their full potential

1.5 Terms of appointment

Trustees are appointed for an initial term of three years which can be renewed by re-election for two further three-year terms. There are 4 Board meetings per year and there is an expectation that outside of this the Chair attends events at the LSA and supports the executive as required. The estimated time commitment is 2-3 days per month. The role is unremunerated.

1.5 Practical Information

The recruitment process will be managed by the Board of Trustees Nominations Committee lead by Davina Mallinckrodt, Vice Chair.

Applications should take the form of a CV with covering letter (no more than 2 sides of A4) setting out your suitability for the role and how you could help the LSA deliver on its strategic plan. Applications should be sent to people@the-lsa.org by 23.59pm on Friday 21 April 2023.