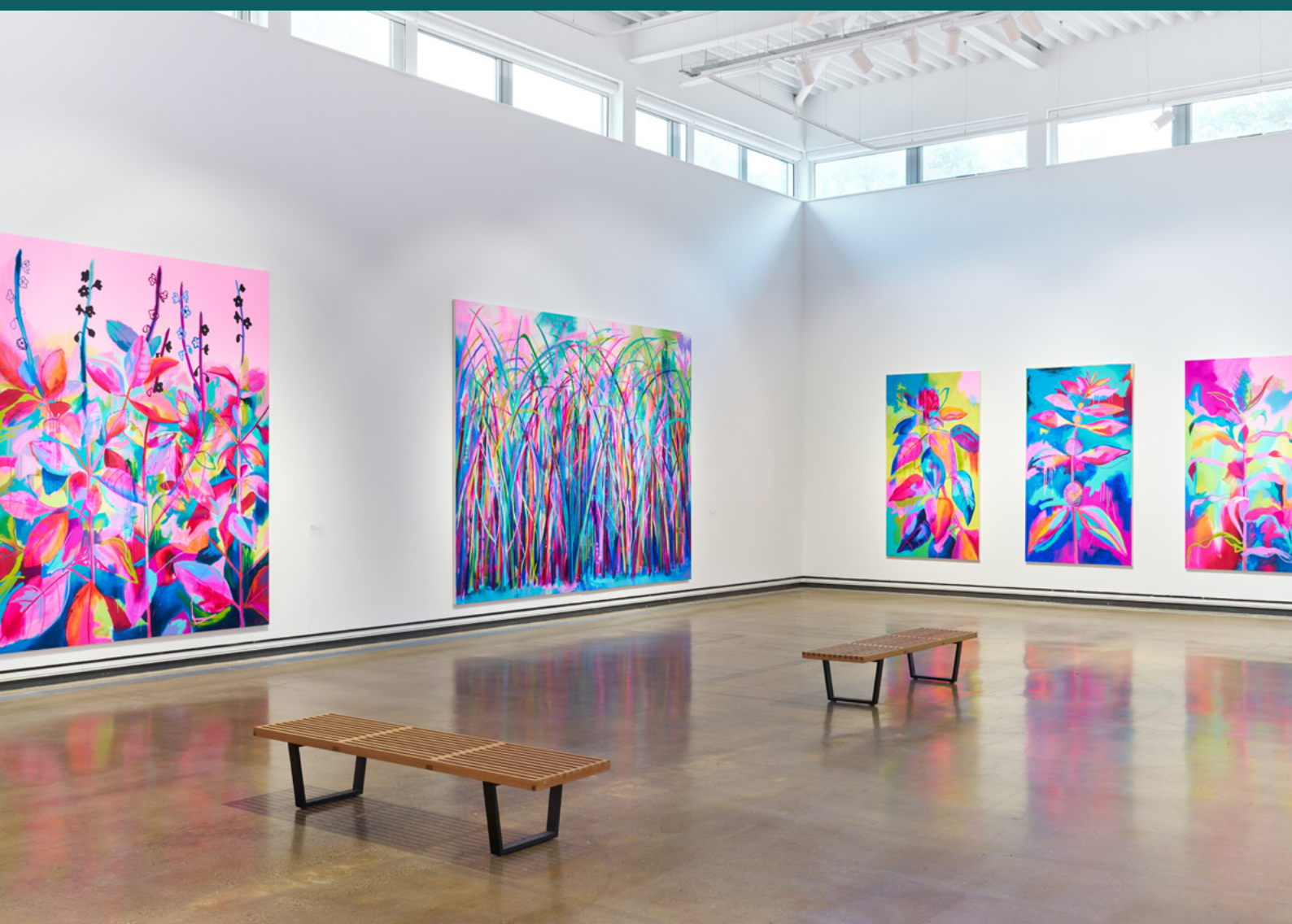


**Recruitment for
Advisory Board members:
Information and application pack**





Introduction from our Chair

Attenborough Arts Centre stands as a national force for arts, culture and civic imagination. Founded in 1997 by Lord Richard Attenborough at the University of Leicester, the Centre is rooted in a powerful and enduring conviction: 'Art for all'. The principle continues to shape everything that we do.

Attenborough Arts Centre is a living-breathing cultural ecosystem: a place where ideas are tested, voices amplified and creativity activated across generations. Whether you arrive as a professional artist, an emerging practitioner, a student, family, community member or someone responding to a first creative impulse, you are part of an ongoing conversation about what art can do and who it is for.

