THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

APPOINTMENT OF AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE EXTERNAL MEMBER

Cover Image / **Lola Roney** (**Fashion Design**, 2024)
Image above / School of Fine Art studios, Stow Building

CONTENTS

Welcome from the Chair	04
The Glasgow School of Art	06
Governance Structure	08
About the Role	10
Skills and Experience	12
Person Specification	13
Application Process	14

Our Ambition

"Through our people our education and our research, we empower change and create impact that is both transformative and collaborative".

GSA Strategic Plan 2022-2027

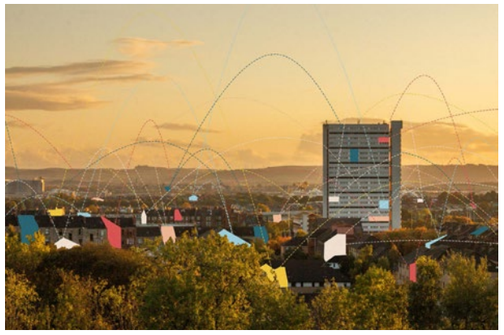

Image / Shared Knowledge, Rihards Saknitis, (Architecture Stage 5) 2021

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

The position of Audit and Risk Committee External Member is an important role for The Glasgow School of Art (the GSA) and I am delighted that you are considering joining one of our Board Committees.

The Board of Governors of The Glasgow School of Art play an active role in the School, regularly meeting with students and staff and ensuring that the GSA maintains strong governance in support of its strategic ambitions. We are a critical friend, we are supportive and we hold the executive to account.

The work of the Board is supported by specialist committees comprising independent governors with general governance, as well as specialist knowledge and expertise, and these include the Audit and Risk Committee which is convened by an independent member of the Board.

The position of Audit and Risk Committee External Member is an important role for The Glasgow School of Art (the GSA) and has been created to strengthen and extend the expertise of the Committee.

It is essential that our Board and its Committees are diverse and inclusive and we would welcome applications from all sections of our community. We are looking for people with the distinctive skills, experience, insight and knowledge that will support us in our governance. People with a passion for the future of our creative landscape, that share our commitment to the GSA's future as one of the UK's leading international art schools in one of Europe's leading cultural and creative cities. People who want to be an essential part of The Glasgow School of Art at this exciting point in our history.

I am delighted that you are considering an application to join this important Board Committee.

Thank you for your interest.

Ann Priest
Chair, Board of Governors
The Glasgow School of Art

Our Values

- Rooted in studio, making and collaboration.
- Deep specialism alongside interdisciplinary practice.
- A rich partnership approach to education, research and innovation.
- A culture that enables and empowers us in everything we do.
- A responsible and caring culture that values our people and our environments.
- A sustainable and equitable approach to our work.
- Always looking forward, while celebrating our past

GSA Strategic Plan 2022-2027
www.gsastrategicplan.co.uk

Printmaking workshop, Stow Building

THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

Founded in 1845 as one of the UK's first government schools of design, the GSA can trace its lineage to the 1750s and the establishment, during the Scottish Enlightenment, of the Foulis Academy, European in ethos and the UK's first school of art.

Over 270 years later, we are one of the UK's last remaining independent schools of art, ranked as one of the top art and design schools in the world[1] and at a pivotal and exciting point in our history.

The ability to transform thinking, generate new knowledge and give shape and form to things that currently do not exist, are all characteristics of the creative practitioner. Through an art school education, we hone these inherent skills through studio-based learning and teaching, and research that is discipline-specific.

The studio, whether literal or figurative, creates the environment for collaboration, within and across disciplines, for critical enquiry, experimentation and prototyping. It is the environment in which we collectively generate new ideas and solutions, and where innovation thrives. 'Studio' is the space where a shared visual language can transcend barriers and global boundaries, and where ambition and imagination can find solutions to many of the global challenges facing the world today.

Today the GSA is a diverse and international community of students and staff, and through the success of our graduates, the quality of our teaching and research and our heritage, we enjoy both global significance and influence as a leading centre for studio-based learning and research.

Alongside our global position we continue to contribute to Glasgow's position as a European cultural capital, and one of the UK's most successful city-economies and a leading UK creative capital alongside London and Manchester[2]. Central to this contribution are our students, staff – creative practitioners and academics of international and national significance – and our graduates with nearly 60%[3] choosing to remain in the city, working within the cultural and creative industries, the wider creative economy or establishing their own businesses and making an important contribution to the city's cultural infrastructure through galleries, exhibitions, events and their international networks.

