

# MK Gallery

## General information

### Introduction

MK Gallery opened in October 1999 and provides a challenging and sometimes uncompromising programme of international contemporary art supported by an extensive learning programme. The gallery comprises around 300m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space, a video space, a reading space, a project space and a combined information desk and shop. We are situated just 30 minutes by train from central London. MK Gallery has had over 345,000 visitors since it launched, and is regarded as one of the UK's major contemporary art venues. For more details, visit [www.mkgallery.org](http://www.mkgallery.org).

**Our vision:** To be one of the UK's leading centres for the arts, with a national and international reputation for artistic excellence and innovation.

**Our mission:** To provide access to high quality, innovative and thought-provoking art from around the world and through our programme, stimulate participation and debate, building relationships between artists and audiences.

### Our values:

#### Quality of Life

- That creativity and the arts make a vital and necessary contribution to the quality of life of the community and the nation

#### Access & Diversity

- That access to the arts should be available to people from all sectors of the community.
- That art and artists offer an enduring opportunity for a different world view.

#### Education & Lifelong Learning

- The arts have a transformational power to change perceptions and change lives.
- The arts can lead people to a journey of self-awareness and self-knowledge.

## 2015-2018

Our 3-year plan sets out how we will build on the achievements of our first fifteen years with renewed energy as the gallery matures into a thriving, established, world class arts venue. At the heart of our plan is a £10.7 million capital expansion which is our response to the city's growth, which is set to double by 2040. Our new facilities will increase the size of our galleries, provide a fit for purpose education suite, create a multipurpose auditorium and a café/bar enabling us to become a social as well as cultural and educational destination, whilst achieving greater financial and environmental sustainability. We will produce an internationally recognised programme of contemporary visual arts and historical shows, complemented by an extensive engagement and outreach programme and a dynamic, multi-disciplinary events programme that showcases new and emerging talent, art house films and supports artists' professional development.

### Our 2015-2018 priorities

- **Programmes:** Maintain and enhance MK Gallery's reputation as a centre presenting interesting, exciting, diverse, innovative and accessible contemporary art, and develop its exhibition programme to encompass modern and historic visual arts. Continue to develop the range of its programming to complement the main exhibition programme and provide an on-going programme during the forthcoming construction period.
- **Audiences:** Ensure that more people benefit from the experience of engaging with MK Gallery; sustain a significant increase in visitors to the Gallery following completion of our capital projects, and raise awareness locally of our activities and facilities



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- **Sustainability:** Ensure MK Gallery's financial sustainability through the management of a capital investment, a long-term funding relationship with Milton Keynes Council, and by increasing income from other sources, so that there is a better balance between grants and other types of income. Manage organisational change in an expanding building by developing an efficient and effective staffing and management model.
- **Improving and expanding facilities:** Support our programme, audiences and sustainability priorities through the delivery of our capital programme of physical redevelopment and improvement of the Gallery. The improved and expanded Gallery will re-open in 2017/18.
- **Partnerships:** Maintain and develop partnerships with key stakeholders, such as Arts Council England, MK Council, MK Theatre, and the MK International Festival, alongside other local, regional, national and international peers and partners. Our approach to partnership is to prioritise the local and international, to support both the Gallery's audience development priorities and the civic ambition of Milton Keynes to develop a cultural reputation of international significance.

Anthony Spira  
Director



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## MK Gallery Governance

### Legal status

MK Gallery is a registered charity, number 1059678, and is a company limited by guarantee (registered number 2422890). The principal and registered address is 3 Theatre Walk, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3PX.

The Directors of the charitable company are its Trustees for the purposes of charity law. The Board of Trustees administers the charity. The Board consists of between 5-20 Trustees (currently 7), normally meets quarterly and has one sub-committee, the Performance Review Committee which meets quarterly with responsibility for finance and audit, HR and legal issues.

The role of the Trustees is strategic rather than operational. They delegate to the Gallery Director authority to manage operational matters including finance, employment, artistic programme and related education activity.