As Chair, I am proud to see Lord Attenborough's vision not only sustained, but re-energised for a changing world through our artistic, learning and communities' programmes. Looking ahead, our focus is firmly on the future, ensuring that Attenborough Arts Centre remains responsive, resilient and relevant. Join us to ensure that art continues to be a powerful force for connection, courage and change.

Jennifer Francis,

Chair of Attenborough Arts Centre Advisory Board



Could you help take Attenborough Arts Centre to the next level?

Who are we?

Attenborough Arts Centre is one of the UK's leading centres for art and culture. We bring leading local, regional, national and international artists to present their work in Leicester and engage with our diverse audiences.

Established in 1997 by Lord Richard Attenborough, our mission is **'Art for all'**. We identify and remove barriers to inclusion to enable everyone to experience creativity and culture. We are a creative home for our communities, we have a longstanding commitment to disability arts.

Based at the University of Leicester, Attenborough Arts Centre runs a range of arts and culture initiatives for our students and delivers the institution's public programmes together with a range of partners, collectively engaging over 250,000 people annually.

We pioneer research in culture and creativity, championing the vital importance of art and creative thinking across society.

We receive core funding from the University of Leicester and are proud to be an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation, receiving public funding. We are also thankful for project support from a range of significant funders including Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

"Art is not an elitist gift for a few select people. Art is for everyone."

Richard Attenborough

Our programmes

As a combined arts venue, Attenborough Arts Centre's artistic programme comprises at least three major exhibitions per year, including in 2026 Material Worlds with Hayward Gallery touring, a major show by Jason Wilsher-Mills in partnership with Wellcome Collection and a solo show with acclaimed Leicester artist Jemisha Maadhavji. Our performance programme features theatre, music, dance and family performances, most recently featuring the work of leading artists Casey Bailey, Paula Varjack and Matt Miller. We have extensive Artists programmes supporting creatives with advice, residencies, commissions and employment opportunities.

Our Learning and Communities team oversees a busy programme of work for all ages including public weekend workshops, sector-leading programmes for disabled and SEND children and young people in and out of school, work with primary and secondary school pupils across the city and a growing dedicated communities strand working with community organisations and centres in our closest neighbourhoods.

Our University programmes see us bringing artists to collaborate with academics and students on a range of research, education, student experience and public engagement programmes.



Facts and figures

In 2025/26 we achieved:

100k visitors

24k engagements in our Learning, Communities and Students programmes

5 exhibitions produced

100+ performances presented

75 artists worked with

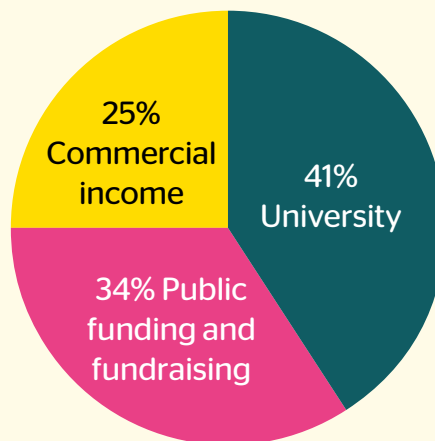
Looking forward

We are ambitious, with a robust Business Plan outlining key objectives we want to achieve by 2030. These include raising our national profile, delivering on our mission of 'Art for all' and achieving financial sustainability.

Recent highlights include winning Learning Programme of the Year 2025 at the national Museums + Heritage Awards, and presenting 'A Decade of Exhibitions' - marking the work of over 300 artists we have produced over the course of 65 exhibitions, reaching hundreds of thousands of visitors and participants since 2016.

We have also secured capital funding of £899k from the Creative Foundations Fund, recently announced by the Culture Secretary as part of a £130 million

Our income:



investment in the future of UK cultural venues. This will fund a transformational refurbishment focussed on inclusive design, informed by the views of 288 stakeholders drawn from Attenborough Arts Centre's diverse communities. Planned from autumn 2026 to spring 2027, the project will transform accessibility and visitor experience, increasing income generation and environmental sustainability and securing the future of our much-loved creative community hub.

In May 2027 Attenborough Arts Centre will celebrate its 30th birthday - a fantastic opportunity to take stock of all that we have achieved while hailing a fresh and exciting vision for the future.





