

THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

Appointment of Trustee to the Board



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Welcome

Thank you for your interest in joining The Hepworth Wakefield trust board.

Since opening in 2011, The Hepworth Wakefield has established itself as one of the most successful public art galleries in the UK, enjoying an outstanding reputation, critical acclaim for its exhibitions and growing art collection, and broad audience engagement and reach. Now in our second decade, we are focused on new and inspiring strategic priorities that have artistic excellence and environmental and financial sustainability as core objectives. These priorities are supported by a robust business plan that will ensure our long-term financial security.

It is an exciting time to join us as we work with our new neighbours, Tileyard North, to establish Wakefield Waterfront as a vibrant community of creative industries, art, music, and hospitality for the benefit of all our visitors. We have secured Levelling Up funding for two important capital projects – a Garden Workshop & Yard, and a new playground – which will enhance our relationship with our local communities and offer new commercial opportunities. We continue to work with our peer organisations Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Henry Moore Institute and Leeds Art Gallery to deliver Yorkshire Sculpture International (YSI) in 2027. YSI is a core pillar of both Wakefield and West Yorkshire's Destination Management Plans to enhance tourism in our region and reinforce Wakefield's position as the capital of sculpture in the UK.

We are now looking for Trustees to join our board and share their skills and experience to help us develop and build on our achievements as a significant, valued and resilient organisation. We are particularly interested in individuals with expertise in the following areas:

- Fundraising and philanthropy in the cultural sector
- Legal expertise
- Finance
- Digital systems

If you have relevant skills, experience and connections that you would like to share to help us develop, alongside a passion for the visual arts and an interest in supporting an outstanding charitable organisation, we very much look forward to hearing from you.

Steve Langan

Chair of The Hepworth Wakefield

Our History

The Hepworth Wakefield opened in 2011 to house Wakefield's art collection and provide a legacy for Barbara Hepworth in the town in which she was born and grew up. The original Wakefield Art Gallery was established in 1934 and became one of the most forward-thinking galleries of its time, supporting artists including Hepworth and Moore early in their careers. The gallery built a collection of works by some of the most significant and avant-garde British artists of the 20th century. Supporting contemporary artists and strategically developing the collection for future generations is something The Hepworth Wakefield continues to be committed to today.

In 1996, Wakefield Council started to promote the benefits of investing in a new, purpose-built art gallery, which would act as a catalyst for wider regeneration, attract tourism and inward investment, and increase local pride.

The generous donation of The Hepworth Family Gift to Wakefield by Hepworth's daughters via the Art Fund was integral to the development of the new gallery. The 44 plaster and aluminium prototypes, together with the artist's work bench and tools are on permanent display in galleries dedicated to Barbara Hepworth's working practice.

In 2003, Wakefield Council launched an international competition to find an architect to design the new art gallery for Wakefield. This led to the appointment of David Chipperfield Architects.

The Hepworth Wakefield opened in 2011 to international acclaim, reaching its initial annual target of 150,000 visitors in the first five weeks. In 2013, The Hepworth Wakefield won the Clore Learning Award for its ambitious and innovative learning programme and in 2017, was named Art Fund Museum of the Year. In 2019, The Hepworth Wakefield Garden was created, transforming the gallery's outdoor site into an inspiring free public garden, designed by leading landscape architect, Tom Stuart-Smith and presenting a rolling programme of outdoor sculptures. We have added over £55 million worth of works to the collection through philanthropy since the gallery opened.

To mark The Hepworth Wakefield's 10th anniversary in 2021, the gallery organised the largest exhibition of Barbara Hepworth's work since the artist's death in 1975, which has toured to numerous venues across the UK from Edinburgh to St Ives and in Europe. Since then, we have significantly grown our programme of touring exhibitions nationally and internationally, introducing many more people to our brand.



