

# Project Board National Contemporary Art Gallery Wales

## Vacancy for Independent Chair

Remuneration £7,000 per annum. Fixed Term 2 years.

### About us

Amgueddfa Cymru, the National Library of Wales and the Arts Council of Wales is working together in the creation, governance, leadership, management, and delivery of the National Contemporary Art Gallery Wales.

Through this partnership the three organisations seek to deliver the commitment of the Welsh Government through its Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru for the establishment of this unique flagship project for Wales which will provide a focal point for contemporary visual artists and communities across Wales, alongside national and international audiences.

The establishment of a National Contemporary Art Gallery Wales is a priority for Welsh Government and has the potential to deliver strategic benefits that align directly with The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and a range of other interconnected policies including education, economy and health.

The Arts Council of Wales, Amgueddfa Cymru and The National Library of Wales have been identified as the most appropriate bodies to establish the National Contemporary Art Gallery given their strategic role in delivering the cultural ambitions of the Welsh Government.

Collaborative working is a crucial strength of the project, primarily between Amgueddfa Cymru (and its commitment to democratise access to the nation’s collection), the Arts Council of Wales (and its objectives to support the creative community of Wales), and The National Library of Wales (and its objectives to make our culture and heritage accessible to all to learn, research and enjoy).

### Who we are

### Arts Council Wales

The Arts Council of Wales is an independent charity established by Royal Charter in 1994. It is also a Welsh Government Sponsored Body and the country’s official public body for funding and developing the arts. It is the official distributor of National Lottery arts funding in Wales.

Every day, people across Wales are enjoying and taking part in the arts. The Arts Council of Wales helps to support and grow this activity through its strategic expertise, partnerships, and funding. In so doing, the Arts Council contributes to people’s quality of life and to the cultural, social and economic well-being of Wales.

The Arts Council of Wales’ current mission is “Making the arts central to the life and wellbeing of the nation” and its strategy is:

* Make: nurturing talent, creativity and capability
* Reach: encouraging more people to enjoy and take part in the arts
* Sustain: supporting a dynamic and resilient arts sector

The Arts Council of Wales works to create an environment in which the arts are better able to flourish - an environment which:

* Identifies and nurtures creative talent, to its full potential, fully embracing equality and diversity
* Supports and celebrates imagination, innovation and ambition
* Nurtures creativity through the medium of Welsh and English
* Enables artists to develop a professional career in Wales and organisations to exploit new markets for their work
* Inspires young people to develop their creative potential
* Offers a range of arts experiences for audiences to enjoy and take part
* Finds new places and ways for people to participate in the arts
* Is international in outlook and ambitious for the international success of Wales’ artists
* Recognises the fundamental importance of sustainability

### Amgueddfa Cymru

As Wales's national museums body, Amgueddfa Cymru has a statutory duty on behalf of the nation, established by Act of Parliament at its foundation in 1908 and reaffirmed through its Royal Charter when renewed in 2006, to acquire and care for the national collections and to achieve ‘comprehensive representation of science, art [and] history of, or relevant to, Wales’ for ‘the advancement of the public’.

Amgueddfa Cymru’s new strategy to 2030 outlines its vision:

It states: “Everyone has a right to feel they belong, to make sense of their past, and to see a path to a better future. As we embrace the challenges of our age, we can be a place of hope for people everywhere. By sharing creativity and curiosity, on new journeys of discovery, debate and joy, we all become part of Wales’ story”.

Over the next ten years our staff and volunteers will be more present in every region of Wales, working with our community partners, local museums and galleries, universities, local authorities and third-sector organisations across our nation through: programmes with schools, communities and volunteers; exhibitions that celebrate people’s stories in Wales and internationally; online events, activities, festivals and resources; research that protects the environment, and reflects people’s creativity and life experiences; sharing collections and skills; support for the health and social care sectors.

Amgueddfa Cymru’s commitments to 2030 are: We’ll work with people and communities across Wales, through collections, public programmes and partnerships to:-

* Put the Planet first
* Create Digital Experiences
* Learn and Create
* Support Well-Being
* Make sure that everyone is represented
* Inspire creativity and learning for life
* Build global connections

### National Library of Wales

The National Library of Wales’ mission is to collect, preserve and give access to all kinds and forms of recorded knowledge, especially relating to Wales and the Welsh and other Celtic peoples, for the benefit of the public, including those engaged in research and learning.

In its Strategic Plan 2021-26, The National Library of Wales sets out the priorities for development that will ensure that it continues to deliver its mission effectively over the next five years and beyond.

Its primary responsibility is towards the people of Wales today along with future generations. Its actions will reflect this alignment with the interests of Wales, along with its responsibility to deliver its mission effectively and sustainably.

* Well-being: The National Library of Wales is a library for the whole of Wales, and contributes positively to global well-being. We have a key contribution to make in achieving the seven goals of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
* Social impact: We will promote an equal, fair and inclusive society, working to eradicate poverty, and provide a safe platform and space where we can have a healthy, honest and open discussion about all aspects of Welsh life.
* Sustainability: We accept our responsibility to respond to the global climate crisis by mitigating the environmental impact of our operations.
* Diversity: In collecting, preserving and giving access to knowledge, we are committed to working towards diversity, reflecting the diverse backgrounds and experiences of the people of Wales, and to ensuring that our collections and services are accessible to everyone of all backgrounds and abilities.
* The Welsh language: We will promote the Welsh language and encourage its use in all our activities.