Attenborough Arts Centre's Advisory Board

Attenborough Arts Centre (AAC) is governed by University of Leicester (UoL), an exempt charity and company incorporated by royal charter. AAC is part of UoL's External Relations Division (ERD) which promotes Leicester's global reputation as a prestigious teaching and research institution. AAC's Director reports to UoL's Director of External Relations.

UoL maintains overall governance and legal responsibility for AAC, UoL sets annual budgets and financial targets with AAC, monitoring targets and outcomes. AAC maintains independence of its artistic, learning and communities programmes in adherence with University procedures.

AAC's Advisory Board is its designated governing body to monitor its funding relationship with Arts Council England and other major funders, governed by Terms of Reference.

The Board is chaired by Jennifer Francis. Membership includes independent members with expertise in a range of fields and includes UoL staff as well as external members.

The aims and objectives of the Advisory Board are to:

- Maintain the vision, mission and values of AAC; oversee AAC's ACE NPO funding agreement

and regularly review progress against it with the executive team.

- Monitor financial performance and other KPIs against ACE and UoL business plan targets.
- Provide financial and planning scrutiny for any major project funding from Trusts and Foundations eg Paul Hamlyn Foundation.
- Advise on policy, programming, activity and procedure.
- Advise on long-term strategic plans.
- Act as ambassadors and advocates for AAC.
- Provide support to AAC team; introduce networking opportunities to support AAC plans.
- Maintain Advisory Board performance by actively participating in meetings and sub groups.
- Provide a wider context for AAC through experience in higher education, the city or regionally/nationally.

Advisory Board members act as critical friends and share relevant knowledge from their fields of expertise. They have clear responsibilities and functions relating to their skills and knowledge including participating in sub groups that report back to the full Advisory Board.

Term of office

AAC Advisory Board members serve a fixed term of three years with an option for renewal for a further three years. In exceptional circumstances, members can serve an additional term where they offer specific expertise or experience. Some Advisory Board positions relate to specific UoL areas such as finance and Students' Union.

Opportunity

We value both work and lived experiences within our Advisory Board and you don't have to have been on a Board before. We are committed to developing more diverse representation on our Board and for our Advisory Board members to reflect the communities we engage with through our work. We're particularly keen to hear from disabled people, who remain underrepresented across our workforce.

We would love to hear from people who:

- Have a passion for what Attenborough Arts Centre does.
- Have the highest standards of probity and integrity, in accordance with the Nolan principles of standards of conduct in public life.
- Commitment to the vision, purpose and values of Attenborough Arts Centre.

We are particularly keen to hear from people with the following experience:

- Specialism in strategic artistic programming and/or curation, specifically within the fields of visual arts and/or performance.
- Specialism in museums and galleries best practice.
- Experience of co-design and democratic decision-making with communities.
- Expertise in placemaking.
- Experience of innovation in business planning.
- Experience of operational excellence in leading cultural organisations.
- Experience of delivering large-scale capital projects.

Please note Advisory Board members must be over 18 and must not:

- Have been disqualified by law from acting as a trustee.
- Have an unspent conviction for an offence involving dishonesty or deception (such as fraud).
- Be bankrupt, or entering into a formal arrangement (eg an individual voluntary arrangement) with a creditor.
- Have been removed, as a company director or charity trustee, because of wrongdoing.







Application process

How to apply

To discuss the role and for further information, please contact:

Debra Young, Purple Light Consulting Limited
e: debra@purple-light.co.uk
t: (+44) 20 8458 5460

In making an application, you are asked to submit:

- A comprehensive CV (three pages maximum) giving details of relevant achievements.
- A (maximum 2 page) letter that tells us a little about yourself and why being an advisory board member at AAC interests you. Tell us what experience you have had that means you meet the role profile and include some practical examples and outline what you would bring to this role and Attenborough Arts Centre.
- A completed personal details form, available from Debra Young (see contact details below).

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS:

11.59pm on Monday 15 June 2026

Applications must be sent electronically to:

Debra Young of Purple Light Consulting Limited:
debra@purple-light.co.uk

All applications will be acknowledged on receipt. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within five working days, please telephone **Debra Young (+44) 20 8458 5460**.

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact Debra Young.

Please note that neither Attenborough Arts Centre nor Purple Light Consulting Limited can be held responsible for the non-delivery or late receipt of applications.



Important Dates

First round interviews are scheduled to take place on **15 and 17 July 2026** in person at Attenborough Arts Centre.

Please indicate on your application if you would have any difficulty attending interviews on these dates. Please also inform us if you have any access needs.

Thank you

Thank you for your interest in joining our Advisory Board. We look forward to receiving your application.