Barbara Hepworth, *Mother and Child*, 1934
Purchased by Wakefield Corporation in 1951
© Bowness. Photo: Jerry Hardman-Jones

Vision, Mission and Values

OUR VISION

To be recognised as one of the world's leading art galleries, creating unforgettable art experiences for all, while inspiring positive change locally.

OUR MISSION

To create experiences that inspire, captivate, surprise and enhance everyone's lives.

OUR VALUES

Embrace innovation

From the way we work with colleagues and partners, to how we present our collections and exhibitions in an ever-changing world, we're always exploring new ways to innovate. Art doesn't stand still. Nor do we.

Be bold

Our people, our location, our building and our programming are all proof of how ambitious we are. We embrace a spirit of adventure to challenge and surprise. We create impact in everything we do to engage people in creative experiences.

Be open

Being open means we are inclusive, we collaborate freely and fairly, and are generous with our time and knowledge. We are welcoming and make the experiences we offer accessible to everyone.

Quality matters

We strive to achieve the highest possible quality. Being world-class is our goal, and everyone has a role to play in ensuring that excellence runs through every aspect of our work.



Our Exhibition Programme

We present major temporary exhibitions of the best international modern and contemporary art, attracting both local visitors and driving tourism to Wakefield. Showcasing the achievements of artists at all stages of their career and supporting emerging local talent are central to our vision. Using Wakefield's art collection as a starting point for our programme, we aim to balance international significance with local relevance and work to connect our exhibitions to our local area and audience. We have presented the first major UK exhibition of many international artists including Igshaan Adams (2024), Sheila Hicks (2022), Cristina Quarles (2019), Magdalene Odundo (2019), Lynda Benglis (2015) and Dana Schutz (2013) and highlighted the careers of important artists overlooked in art history including Gertrude Hermes (2015), Alina Szapocznikow (2017) and Helen Chadwick (2025).

We are a founding partner of Yorkshire Sculpture International (YSI) together with Henry Moore Foundation, Leeds Art Gallery and Yorkshire Sculpture Park. YSI was devised to build the reputation of West Yorkshire as the home of sculpture in the UK, support local artists and encourage broad engagement with sculpture. In 2019 we delivered the largest festival dedicated to sculpture in the UK, during which 1 million people experienced sculpture in Leeds and Wakefield. Our next festival is planned for 2027.

Alongside our exhibitions we run a thriving programme of fairs and markets, enabling our audiences to buy products direct from artists and makers. Each year we host a Print Fair (March), Ceramics Fair (June), Harvest Festival (September) and 2 x Festive Market weekends (Nov & Dec). This year we have launched a new series of more intimate markets – House of Makers – responding to key seasonal events. We hold 2 x selling exhibitions in our café each year and run a public events programme including artist talks, thematic conferences and film screenings. We also offer a strand of pop-up dining events that respond to the programme, such as our Surrealism Supper Club, or wider seasonal events, such as our Rhubarb Supper Club.

Over the last year we have undertaken a comprehensive review of our digital presence, platforms, engagement and capabilities, with an ambition to drive new audiences, income streams and partnerships. We have devised some innovative digital projects for which we are now seeking funding to deliver.

Installation image of *Disobedient Bodies*:
JW Anderson Curates The Hepworth Wakefield,
March 2017. Photo: Lewis Ronald (Plastiques)



Installation image of *Magdalene Odundo*:
The Journey of Things, February 2019.
Photo: Lewis Ronald (Plastiques)

Installation image of *Sheila Hicks*:
Off Grid, May 2022. Photo: Tom Bird



The Collection

The Hepworth Wakefield is home to Wakefield's important art collection, which has strengths in modern British and contemporary art and covers many media including sculpture, ceramics, paintings, works on paper, and textiles. The collection was established in 1923 with the aim of nurturing an understanding of contemporary art and its relation to modern life – a collecting principle still followed by The Hepworth Wakefield today. We continue to strategically grow Wakefield's art collection through fundraising & philanthropy to address historic gaps and ensure it remains an important living collection that reflects our culturally diverse society.

