

V&A Dundee

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF
SCOTLAND'S DESIGN MUSEUM

Search Partner:
Meekison MacKinnon & McGhee

V&A



V&A DUNDEE

V&A Dundee is Scotland's design museum, on a mission to inspire and empower through design.

We are a creative catalyst, a pivotal part of a city transforming, and a proud member of the V&A family of museums that celebrate design and creativity.

Our aims are to:

- Generate joy and spark curiosity in design for all our audiences
- Grow our civic role as a museum and deepen our social impact
- Become Scotland's design champion
- Cultivate an organisation that values our people, audiences and planet
- Prosper as a sustainable organisation for the long term

Design shapes our world, it's part of everyday life and it's everywhere. We are a museum with energy and have a vision of the future where everyone is inspired through design and recognises its far-reaching impact in our lives.

Design brings joy and wonder, and it is a way to understand our ever-changing world. It can give us the agency, skills, and confidence to understand the past, to shape our own futures, and to explore how we can design better with and for people and planet.

We champion design and designers and want to share the infinite possibilities they bring as catalysts of creativity and change. Our spectacular home is Dundee's reimagined waterfront. We are a pivotal part of a city transforming. We reach out across Dundee, Scotland, the UK, and the world, sharing and gathering stories and ideas about design from Scotland and beyond.



CAT

OF TH

UNTIL 17 JANUAR

CHAIR'S WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in joining V&A Dundee's Board.

V&A Dundee is Scotland's design museum and the first V&A in the world outside of London. We opened in 2018 and in a few short years we have generated significant impact for Scotland of over £300 million and welcomed over 2.5 million visitors, an incredible achievement in a city of 150,000 residents.

V&A Dundee has a mission to inspire and empower through design. From its home on Dundee's waterfront, it plays a vital role in the city's transformation bringing design to life by sharing Scotland's design stories to audiences at home and internationally, as well as bringing design from all over the world to Scotland.

The museum is a driver of economic growth in Dundee and the wider Tayside region, creating jobs, supporting new and established businesses, and attracting global attention and investment. V&A Dundee is a catalyst for the ongoing regeneration of this great city, including plans for the forthcoming Eden Project Scotland.

This is a unique and exciting organisation that draws great strength from its Founding Partnership of the V&A, Abertay University, Dundee City Council, Scottish Enterprise and the University of Dundee, as well as our core support from the Scottish Government.

Our Board works closely with the museum's leadership team, led by its Director, Leonie Bell. Our new Board members will have the opportunity to contribute to the many successes of this Scottish icon and to oversee and inform the next stage of its development.

The Board is seeking new members who can bring experience, energy, networks and varied perspectives to the next exciting chapter of V&A Dundee. This is a chance to support a museum with a compelling vision, deep social purpose, ambition and long-term potential to deepen its impacts.

V&A Dundee requires a Board that draws from people with different professional and personal backgrounds to support and challenge the museum as it grows. We are looking for candidates who care about the role design plays in society and who will bring energy, exceptional professional experience, and a range of diverse perspectives to our Board.

As we look forward to the museum's tenth year in 2028, we have started a bold programme to transform the visitor experience and the Scottish Design Galleries. With support from the UK Government, this will ensure V&A Dundee remains dynamic and ambitious, deepening its impact in the city, in Scotland and around the world.

We very much look forward to hearing from you.

Tim Allan CBE





BOARD OPPORTUNITIES

This is an opportunity to help shape Scotland’s design museum as it enters a new phase of growth and ambition.

V&A Dundee is seeking three to five new Board members as current volunteer members complete their terms and the organisation prepares for a wider Board transition in 2028. This is a pivotal moment, with a major capital programme underway to transform the visitor experience and expand the Scottish Design Galleries.

The Board is looking for candidates who bring fresh perspectives, strategic insight and expertise. In particular there are two priority roles: the Finance & Risk Committee Chair, which also covers audit; and Cultural Leadership / Communication & External Affairs.

We are also keen to hear from individuals with expertise in architecture and design, digital innovation, commercial development, sustainability, and equality, diversity and inclusion.

V&A Dundee is especially interested in individuals with strong local and national networks, who can contribute positively to Board dynamics and governance, and help strengthen the museum’s role as a leading cultural organisation.

Finance & Risk Committee Chair

The Board’s priority appointment is a member who can Chair the Finance & Risk Committee and provide confident strategic oversight during a significant period of organisational growth and investment.

This individual will play a key role in supporting V&A Dundee’s long-term sustainability, governance and capital ambitions, helping oversee an organisation with annual revenues of approximately £8m alongside a major capital development programme.