Watch:

The GSA presents: The City of Glasgow: a film by BAFTA and Sundance-nominated Director and graduates Cara Connolly and Martin Clark

Visit:

Showcases of talent from across our four specialist schools in Fine Art, Architecture, Design, Innovation and Technology.

Graduate Showcase 2025
Postgraduate Showcase 2025

> "Individuals and collectives working in the creative and cultural sectors across the globe help to improve the quality of people's lives... Highly creative and innovative individuals help us to reimagine our futures and our economies."
>
> **GSA Strategic Plan 2022-2027**

[1] Source: QS World Rankings 2023
[2] Source: NESTA Creative Nation 2019
[3] Source: HESA 2019

Image / Lighting design by Simon Corder at the New Wynd Lane, off Trongate – Lee Beattie

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The Glasgow School of Art is a Higher Education Institution and registered charity, and a legally independent and autonomous institution. The governance framework of the School comes from various Acts of Parliament, statutes, ordinances, and resolutions from which the School derives the power and authority to carry out its activities. There are two main components of the GSA's formal governance structure – the Board of Governors and Academic Council, with the management structure headed by the Director.

Board of Governors

The primary responsibilities of the Board of Governors, which are set out in full in the Statement of Corporate Governance, include:

- To ensure the effective management of the School and to play a key role in the development, approval and review of the mission and strategic vision of the School.
- To be the principal financial and business authority of the School.
- To safeguard the reputation and values of the School.
- To ensure the quality of institutional educational provision uphold and to ensure the defence of academic freedom.
- To oversee and monitor the development and implementation of the School's Strategic Plan
- To ensure the establishment and monitoring of systems of control and accountability, including financial and operating controls and risk management framework.
- To ensure that processes are in place to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the School.
- To support and enable the effective functioning of the Students' Association.
- To satisfy itself that the School operates with high levels of social responsibility.
- To take all final decisions on matters of major concern to the School.

The Board currently has the following permanent committees, which are chaired by Independent Governors:

- Audit and Risk Committee
- Finance and Resources Committee
- People and Culture Committee
- Governance and Nominations Committee
- Remuneration Committee

Academic Council

The Board appoints an Academic Council, which has the primary functions of advising the Director in relation to the overall planning, co-ordination, development and supervision of the academic work of the institution.

The Board receives regular reports from the Academic Council and must ensure that the Academic Council discharges its functions.

The Chair

The Chair, is responsible for the leadership of the governing body, and is ultimately responsible for its effectiveness. The Chair must act so as to maintain the confidence of the governing body and ensure the Institution is well connected with its stakeholders, including staff and students.

The Director and Principal

The Director and Principal is the Chief Accountable Officer of The Glasgow School of Art responsible for providing the Governors with advice on the strategic direction of the School and its management. The Director and Principal is accountable to the Board of Governors and is also the designated officer in respect of the use of SFC funds and compliance with the SFC Financial Memorandum.

Senior Leadership

The Glasgow School of Art's Senior Leadership Team is led by the Director and Principal, and Chief Executive – Professor Penny Macbeth. The Director and Principal is supported by the Senior Leadership Team with responsibility for the management of academic and professional service departments.

For further information about the GSA's governance structures please visit the GSA website.

Image / GSA Forres Campus, Andy Buchanan

ABOUT THE ROLE

The Audit and Risk Committee plays a key role in supporting the Board of Governors by providing assurance on the effectiveness of the School's financial systems, internal control environment, and risk management arrangements. This appointment is intended to strengthen the Committee's collective expertise, particularly in audit and finance.

The successful candidate will:

- provide independent professional insight and constructive challenge in the context of the Audit and Risk Committee;
- review audit reports, financial statements, accounting policies and the risk register as part of the work of the Audit and Risk Committee;
- contribute to the work of the Audit and Risk Committee in a manner that supports strong governance, regulatory compliance and effective risk oversight;
- be a full voting member of the Audit and Risk Committee

Focused on the work of the Audit and Risk Committee, this role does not involve membership of the Board of Governors and carries no wider Board responsibilities. The Audit and Risk Committee Remit and Membership can be located **here** for information.

