



Chairperson – Craft Northern Ireland

Craft Northern Ireland is seeking to appoint a new Chairperson to lead the Board in our strategy to develop and promote the work of the many talented makers in Northern Ireland's contemporary craft sector. We are seeking a Chair who will bring knowledge, experience and networks to the role for the benefit of the organisation and the sector as a whole.

This is a non-remunerated role.

About Craft NI

Craft NI's mission is to contribute to an integrated, entrepreneurial and vibrant contemporary crafts sector in Northern Ireland, actively supported by regional and local stakeholders, that contributes increasingly to the creative, cultural and economic life of Northern Ireland.

The organisation is based in Belfast city centre in premises accommodating office space, gallery and retail with an exhibition space.

The organisation employs four full-time and four part-time staff over a range of areas including: maker support, digital development of the sector, communications and marketing and sector promotion. The organisation also earns income from the sale of contemporary Northern Irish craft and hosts exhibitions in its Gallery in Belfast. The Gallery team comprises a Gallery Manager and three part-time Gallery Assistants.

The organisation was established in 2004 as a development body for the craft sector and in 2017 the organisation merged with Craft & Design Collective combining retail sales and earned income with sector development functions. The Arts Council of Northern Ireland is Craft NI's principal funder, and the organisation also earns income through the sale of craft in its Belfast gallery, with approximately 50 Northern Irish makers selling work through the Gallery. Craft NI also receives funding from Belfast City Council and is seeking to diversify income streams further as one of its strategic aims. The organisation had a turnover of approximately £250,000 in 2021/22.

Craft NI's offices and Gallery are in Belfast City Centre but it supports craft makers across Northern Ireland. It seeks to develop partnerships with a range of stakeholders in local government, arts, tourism and all others, as appropriate, with an interest in a flourishing craft sector in Northern Ireland.

Strategic Outcomes of our Strategy 2023-25

Makers

- More makers will have sustainable and resilient practices
- Makers are more connected, networked, engaged and supported
- Makers can develop professionally and artistically

Audiences and Markets

- Increase demand for and consumption of quality craft in Northern Ireland
- Increase the value placed on the benefits of craft and craft making through education & promotion
- Increase access to learning about, participating in and appreciating craft

Craft NI

- Craft NI is among the first places that stakeholders look to for information, support or signposting
- Craft NI is resourced to deliver its objectives through people, skills and funds
- Craft NI builds partnerships that will benefit the sector through collaboration and working together

Time commitment

Board meetings are held between 6 and 8 times per year, usually in person.

Additionally, the Chairperson will be expected to have regular meetings with the Director and to represent the organisation at meetings and events with key stakeholders from time to time.

Meetings will take place in Belfast city centre.

Person Specification

Craft NI currently has a Board of nine members, representing a range of skills including professional craft makers, academic, curating, HR, finance and marketing. Board Committees include:

- Audit and Risk - chaired by Treasurer
- Nomination and Remuneration

- Quality Group – responsible for exhibitions and quality standards in the organisation
- Internationalisation

Find out more here: <https://craftni.org/about-craft-ni/board/>

We are seeking a Chair who can bring knowledge and networks to the organisation. Craft NI is a small organisation which needs to collaborate with others to bring maximum benefit to the craft sector in Northern Ireland. Those organisations with an interest and part to play in developing the craft sector will include local government, arts organisations, third level education and museums and galleries. We are seeking a Chair who can help us to identify and make connections at a senior level in a range of partner and other stakeholder organisations through their experience and understanding. Other elements of the role will include:

- Overseeing recruitment and development of board members;
- Championing and advocating for the needs of the sector
- Adhering to Board governance practice as per the articles of the organisation
- Working with the Executive Director on organisational strategy development and with Board colleagues on strategy oversight

How to Apply

If this unique role is of interest, please contact Katherine McDonald at Craft NI to request an information pack consisting of:

- Craft NI annual accounts
- Strategic plan and plan summary

Katherine.mcdonald@craftni.org

If you would like to talk about the role, please contact:

Rory Shearer
Chair, Nominations & Remuneration Committee
Rshearer60@gmail.com

Applications consisting of CV and covering letter outlining how your skills and experience would add value to the organisation will be welcome. Please send these to Rory Shearer at the contact details above by **Tuesday 1st November 2022**.

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Company Number NI642349 | Charity Registration Number NIC106410
Principal Funder Arts Council of Northern Ireland