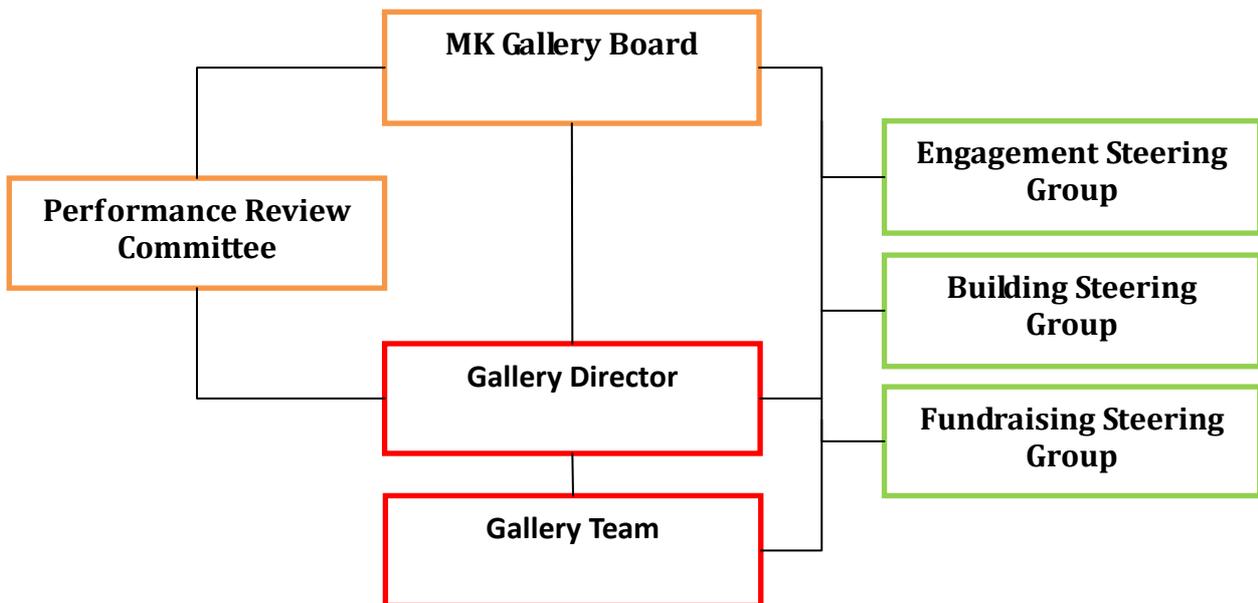
Trustees serve a term of three years with an optional further three years at the invitation of the Board; this ensures that there are the benefits both of stability and continuity and of regular replenishment. New Trustees are given appropriate briefings, training, formal induction and informal support.

### Charitable objectives

The formal 'charitable objects' as set out in the company's Articles of Association are: *'to promote, maintain, improve and advance the education and understanding of the public, particularly through the production and presentation of and engagement with the arts, visual culture and related areas of creative practice, and to formulate, prepare and establish projects and schemes therefore provided that all objects of the Company shall be of a charitable nature.'*

### Organisational structure

This has evolved throughout the organisation's history. The diagram below reflects the most up-to-date organisational structure at July 2015.



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# MK Gallery

## Current Board Members

### **Will Cousins** – *Chairman and Building/Construction Portfolio Holder*

A Partner at David Lock Associates, joined the Board in 2004. Will was appointed Chairman of the Board at the Company's AGM on 13th November 2008.

### **Kirsty Anson**

Kirsty is a philanthropist and Art Historian with a particular interest in 19th century painting. She has played a significant role in the transformation of Watts Gallery, a Victorian heritage project of national importance near Guildford in Surrey, and she continues to be closely involved. Kirsty currently chairs our Fundraising Steering Group.

### **Keith Baker** – *Finance Portfolio Holder*

Keith joined the Board in 2011. Keith is a Chartered Accountant, and after an international career was for some years a Partner at Mazars, Milton Keynes.

### **Caroline Devine**

Caroline is a Milton Keynes based sound artist whose practice investigates the boundaries between sound and music. She has undertaken a number of prestigious residencies and commissions and been shortlisted in the Sonic Art category of the British Composer Awards.