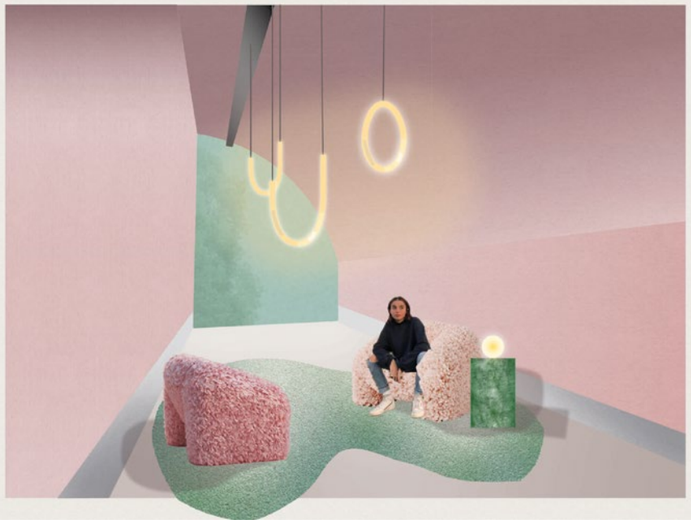

Image / Counselling Room Visual – Josefinni Porter-Chambers, Interior Design 2020

Image / This is (not) a football scarf – Caitlin Callaghan, (Sculpture and Environmental Art) 2021

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

We are particularly interested in candidates with strong experience in the following:

- Accountancy / Finance (e.g., qualified accountant or senior financial leadership)
- Audit and assurance - ability to interpret audit reports and financial information
- Risk management in a complex or regulated environment

Any application should make it clear where the applicant's skills and experience meets one or more of these areas.

In addition, experience in public, third sector or education governance is desirable but not essential.

Time Commitment

- Attendance at 3-4 meetings annually (normally held via video conference between November and May)) – attendance at in-person meetings is not normally required but may exceptionally be requested
- Approximately 16 hours per year, which includes time to read committee papers and to prepare for meetings

Remuneration

External committee members are not remunerated but the GSA will reimburse reasonable expenses including travel costs should attendance be required.

Image top / Communication Design graduate Gabriella Marcella at Risotto Studio
Image bottom / Graduate collection – Lucy Broadfoot, Textile Design 2020
image right / Fashion Design mannequins at Degree Show 2019

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Candidates should meet at least one of the areas specified in Skills and Experience (above) and demonstrate:

- high standards of integrity and professionalism
- strong analytical skills and sound judgement
- confidence in contributing to senior-level discussions
- commitment to the Seven Principles of Public Life: Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership

Applications from first-time non-executives are welcome, provided candidates understand the nature of the governance role and can demonstrate that they are ready to contribute at that level.

DIVERSITY

The GSA encourages applications from everyone regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, belief or disability. As those from an ethnic minority background and disabled people are currently under-represented on the Board, applications from individuals within these groups would be particularly encouraged. All appointments will be made on merit, following a fair and transparent process. In line with the Equality Act 2010, however, the organisation may employ positive action where candidates from underrepresented groups can demonstrate their ability to perform the role equally well. More on the GSA's commitment to Equality can be found **here.**

APPLICATION PROCESS

How to Apply

Interested individuals should submit the following to governance@gsa.ac.uk:

- A short expression of interest outlining relevant experience and fit to the role
- A CV

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview.

If you would like to have an informal discussion about this opportunity, please contact GSA's Secretary and Registrar, Emma Williams at governance@gsa.ac.uk

Timeline

Deadline for applications: Friday 3 April, 12pm
Interviews are to take place: mid-April 2026 (date to be confirmed)
Candidates can expect the process to be completed by: May 2026

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR IN PUBLIC LIFE

The GSA fully subscribes to the "standards of behaviour in public life", as specified in the Scottish Code of Good HE Governance (and elsewhere), i.e. "duty, selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability and stewardship, openness, honesty, leadership, and respect", and will seek to appoint external members who embody these standards. All members of Board committees are expected to exercise their responsibilities collectively in the interests of the GSA rather than as representatives of specific constituencies.

Image / Fashion studio, 2022

The Glasgow School of Art
167 Renfrew Street
Glasgow, Scotland
G3 6RQ
www.gsa.ac.uk

The Glasgow School of Art is a company limited by guarantee.
Registered in Scotland No. 2271
Registered Office: 167 Renfrew Street Glasgow G3 6RQ
Recognised Charity No. SC 012490

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