

PRESS RELEASE

Nottingham Contemporary announces the appointment of Paul Kirkman as Chair of the Board of Trustees

18 December 2025



Nottingham Contemporary is delighted to announce the appointment of Paul Kirkman as Chair of the Board of Trustees. As the most senior non-executive director, Paul will work with the Board of Trustees to ensure the organisation achieves its organisational, artistic and civic objectives and will act as the lead advocate for the gallery at the board level, from December 2024

Paul joins Nottingham Contemporary in this role at an important moment, as the organisation embarks on a transformative process of rearticulating its purpose, shaping its future and delivering new income-generating strategies to ensure sustainability. Since its opening in 2009, Nottingham Contemporary has attracted over two million visitors to its dynamic contemporary art exhibitions and diverse programs of performances, events, talks, and workshops, all created to engage and inspire the people of Nottingham and beyond.

Salma Tuqan, Director, said:

We are thrilled to welcome Paul as our new Chair. His extensive experience and leadership come at a transformative time for Nottingham Contemporary. His support will play a vital role in shaping our future, and the entire team looks forward to working with him and our Board of Trustees to continue delivering a world-renowned programme of art and culture in Nottingham while strengthening our future strategy”

Paul Kirkman said:

“I am honoured to take on the role of Chair of Nottingham Contemporary. The gallery plays a vital role in fostering creativity and connecting people through contemporary art. I look forward to working with the board, the team, and our partners to build on Nottingham Contemporary's successes and ensure it continues to inspire and engage audiences locally, nationally, and globally.”

Peter Knott, Midlands Area Director, Arts Council England, said:

“We're delighted to welcome Paul Kirkman as Nottingham Contemporary's new Chair, bringing a wealth of sector experience across cultural organisations and government.

“It's an exciting time to work in the arts, and Paul's extensive experience will be a great benefit to Nottingham Contemporary and their work.”

Paul Kirkman

Paul Kirkman is a consultant to the cultural and heritage sectors. He has 30 years' experience in public policy and cultural sector leadership.

He was Director of the National Railway Museum in York, had senior roles at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and was Head of Policy and Planning at the Natural History Museum. He also had three spells at HM Treasury and was Private Secretary to the Director General of the Confederation of British Industry.

Paul originally studied Philosophy at Edinburgh University, has an MA in Art History from Goldsmith's College and was a fellow of the Clore Leadership Programme. He is also a Trustee of the Royal Armouries Museum.

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For more information, please contact Andy Batson, Head of Marketing and Visitor Experience at Nottingham Contemporary on andybatson@nottinghamcontemporary.org or +44 (0)115 948 9762.

About Nottingham Contemporary

[Nottingham Contemporary](#) is one of the leading and largest centres for contemporary art in Europe with a strong international, national and local profile. Since opening in 2009, we have welcomed over 2 million

visitors – with free admission for all – to our highly ambitious programme that has featured hundreds of artists and cultural practitioners from across the globe.

Our artistic and learning programmes of exhibitions, events and screenings explore less-historicised art practices, cultural movements, histories and geographies to propose alternative narratives for conventional histories and stimulate important discussions about culture and society. We support artists at different stages of their careers – from first-time solo shows in the UK to surveys of renowned or overlooked figures – and regularly present significant thematic exhibitions and major artist-curated projects. Nottingham Contemporary was shortlisted for Art Fund Museum of the Year 2019. Nottingham Contemporary is supported using public funding by Arts Council England and through our partnerships with the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University.

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www.nottinghamcontemporary.org