### **Clr Liz Gifford**

Liz is a Labour councillor for Stony Stratford Ward and the MK Council Cabinet member with responsibility for Community Services. She has held a number of senior posts in teaching and economic development.

### **Simon Ingram** - *Legal Portfolio Holder*

Simon joined the Board in 2011, and is Company Secretary. He is a Principal at EMW LLP, Milton Keynes, and a former Chair of MK Community Foundation.

### **Clr Pete Marland**

Pete is Leader of MK Council and one of the three Labour Councillors representing the Wolverton Ward, he studied Politics at the University of Liverpool and has worked in both the public and private sector.

### **Jacky Scott** – *Communications/Community Engagement Portfolio Holder*

Jacky joined the Board in 2008, having served on our Theatre Committee, is the former CEO of The Stables, Wavendon and was an arts management consultant.

### **John Skelton** – *Fundraising Portfolio Holder*

John joined the Board in 2011, and is an experienced publisher of specialist to broader academic books, with a business understanding of this competitive field.

### **Neil Smith**

Neil retired from a senior role at John Laing Investments in 2012 after a 47 year career with the company and brings a wealth of experience in capital development to the Board. Neil currently chairs the Building Steering Group.

### **Jill Stansfield** – *Vice-Chair and HR Portfolio Holder*

Jill joined the Board in 2008 having previously served on our Gallery Committee. Jill was Executive Director for Communities at Barnet Council. Jill also Chairs our Performance Review Committee.



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## **Douglass Welch**

Douglass Welch works within the international financial investment sector as is a Director at UniCredit Bank AG having previously worked in a number of locations across the world.

## **Recruitment process**

MK Gallery is currently seeing new trustees to join its Board. It has vacancies for exceptional trustees with experience of the education. These positions are voluntary and require a commitment of around three - five hours a month. A role description is attached below.

Individuals are asked to send a short expression of interest and a CV/biography outlining their key skills and interests to the Chairman, Will Cousins (via our Head of Operations, Niki Braithwaite at [nbraithwaite@mkgallery.org](mailto:nbraithwaite@mkgallery.org)).

Candidates will then be invited to join the Chairman and Director for an informal interview/discussion of the role before a recommendation is put to the full Board for approval.

For further information, or to arrange an initial informal discussion with the Gallery Director or Chairman, contact Niki Braithwaite on 01908 558 321.



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# MK Gallery

## Role Description for Directors

### Accountable to: Chairman of the Board

#### Role Summary

Directors take a full part in the corporate business of the Board and also may provide specialist expertise in a given field and advise the Board accordingly. Candidates will need to demonstrate skill in the analysis of complex problems, experience in reasoned debate and negotiation over potentially contentious issues plus creativity in generating solutions that can gain widespread acceptance. Good communication skills both written and oral are important. Enthusiasm and commitment are essential.

#### Responsibilities

- To ensure that the Company complies with its governing document, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations
- To ensure that the Company pursues its objects as defined in its governing document
- To ensure the Company applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects
- To regularly attend meetings of the Board and to contribute positively to decision-making and management processes
- To be prepared to lead on specific actions arising from Board meetings
- To take part in any other Board business taking place between meetings as deemed necessary by the Chairman
- To contribute to committees and ad hoc working parties as appropriate
- To take part in the strategic reviews undertaken by the Board and to take the lead in terms of specific objectives where appropriate. To contribute to the strategic vision of the company
- To undertake development and training in order to ensure that Board members are kept up to date on matters concerning the specialist areas in which the director brings expertise to the Board or external issues such as changes to legislation which affect the working of the company
- To be able to interpret data of a financial and business nature for discussion and action at Board meetings
- To take an active interest in community related issues and to promote the company's activities with external agencies
- To support the company's equality and diversity strategy and demonstrate an on-going commitment to it
- As a member of the Board to provide visible leadership within the company and to contribute towards the maintenance of effective and proactive relationships with the gallery and theatre management
- To contribute to the establishment and maintenance of effective communication channels to allow good information flows to operate

All Board members must uphold confidentiality of information with respect to the Company and be aware of the responsibilities placed on them under the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Experience has shown that Trustees can expect there to be an average time commitment of around three to five hours per month to Mk Gallery business.



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