



Registered charity number 1172792

Art History Link-Up
Chair Application pack

May 2019

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Art History Link-Up

Art History Link-Up provides free Art History courses for sixth form state school students in museums and galleries.

We feel that increasing the opportunities to learn about art history is important. Currently, only eight state schools in the country teach History of Art A level. Our programmes offer benefits to a diverse range of students who might not otherwise have access to them: enjoyment and learning related to the arts, cross-curricular connections, an additional qualification, and enhanced skills and career development. After the course, students often choose to pursue the subject at university and/or a career in the arts, keeping the subject and sector alive, diverse and vibrant.

Art History Link-Up works with other cultural organisations to link young people to the art and architecture in public collections. Our aim is to promote the benefits and enjoyment of Art History to as wide an audience as possible. Learning to look and understand our rich visual culture is more important now than ever before – and this opportunity to learn about art and benefit from it should be available to every young person. We also think that students should come away with a tangible qualification, even when this isn't available at their school.

Art History Link-Up was established during the 2016/17 academic year. Our first scheme 'Art History for Everyone' offers students a taught Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) – equivalent to up to half an A level in UCAS points – alongside two modules of the new A Level Art History course. It is structured around examples of art and architecture which can be experienced and studied at first-hand in public collections.

'Art History for Everyone' is hosted at The Wallace Collection, funded by The Band Trust, and at the National Gallery, with core funding from The Rothschild Foundation. There is significant demand for places and the majority of students come from 'widening participation' backgrounds. We currently have two classes established and are looking to double this in the next academic year.

Art History Link-Up is also in the early stages of developing a new 'Visual Culture Diploma', an accredited award open to students nationwide. A pilot will run in partnership with two schools from September.

Our work is generously supported by a number of trusts and individuals - for a full list, please see our website.

We don't employ any staff, but have a part-time Chief Executive/Founder who oversees the day-to-day running of the charity and manages two part-time teachers, four part-time teaching assistants and a part-time Admin Assistant.

Chair Position

Art History Link-Up is looking for a new Chair of Trustees to join the Board.

Our small Board currently comprises six dedicated individuals, three of whom were appointed at the charity's inception in April 2017, two trustees joining in autumn 2018 and one further trustee in early 2019. After a very successful first two years, and plans for improvement and expansion, we are looking for a new trustee to take over as Chair of the charity.

The role of the Chair is to:

- Provide strategic oversight and leadership, working closely with the Chief Executive/Founder, ensuring that Art History Link-Up pursues its stated objectives.
- Plan the annual cycle of board meetings and source the agenda for each; chairing and facilitating these to ensure their smooth running.
- Ensure that the board reviews its own work, making sure to take any corrective action required. Ensure effective and efficient operation of the charity, defining goals and targets, evaluating performance, and taking appropriate action to manage risk.
- Develop membership of the Board to ensure that it contains the diverse range of skills, experience and knowledge needed to operate effectively. Ensure Trustees receive appropriate support to enable them to fulfil their roles.
- In conjunction with the Treasurer, ensure proper management and control of finances. Ensure resources are used effectively for the overall financial sustainability of the charity in future years.
- Represent AHLU in meetings with partners, funders and potential funders, and a range of other stakeholders. Contribute to and safeguard the reputation and values of the charity and our partners, being an excellent advocate for Art History Link-Up and the young people we work with.
- Working with the CEO to support our freelancers and volunteers to help them contribute positively and professionally to the development of the charity and its programme.
- Supported by our Governance Trustee, ensure that Art History Link-Up operates in accordance with the principles of good governance, complying with its Articles of Association, its safeguarding and recruitment policies, charity law, and any other relevant legislation or regulations.

Person Specification

The successful candidate will be a strong team player with a range of professional skills and personal qualities. S/he will share our determination to make the study and enjoyment of art history accessible to as many young people as possible.

We are flexible about the background and experience of applicants, but would anticipate that candidates will be able to demonstrate some or most of the following:

- A proven interest in and enthusiasm for art history and visual culture, with good knowledge of the arts, cultural or heritage sectors.
- Being up to the challenge of a start-up environment, combining an entrepreneurial approach with down-to-earth pragmatism.
- Excellent judgment and the ability to lead Board discussion and strategy and policy development.
- An ability to think strategically, appropriately contribute their skills and experience, and follow-through on commitments.
- Excellent communication skills and the ability to work collaboratively and supportively as part of a small team.
- Good numeracy skills, to the extent required to understand and oversee AHLU's accounts, alongside the Treasurer and Chief Executive.
- A willingness to take part in fundraising activity and to share our story with national networks, existing/potential supporters, partners and influencers.
- A commitment to diversity and equality and improving access to educational opportunities for people from a range of different backgrounds.

Previous experience as a charitable trustee is desirable but not essential.

Application

To apply, please provide.

1) A CV of no more than two sides of A4; this should provide details of your educational background, employment history, directorships and trusteeships, membership of professional bodies and details of any publications or awards.

AND

2) A supporting covering letter of not more than two sides of A4, setting out how you meet the criteria – please make sure you refer to the chair responsibilities and person specification above.

Applications should be sent to chair@arthistorylinkup.org as soon as possible, and by 2nd June 2019 at the latest.

To talk to someone about the role, please contact Susan Adams, Vice Chair of Art History Link-Up on chair@arthistorylinkup.org to arrange a phone call.

Successful applicants will be invited to an interview with two of the current trustees at a mutually convenient time.

Additional Information

Time commitment

Trustees are expected to attend c.8 Board meetings a year in central London.

Additional time will be required to study papers, attend some meetings with the CEO, and to be available for providing advice and/or approvals by email in between Board meetings. It is anticipated that the Chair will work closely with the Chief Executive on strategic matters.

Remuneration

Trustee roles are unpaid. A term of three years will be offered in accordance with our governing document. Expenses are not usually paid, unless agreed in advance.

Recruitment policy

This is available to download from our website (in the 'apply' section) at www.arthistorylinkup.org.

Equal opportunities

It is the policy of Art History Link-Up to provide equal opportunities for all qualified individuals regardless of race, colour, religion, ethnic or national origin, sexual orientation, age, gender medical condition or disability in accordance with the Equality Guidance Act 2010.

Charitable status

The charity called Art History Link-Up (charity registration number 1172792) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (C.I.O.), registered address The Old Rectory, Wiggonholt, West Sussex RH20 2EL, for more information visit www.arthistorylinkup.org.

We look forward to receiving your application.

