



Scottish Civic Trust Overview

A. Governance

Our Board of Trustees brings a wealth of experience and provides invaluable support for the professional team. It is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organisation and for the stewardship of public and charitably given funds.

The Board of Trustees typically meets four times a year in Glasgow at the Trust's Miller Street offices within the Tobacco Merchant's House, with the option for remote attendance where required. In addition there are four sub-groups, with typically three or four Trustee members:

- Strategy and Communications Committee
- Finance and Audit Committee
- Planning and Architecture Committee
- Trustee Recruitment Committee

With the exception of the Trustee Recruitment Committee which meets as and when required, these groups meet between Board meetings and give quarterly updates to the Board. Trustees are frequently joined by the Chair as well as the Director and other relevant members of staff.

Trustees retire by rotation and can generally expect to serve up to two, three-year terms. It is open to Trustees to appoint for a further period if they feel that it is in the best interests of the Trust to do so. There are currently nine Trustees, whilst our Deed of Trust allows for a maximum of twenty. We aim to recruit a minimum of two new Trustees per year to cover retirements.

There are currently nine members of staff, including the Director, of whom two work full time, Monday to Friday.

B. About the Scottish Civic Trust

The Scottish Civic Trust was established in 1967. In its infancy, it successfully campaigned for the restoration of Edinburgh's New Town and was instrumental in saving New Lanark and bringing Doors Open Days to the United Kingdom, which last year celebrated its 30th anniversary.

The Trust's original objects, as set out in our governing document, were to encourage and promote:

- Attractive, healthy and stimulating conditions of life and work;
- High standards of architecture, building and town and country planning;
- The preservation of buildings and features of artistic merit or historical interest;
- The protection of the beauties and amenities of the countryside;
- The elimination and prevention of ugliness whether arising from bad design, neglect or any other cause;
- A sense of civic pride and an appreciation of the beauty, history and character of Scotland;
- The sponsoring of and assistance of other organisations having similar and wholly charitable objects.

Broadly speaking, we are still working towards the same objectives today.

C. Present and Future

The organisation itself has undergone significant modernisation in recent years to reflect best practice in governance, forward planning and financial management.

The Trust adopted a 5 year Strategic Plan 2019-2024, under the three activity streams of:

- Celebrate
- Take Action
- Advocate

The Director and the team have progressively transformed the Trust's work programme in accordance with this framework, which is underpinned by a rolling 3-year corporate plan, and we communicate our activities under these headings on our website and in our publications. This has generated positive reactions from funders and stakeholders. The Trust's turnover is around £250,000 per annum.

Our Doors Open Days Festival, which runs for the month of September, now attracts over half a million physical and digital visitors each year. Our Diverse Heritage programme has worked with over 40 minority groups in 2020/21 and will double its capacity in 2022. We also strive to be sectoral thought leaders: our Anti-Racism strategy has been commended by sector representatives and our recent conference on the intersection between heritage, equity and the climate crisis is being funded for publication.

The Trust has established a Capital Fund to cover any major works that might be needed in the future for our principal physical asset, the category 'A' listed Tobacco Merchant's House in Glasgow. Efforts to raise funds for the building may involve new agreements with existing funders as well as specific fundraising campaigns, including legacies.

D. Supporting Trustees

A new Trustee can expect an introductory meeting (in person, by telephone or on zoom) separately with the Trust's Director, staff members and the Chair and thereafter depending

upon their interests, skills and experience would be supported by the committee with which these most closely align.

Trustees meeting in person for Board Meetings will have any reasonable travel expenses reimbursed. We recognise that our Trustees are spread geographically throughout Scotland and may not be able to attend every Board Meeting in person. We also appreciate that our headquarters in Miller Street, as a listed building, do not benefit from disabled access. Accordingly in such circumstances Trustees can participate at Board Meetings by zoom, where appropriate.

E. Additional Documents

Our Strategic Plan 2019-2024 can be downloaded here:

<https://www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Strategic-Plan-2019-24-FINAL.pdf>

Our annual reports and Financial Statements can be viewed here:

<https://www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk/publications/>

For more information on the Scottish Civic Trust, please see our website:

<https://www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk/about-us/>