Candidates will ideally bring elements of the following experience:

- A recognised financial qualification, ideally as a qualified accountant
- Senior financial leadership experience at Board or executive level
- Experience overseeing complex organisations or major capital projects
- Strong governance, audit and risk management expertise
- The ability to remain calm, pragmatic and solutions-focused under financial pressure
- An entrepreneurial, flexible and forward-thinking mindset
- Experience chairing finance and risk committees, equivalent governance structures and oversight of the audit
- Strong relationship-building skills and the ability to contribute positively to the Board
- An interest in culture, design, civic leadership or purpose-driven organisations

Cultural Leadership / Communications & External Affairs

V&A Dundee is also seeking Board members who can help strengthen the organisation’s profile, influence and advocacy at local, national and international levels.

Candidates may come from the cultural, creative, media, policy, civic or commercial sectors and will bring strategic communications expertise, influential networks and an understanding of contemporary public engagement. The Board is particularly interested in candidates with a strong Dundee or wider Scottish presence, alongside those who can bring national policy influence and external affairs expertise.

Candidates will ideally bring elements of the following experience:

- Senior leadership experience within culture, design, media, policy, civic or creative sectors
- Expertise in strategic communications, reputation management and public affairs
- The ability to advocate for the value of design and creativity across public and private sectors
- Established regional or national networks that could support partnerships and fundraising
- Experience navigating complex stakeholder environments and organisational transformation
- An understanding of Scotland’s cultural, political and civic landscape
- A commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, environmental responsibility, and alignment with values-led organisations
- A genuine commitment to the mission and ambitions of V&A Dundee

ROLE DESCRIPTION & PERSON SPECIFICATION

Responsibilities of a Board member include:

- Contributing to the effective leadership and governance of V&A Dundee
- Helping to shape and review the organisation's strategic direction and long-term ambitions
- Safeguarding the assets, reputation and sustainability of the organisation
- Ensuring the organisation operates within its charitable objectives and legal responsibilities
- Supporting and constructively challenging the executive team in a non-executive capacity
- Acting as an ambassador for V&A Dundee and advocating for its mission and impact
- Supporting the development of partnerships, networks and fundraising opportunities
- Contributing to Board Committees and strategic discussions where appropriate
- Helping foster a positive, collaborative and effective Board culture

Applicants should bring:

- A passion for design, creativity and the transformative role of culture in society
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- The ability to contribute strategically at Board level
- Sound judgement, integrity and collaborative working style
- A commitment to inclusion, diversity and equity
- An understanding of governance and organisational accountability
- Strong networks or the ability to build productive relationships
- The confidence to act as an advocate and ambassador for V&A Dundee
- Enthusiasm for supporting the museum's future ambitions and long-term impact





TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Time Commitment

The initial term of appointment will be for three years, with the potential for reappointment for a further maximum three-year term.

Board members are expected to attend approximately four Board meetings per year, alongside preparation time and participation in committee meetings where relevant. The Finance & Risk Committee meets four times a year, around three weeks before each Board meeting.

We will seek some of the new Board members to support the work of V&A Dundee Committees.

Additional time may occasionally be required for strategic workshops, events, stakeholder engagement and onboarding activities. A full induction and ongoing development programme will be provided.

Location

Board meetings are typically held at V&A Dundee in Dundee, with occasional meetings or events elsewhere in Scotland and the UK. Online attendance at meetings is possible, though in-person attendance is preferable to get to know the museum and build relationships with fellow Board members and the wider team.

Remuneration

Board member positions are unpaid voluntary appointments. Reasonable travel and subsistence expenses will be reimbursed.

Diversity & Inclusion

V&A Dundee is committed to building a diverse Board that reflects the communities it serves and welcomes applications from individuals of all backgrounds and experiences.

The organisation particularly welcomes applications from people currently underrepresented in cultural leadership and governance roles.

Due Diligence

Due diligence will be carried out as part of the recruitment process and may include referencing and public background searches.

How to Apply

Send your CV and a note of interest to Alix Meekison:
alix@meekisonmacmc.com

Closing date: 12pm, 17/07/26

Interviews will be held between 10/08/26 and 17/08/26



LEADING THE SEARCH

Who We Are

Meekison, MacKinnon & McGhee is a modern executive search and leadership advisory firm built on trust, expertise and partnership. We work alongside ambitious organisations to identify and appoint exceptional leaders.

Our Purpose

We believe great leadership changes everything. Our work is about more than filling positions, it's about connecting values, vision and people to create lasting organisational strength. Every engagement is grounded in insight, integrity and a deep understanding of the sectors we serve.

Our Difference

What sets us apart is our commitment to relationships. We combine strategic precision with genuine care, ensuring clients and candidates experience a transparent, collaborative process built around long-term success and mutual respect.

Design:
A Small Studio

Photography:
Grant Anderson, Frame Focus Capture Photography, Michael McGurk, Alan Richardson



LET'S CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION

To express interest in becoming a Board member of V&A Dundee, please contact Meekison, MacKinnon & McGhee in confidence.

Candidates are invited to share a CV and short note outlining their interest, relevant experience and what they would hope to contribute.

alix@meekisonmacmc.com

www.meekisonmacmc.com/vadundee

