



## Trustee Application Pack for ICOM UK Board 2026

### Welcome

Thank you for our interest in becoming a trustee for ICOM UK. We are currently seeking a new trustee to help us deliver our new strategy to support UK museums working internationally and connect members to the global museum community.

This is a particularly exciting time to join the ICOM UK Board. We have a diverse, strong and experienced board with a great mix of skills. We are delivering our Strategic Plan 2025-30 and rebuilding our executive function under the leadership of our Strategic Director. Our membership is growing and we are committed to improving our offer to members and extending our reach.

As a trustee, you would have an opportunity to shape ICOM UK's direction and activity both in the UK and internationally and contribute your experience for the benefit of our members and the sector.

ICOM UK is seeking to appoint a new trustee with a passion for the museum and heritage sector and working internationally, to the role of:

- Member for Northern Ireland

We have included information in this pack which we hope will encourage you to apply. If you would like an informal conversation or require any adjustments to the application process, please get in touch with our Co-Chairs:

Christian Baars: [Co-chair1@icomuk.org](mailto:Co-chair1@icomuk.org)

Maria Blyzinsky: [Co-chair2@icomuk.org](mailto:Co-chair2@icomuk.org)

## **Diversity on our Board**

We recognise that the most effective boards are ones which benefit from the lived experience of individuals from a diverse range of backgrounds, experience and skills. We are therefore committed to maintaining a diverse Board that includes multiple perspectives and ensures a broad representation of our members, although you do not need to be a member of ICOM UK to be a trustee.

We welcome applicants from all sections of the community and particularly encourage applications from disabled and neurodiverse candidates who are currently underrepresented on our Board.

We also welcome applications from sector professionals (including student members and early career professionals) and others with skills, knowledge and experience in the following areas, which would strengthen our Board:

- Business and membership development
- HR
- Income generation
- IT
- Legal
- Language skills (ICOM's official languages are English, French and Spanish; we also welcome members with additional language skills)

## **About ICOM UK**

ICOM UK is the UK's only museum alliance with a dedicated international focus. As a professional membership organisation, we connect members based in the United Kingdom and the UK's overseas territories to the global museum community. Through participation in collaborative projects and with a lively events programme, ICOM UK actively contributes towards the international heritage agenda. Our bursary scheme is designed to help our members participate in international museum activity.

Our current priorities include:

- Protecting cultural heritage at risk.
- Contributing towards best practice in decolonisation.
- Cultural heritage and climate action.
- Placing museums at the heart of cultural diplomacy.

ICOM UK contracts freelance staff to manage the organisation and delivery its operations. Currently the team includes:

- Strategic Director (0.6FTE)
- Administration & Membership Officer (0.6FTE)
- Marketing & Communications Officer (0.5FTE)

Trustees also play an active role in the organisation's operations including:

- Leading and participating in committees and working groups,
- Supporting the delivery of the annual conference and Student & Emerging Professionals programmes.

## **ICOM UK Membership**

ICOM UK currently has more than 3,500 members. Our membership has grown steadily and rapidly since 2019. Continuing to grow membership is a priority for ICOM UK, along with ensuring members receive the best possible value from their membership through an attractive benefits package.

Membership of ICOM UK currently offers a number of benefits including:

- Membership card providing free access to museums and galleries around the world
- Access to ICOM UK bursaries to support museums professionals to undertake international work.
- Priority booking for the annual conference
- Members only talks and events
- Monthly newsletter and regular news updates from the global museum sector
- Access to sector resources on working internationally
- Access to an international network of museum professionals through ICOM's International Committees

## About ICOM

<http://icom.museum/>

ICOM is a global organisation of museums and museum professionals. It consists of 139 national committees, of which ICOM UK is one. Since forming in 1946, membership of the whole ICOM network has grown to over 60,000 members. Membership benefits include conferences, training opportunities and exchange programmes; involvement with subject specialist groups and international committees; access to an online library, practical tools and professional standards; as well as free or reduced-price entry to thousands of museums worldwide.

ICOM has five main missions:

- establish standards of excellence
- lead a diplomatic forum
- develop a professional network
- lead a global think tank
- carry out international missions

## Trustee Roles for ICOM UK

ICOM UK is currently seeking a new trustee to join our Board in the following role:

### **Member for Northern Ireland**

We seek a museums and heritage sector professional from Northern Ireland to join our Board as Member for Northern Ireland, to help ICOM UK continue and expand its relationship with sector partners in Northern Ireland. The role will lead on ensuring the interests of members in Northern Ireland are represented in ICOM UK planning and decision-making processes, inform the Board about developments in, and facilitate liaison with, the Northern Irish museum sector.

## **The Role of Trustees**

To be a trustee of an organisation is an engaging and fulfilling role. Trustees ensure that ICOM UK abides by and fulfils its charitable objectives. The Board of Trustees must always act in the best interests of ICOM UK.

Trustees support the Co-Chairs and are responsible for providing oversight, governance and leadership to ICOM UK in order to fulfil its strategic and charitable purposes.

Trustees lead or form committees and/or working groups to develop and deliver focussed areas of ICOM UK's strategic plan.