'It's clear that The Hepworth has had an impact on Wakefield at many levels. In an area knocked hard by the loss of many traditional industries, David Chipperfield's riverside gallery has enriched the public realm and its success has clearly given the city a new confidence... it has opened new and wider horizons for its visitors and especially for its young women. And despite its national and international resonance, it remains just as firmly embedded in its place, in this part of Yorkshire, as the artist whose story it principally tells.'

Neil MacGregor, BBC Radio 4, March 2022

Installation images of *A Living Collection*, April 2022.
Left: Phyllida Barlow, *RIG: untitled*; stagechairs, 2011;
Stefanie Heinze, *Parasol (STICK THER F BOI)*, 2021.
Photo: George Baggaley.

Right: Henry Moore, *Two Piece Reclining Figure No. 4*, 1962;
Alvaro Barrington, *Em reclining sofa bed w/ Burberry pillow*, 2021. Photo: David Lindsay



Our Learning Programme

Inspiring creativity and providing opportunities for people of all ages to be creative has been at the heart of our mission since The Hepworth Wakefield was established. Our award-winning learning programme is devised in response to local need and is regularly reviewed in consultation with diverse groups to ensure our activities and engagement tools are inclusive for all. We work closely with Wakefield Council to respond to their strategic priorities to raise aspirations, achievement and wellbeing in the District. Through our impactful school projects we support teachers to encourage creative thinking across the curriculum and demonstrate the transformative impact of sustained work over several years.

"In all my years of teaching I've never experienced a project like this, it's been wonderful!"

Teacher, Shay Lane Primary School

"The Hepworth was absolutely amazing, there was loads of incredible artworks and we also got to learn about Barbara Hepworth, which was really awesome because I like learning a lot about history and I love art."

Pupil, Crofton Junior School

"I enjoyed the sculptures because I hadn't seen anything like that before."

Pupil, Walton Primary Academy

"I was surprised to see how big the sculptures were – it was incredible!"

Pupil, Walton Primary Academy



Role Description

Our Board

A list of THW Trustees is available on the website -

<https://hepworthwakefield.org/our-story/about-us/our-board-of-trustees/>.

All members of the Board serve in an individual capacity and are responsible for supporting THW as a whole. All members are unpaid, non-executive Directors of the Limited Company and registered charity, so Board members are also Trustees and subject to charity law. Our current Chair, Steve Langan, joined the Board in 2022 and has since collaborated with the Executive Team on the direction of the organisation.

The Role

THW is inviting applications for Trustees who will bring senior leadership experience, a passion for the non-profit arts, strong commercial acumen, and the gravitas to lead the development of the museum and execution of its strategy to achieve its mission.

Areas of expertise we are particularly interested in adding to our Board, though not exclusively, include:

- Fundraising and philanthropy in the cultural sector
- Legal expertise
- Finance
- Digital systems

Time Commitment

Approximately 12 days per year (4 Board meetings + events + regular engagement)

Role Specification

Trustees will be responsible for collaborating with the Chair, the CEO/Director and the Executive Team to ensure that THW continues to play an essential role in the local, regional and national communities it serves, alongside our international ambitions. They will work with other Trustees to maintain the charity's mission and vision and contribute to the effective governance of the charity. They will also be requested to join the Finance Committee.

The Trustees will:

- Act in the best interests of THW, operating within the law and according to the governing documents of THW, as well as abiding by its policies and procedures
- Support the vision and mission of THW to be recognised as one of the world's leading art galleries, creating unforgettable art experiences for all, while inspiring positive change locally
- Be an advocate and champion for THW, promoting awareness of the museum and its fundraising activities, including your networks
- Be a representative of the organisation with stakeholders

Terms of Appointment

Trustees are appointed for an initial two or three-year term.

This is a voluntary and unremunerated position.

Expressions of Interest

Please send expressions of interest, with any relevant information included to recruitment@hepworthwakefield.org by Wednesday 1 October 2025.