### Our Vision

The three partners share a vision for the delivery of a unique national project based upon a dispersed model of galleries across Wales, enhanced by the host galleries and an anchor site. The Gallery will operate upon principles of co-creation and co-curation with contemporary artists and the communities of Wales, drawing upon the contemporary collections of Amgueddfa Cymru and the National Library of Wales and through the commissioning of artists.

A core aim of The National Contemporary Art Gallery Wales is to grow the audience for visual art. This is with an understanding that contemporary art in particular has a strong appeal to younger and more diverse audiences that are not strongly represented in gallery attendance in Wales. The potential for the project to support young and emerging artists of all ages will be a core focus and activities will be designed to ensure that inclusion and accessibility are enshrined in everything that the project does.

National Contemporary Art Gallery Wales will deliver this vision by:

* Increasing access to contemporary art to more people across Wales
* Ensuring that access to the national contemporary art collection is free
* Making contemporary art a stronger part of the health and wellbeing of communities
* Providing learning opportunities, especially for young people
* Investing in existing infrastructure to improve capital facilities
* Additional investment in exhibitions and programmes of work
* Creating opportunities for contemporary artists living and working in Wales
* Creating new jobs within the sector
* Increased profile and status of contemporary art in Wales, with potential for local tourism and tourism from outside Wales
* Alignment with other existing digitisation projects
* A project jointly delivered by all three partner organisations working collaboratively

As internationally recognised institutions, Amgueddfa Cymru and the National Library have significant “pull” for expert talent, with many of their departments attracting international scholars to take on key, specialist roles. They both have excellent UK and international networks and work in partnership with Welsh organisations such as Artes Mundi and the Welsh Universities to connect with potential candidates.

Significant consultation has taken place with the sector to understand demand and interest in the development of a National Gallery of Contemporary Art. The wide-ranging feasibility report produced by Event in 2018 showed significant support for the concept from venues, artists and other professionals working in the sector. This interest and willingness to support the project has been reinforced by the detailed development study undertaken by Rural Office of Architecture.

### Role Description

The Chair has a pivotal role in leading the Project Board. As Chair, you will work closely with Welsh Government, Arts Council of Wales, Amgueddfa Cymru and the National Library of Wales to deliver a distributed National Contemporary Art Gallery Wales. This requires a highly committed, enthusiastic and motivated individual who can steer the Project Board through the challenges facing the visual arts sector during tough economic times. We are looking for a person who recognises the significant of the opportunity to create a National Contemporary Art Gallery,

The role of the Chair will be to:

* Provide effective leadership for the Project Board and representing the views of the Project Board to Ministers and the general public;
* Act in a way which promotes high standard of propriety and public finance and ensure that the Project Board’s activities are conducted efficiently and effectively;

### Person Specification

Prospective candidates will be expected to possess the following qualities and you should reflect these in your personal statement which will be submitted as part of the application process:

### Essential

* Extensive knowledge of the arts in Wales and a keen interest in contemporary visual arts and the future development of the role of the arts throughout Wales, the UK and internationally.
* An understanding of current Welsh Government, Arts Council, Amgueddfa Cymru and National Library of Wales priorities and initiatives and how these can best be delivered within the context of this project.
* The ability to command the confidence of Ministers, fellow Board members, stakeholders and employees.
* The ability to lead a team and operate in an environment of change.

You will also be expected to possess the following skills:

* Experience of working at Board level or within an equivalent, complex organisation with an understanding of governance, accountability and financial responsibility.
* Experience of leading the development and implementation of strategies aimed at achieving political and organisational goals.
* The ability to build effective relationships and represent the Project Board as necessary.
* The ability to think strategically, creatively and to impartially find solutions, as well as to create and develop a long term vision.

### Desirable

* Welsh language skills.

### Equalities

* We welcome applications from people irrespective of disability, gender, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnic origin or religious beliefs.
* We are committed to working with those whose background and/or identity is under-represented in the arts, and in org Arts Council of Wales. This includes, but is not limited to, those from Black, Asian and ethnically diverse backgrounds, from lower socio-economic backgrounds, d/Deaf, neurodivergent, disabled people or those with long-term health difficulties and those with LGBTQIA+ identities.

### Location

At present the Project Board meets once a month virtually. In the future it may be required to meet in varying locations across Wales.

### Expenses

The role is reimbursed at £7,000 per annum. The Chair is able to claim reimbursements for travel and subsistence costs in carrying out the duties of the appointment as a matter of course.

We will also provide personal access support costs, as required.

### Minimum days required

2

### Minimum days per

Month

### Welsh Language

Welsh language skills are desirable

Welsh language skills are one of the skills that will assist in fulfilling the duties of the role satisfactorily, but are not essential to it. However, they will bring a valuable skill that will strengthen the ability of the project as a whole to provide an effective and efficient bilingual service.

### How to apply

Should you wish to find out more about the roles or have an informal discussion please contact richard.nicholls@arts.wales

Application is by CV and a brief covering letter (no more than two sides of A4) addressing the requirements of the role, along with the contact details of two references and an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Monitoring Form. If you would like to submit your application in an alternative format, such as voice note or British Sign Language video, please contact us first.

Applications should be sent to: richard.nicholls@arts.wales by 12:00pm (midday) on **10 March 2023.**

Applications from culturally and ethnically diverse people and underrepresented groups are encouraged and warmly welcomed. Applications are welcomed in Welsh or English and we will correspond with you in your language of choice. Applications submitted in Welsh will be treated no less favourably than applications submitted in English. We aim to take positive steps to ensure that all candidates are selected for vacancies solely on their suitability for the role.

### Interview Date

To be confirmed