The ICOM UK Board includes members from all four nations of the UK (Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and England) as well as the UK's so-called Overseas Territories.

### **The statutory duties of a trustee are:**

- To ensure the organisation complies with its governing document, known as the constitution.
- To ensure that the organisation pursues its objectives as defined in the governing document.
- To ensure the organisation applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objectives – the charity must not spend money on activities which are not included in its own objectives, no matter how 'charitable' and 'worthwhile' those activities are.
- To contribute actively to the Board of Trustees' role in giving firm strategic direction, setting overall policy, defining goals, setting targets and evaluating performance.
- To monitor the performance of the CEO (Strategic Director).
- To ensure the effective and efficient administration of the organisation.
- To ensure the financial stability of the organisation.
- To protect and manage the property of the organisation and to ensure proper investment of the organisation's funds.

- To safeguard the good name and values of the organisation.

In addition, with other trustees, to hold the charity 'in trust' for the current and future beneficiaries by:

- Ensuring the charity has a clear vision, mission and strategic direction and is focussed on achieving these.
- Being responsible for the performance of the charity and for ensuring the charity complies with legal and regulatory requirements.
- Acting as guardians of the charity's assets, both tangible and intangible, taking due care over their security, deployment and proper application.
- Ensuring that the charity's governance is of the highest possible standard.

As well as the statutory duties, any trustee should make full use of any specific skills, knowledge and experience to help the Board make good decisions.

## **What is involved?**

Trustees use their expertise and networks to support the work of ICOM UK, they advocate for the organisation and develop ICOM UK's influence through partnerships and fundraising. There are additional opportunities to lead / join committees and working groups to develop and deliver focussed areas of work for ICOM UK.

### **Term**

ICOM UK Trustees serve for a term of 3-years, which can be renewed once. In addition, Trustees can serve up to two 3-year terms in one of the formal roles (Co-Chair, Secretary, Finance Lead, Head of the Bursary Committee), up to a maximum of 12 years in total.

Trustees are required to attend up to four Board meetings (usually online) a year, plus the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and an annual Strategy Planning Day, and actively contribute to ICOM UK's work between meetings. We also encourage trustees to attend ICOM UK's events, including the annual conference, and the Students & Emerging Professionals events programme.

### **Time Commitment & Ways of Working**

The annual commitment for Trustees is approximately 12 days. ICOM UK does not have a physical office and all contractors and volunteers work remotely. Board meetings are held online. In-person meetings can be held anywhere in the UK.

### **Remuneration**

The position is not remunerated but Trustees can claim for travel expenses for one in-person Board meeting per year (exceptions can be agreed with the Co-Chairs where necessary to enable Trustees to fully participate).

**Each trustee must have:**

- A passion for international collaboration in the museum, gallery or heritage sector.
- A commitment to the work of ICOM UK and ICOM, comply with the Code of Ethics, and advocate for the organisation.
- A willingness to meet the time requirement for being a trustee, including regular attendance at Board meetings.
- A commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion
- Integrity and good, independent judgement
- A willingness to speak their mind and contribute their skills and experience
- An ability to work effectively as a member of a team and to take decisions for the good of ICOM UK.
- Willingness to support and direct the work of the Executive in line with the strategy and including playing a part in committees/working groups.

## How to apply

If you are interested in joining the ICOM UK Board as a trustee, please submit your application by sending the following to [info@icomuk.org](mailto:info@icomuk.org) with the subject 'TRUSTEE':

- CV outlining relevant experience (no more than two sides of A4)
- An expression of interest in the trustee role to include what knowledge, skills and experience you would bring to the role, and what you personally hope to gain by becoming a trustee of ICOM UK. This can take the form of one of the following:
  - A written letter (no more than two sides of A4)
  - A film or audio recording (up to 5 minutes length)
  - A visual representation (e.g. a PowerPoint, mindmap, etc)

If sending audio or video files, please send via WeTransfer to [info@icomuk.org](mailto:info@icomuk.org).

**The deadline for applications is: 9am on Monday 20 April 2026**

If you would like an informal telephone conversation or Teams meeting with one of our Co-Chairs prior to submitting an application, you can contact them directly using the email addresses below:

Christian Baars: [Co-chair1@icomuk.org](mailto:Co-chair1@icomuk.org)

Maria Blyzinsky: [Co-chair2@icomuk.org](mailto:Co-chair2@icomuk.org)

Once applications have been reviewed, we will invite suitable candidates to an interview. The panel will include current trustees and the Strategic Director. Prior to the interview a list of discussion points will be shared with you.

Thank you for your interest in the trustees roles. For further information about ICOM UK visit: [ICOM UK - Museums have no borders](#)

For questions and / or an informal conversation, please contact:

Christian Baars, Co-Chair, ICOM UK: [Co-chair1@icomuk.org](mailto:Co-chair1@icomuk.org)

Maria Blyzinsky: Co-Chair, ICOM UK [Co-chair2@icomuk.org](mailto:Co-chair2@icomuk.org)

To submit your application, please email: [info@icomuk.org](mailto:info@icomuk.org)



<https://uk.icom.museum>