

Twentieth Century Society Trustee Recruitment Pack 2024



We're recruiting
The society
needs incredible
Trustees

Twentieth Century Society is looking to recruit several new trustees to help run our charity, supplementing and widening the skills, expertise, and experiences already present on the board whilst bringing fresh perspectives.

We are especially keen to appoint candidates with skills and ideas around strategic and creative thinking; fundraising and income generation; human resources; digital and physical engagement; and increasing youth (under 35) engagement. We believe these skills will be crucial as we aim to grow the charity, and make ourselves more sustainable, over the next 5 years.

Previous experience as a Trustee is not required. Being a Trustee is a voluntary appointment and charity law prohibits payment of trustees.

**Ready to
apply?**



About us

The Twentieth Century Society and its work

Who are we?

Twentieth Century Society is the national charity that campaigns to protect Britain's modern architectural and design heritage. We were founded in 1979 and have become a highly respected and influential organisation; actively engaging with architects, planners, heritage professionals, policymakers, and the wider public to champion the protection and appreciation of the most undervalued part of our built heritage. We are also a public-facing membership organisation, with a strong media presence, and a significant role in the development of the built-environment.

What do we do?

The Society's charitable remit is as follows:

- To save from needless destruction or disfigurement, buildings or groups of buildings interiors and artefacts designed or constructed after 1914.
- To educate the public in the appreciation, knowledge and understanding of the arts, architecture, crafts and design for the period after 1914.
- To encourage the study of these, and of the related social history, and to afford advice to owners and public authorities with regard to the preservation and repair of buildings constructed or designed during this period.

We have a statutory role in the planning process in England and Wales, and our remit is to save outstanding buildings constructed from 1914, extending to the the present day. This means the Society is uniquely positioned as a guardian for the built heritage of both the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Some of the buildings we champion are iconic, others are little-known gems, but all of them have stories to tell which enrich the lives of their communities and the world

beyond. Reusing existing buildings also has enormous environmental benefits: the amount of embodied carbon saved makes a significant contribution to achieving net zero, and the imaginative schemes we support show that this can be compatible with good design, widespread social benefits, and high heritage preservation standards.

Underpinning all this, we also seek to change hearts and minds through our publications and our event programmes. Publications are strategically divided into a collaboration with commercial publishers Batsford, alongside more specialist new research volumes including our own thematic Journal, and individual architect/practice monographs in collaboration with Liverpool University Press and Historic England.

How are we run?

Our board of trustees is led by Hugh Pearman, a distinguished journalist, editor and author. He was architecture and design critic of *The Sunday Times* for 30 years (1986–2016), editor of the *RIBA Journal* for 14 years (2006–20), and his latest book, *About Architecture: An Essential Guide in 55 Buildings* was published by Yale University Press in May 2023.

In addition, Hugh served on Arts Council England's architecture advisory group, was one of the instigators of The RIBA Stirling Prize for Architecture in 1996 and chaired the "Art for Architecture" initiative at the Royal Society of Arts from 2000–04. He was made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 2001 and was awarded an MBE for services to architecture in 2019. He became C20 Chairman in August 2023.

Other trustees strengthen our knowledge of architecture and conservation, and bring expertise in finance, PR and

Communications, Publications and legal responsibilities. In 2024, following a skills audit, we plan on strengthening the board by increasing our expertise in key areas including strategic and creative thinking; human resources, fundraising and income generation; digital and physical engagement; and increasing youth (under 35) engagement.

The Board supports the work of a small staff team, led by our Director, Catherine Croft. She is an internationally regarded expert on the conservation of C20 architecture, and on contemporary conservation practice. Having studied both architecture and architectural history, she has steered the Society to both develop its understanding of the evolution of architectural form and style, and retrofit techniques for C20 buildings.

How are we funded?

We receive small annual grants from Historic England and CADW (the Welsh heritage body), towards the costs of carrying out our statutory role in the planning process, and other modest grant payments, but the majority of our income comes from memberships, donations, and profits on events.



The role What we need from our Trustees

What do Trustees do?

The Charity Commission (which oversees the running of all UK charities) provides a good summary of the crucial role trustees provide across all charities:

‘Trustees have overall control of a charity and are responsible for making sure it’s doing what it was set up to do... trustees are the people who lead the charity and decide how it is run. Being a trustee means making decisions that will impact on people’s lives. Depending on what the charity does, you will be making a difference to your local community or to society as a whole.

Trustees use their skills and experience to support their charities, helping them achieve their aims. Trustees also often learn new skills during their time on the board.’

How long are appointments for?

The initial appointment term is three years. All C2O board members will normally serve a maximum of two terms, each lasting three years.

What is the level of commitment required?

The Board meets four times a year, typically for about two hours on a Tuesday evening. All meetings are held in a hybrid format, allowing participation either in person in our London offices or via Zoom. Trustees receive papers in advance of Board meetings. Once a year, an AGM (Annual General Meeting, with the members of the Society present) is held in-person. In addition, Board members have the opportunity to join sub-committees if they wish. These focused groups are dedicated to more detailed work on finance, casework, publications and events.

Training and support

● New Trustees will undergo an induction process, which will include meeting the Chair and staff, with briefings on the

responsibilities and duties of Trustees.

● They will have the opportunity to work closely with the Director to ensure they have all the necessary resources and guidance they need to contribute effectively.

● For Trustees who prefer to attend meetings in person, we can provide travel expenses to facilitate their participation.

Candidate Selection Process

We will review applications and invite promising candidates for an informal interview/discussion, so that candidates can get to know us in addition to us being able to assess if they have the skills and knowledge we need. Those invited for an ‘interview’ will be asked to talk briefly to summarise what they see as the challenges we might face over the next five years. During the interviews, we will be looking for individuals who possess:

- Enthusiasm for the work of the Twentieth Century Society and drive to ensure the fulfilment of its objectives.
- Good judgment and clear vision.
- Creative thinking.
- Willingness to be an active part of the team and actively contribute to discussions.



Responsibilities

Governance and Strategic Direction

● Attend Board meetings and actively participate in discussions and decision-making processes relating to our governance, policies, and strategic direction.

● Contribute to the development and implementation of our strategic plan, ensuring alignment with its purpose, vision, mission and values.

Expertise and Support

● Offer your professional knowledge, skills, and experience to provide guidance and support in your area of expertise, both within the Board, in the sub-committees (as appropriate) or in conversations with staff.

● Act as an advocate for Twentieth Century Society, using your networks and connections to promote our work, engage stakeholders, foster partnerships, and build our fundraising and support relationships.

Financial Oversight

● Participate in discussions and decision-making relating to Twentieth Century Society’s financial matters, ensuring the effective stewardship of resources and supporting fundraising activities.

Requirements

● Expertise, skills, or experience in a specific area relevant to Twentieth Century Society’s work.

● Strong communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to collaborate effectively and build relationships with diverse stakeholders.

● Availability to attend Board meetings and other Twentieth Century Society events as required.

● Commitment to Twentieth Century Society’s purpose, vision, mission and values, and our strategic goals.

Next steps **How to apply** **to become** **a Trustee**

To apply for the role of Trustee, please send an email with a covering letter and CV to coordinator@c20society.org.uk by **Monday 8 April 2024** with the subject line 'Trustee Recruitment' – or simply click the red button on the right.

If you would like to informally discuss the role before applying, please contact our Director, Catherine Croft, via email: catherine@c20society.org.uk

Interviews will take place in mid-April. Appointment will be subject to candidates endorsed by the current Chairman, Director and Board being elected at our AGM in July 2024.

**Apply
now!**

