



Candidate details and statements 2008

Part I
Individual member
elections

Part II
Institutional member
elections

**MUSEUMS
ASSOCIATION**

Please note that votes are only required in the following cases:

- Individual and institutional members voting for president
- Individual members voting for two councillors at large

Part I
**Individual member
elections 2008**



President

The following candidates have been duly nominated in accordance with Article 46(a):

Stuart Davies

University College London

Nominated by: Sam Mullins

Seconded by: Caroline Reed

Biography

After being a social history curator and manager in Gloucester, Birmingham and Kirklees, I became a museums adviser to the HLF and then the director of strategy at Resource/MLA, where I authored the report Renaissance in the Regions and gained extensive experience of working within and with government. Disappointed by the direction of the MLA, I left in 2004 to combine consultancy with university teaching. I am a visiting professor at University College London and Bournemouth University. My governance experience includes being a past chair of SHCG, area museum councils, an independent museum trustee and six years on MA council.

Policy statement

The greatest challenge in the next two years is to help support and sustain small and medium-sized independent and public museums. Throughout the UK, new political configurations, the reduced resources at the HLF and the variable commitment of local authorities are all creating uncertainty. In England, while a reformed delivery of Renaissance must remain central to policy, the collapse of regional agencies threatens the traditional pluralistic support of museums. As president I will advocate that the MA repositions itself to both address these immediate issues and pay greater attention to the longer-term issue of organisational sustainability.

Sandy Nairne

Director, National Portrait Gallery

Nominated by: Virginia Tandy

Seconded by: Alec Coles

Biography

Sandy Nairne is director of the National Portrait Gallery. He was previously director: programmes at Tate; assistant director, MOMA, Oxford; director of exhibitions at the ICA; and director of visual arts for the Arts Council. As a curator and writer, he is well known for his television series and book State of the Art, co-edited anthology Thinking about Exhibitions and co-written The Portrait Now. He is currently a member of the London Mayor's Cultural Strategy Group, the councils of the Royal College of Art and the British School at Rome, and the fabric advisory committee of St Paul's Cathedral.

Policy statement

The MA has been successful at building itself to be the representative organisation for everyone working in museums and galleries, of every type and scale across the UK.

I am very keen to help ensure that national museums and galleries, and other national bodies, work with the MA to build the strength of the sector as a whole. Over the next period it will be important to take the next steps on training and professional development, as well as pursuing work on sustainability, governance, leadership at all levels, access, learning, diversity and wider strategic thinking for the whole sector.

Statement

Individual members will receive a ballot paper for the post of president in accordance with Article 46(b).

Professional vice president

The following candidate has been duly nominated in accordance with Article 47(b)(ii):

Vanessa Trevelyan

Head of service, Norfolk Museums & Archaeology Service

Nominated by: Virginia Tandy

Seconded by: Sandy Nairne

Biography

I have been head of Norfolk Museums & Archaeology Service for nine years but my relationship with the service started in the early 1970s when I volunteered at one of the museums I now head.

I started my paid museum career as a museum assistant at the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, before becoming manager of the Purchase Grant Fund for the Regions. I then spent ten years with AMSSEE/SEMS and then the MGC, where I was responsible for the museum registration scheme.

I have been a member of the MA's ethics committee since 1999 and Convener since 2001.

Policy statement

The MA will be required to fulfil an increasingly significant role in presenting an objective view of the sector and representing the interests of the workforce. Major changes within MLA and other agencies means that we are facing a period of transition, when it will be important to build new relationships. The MA's initiatives over the past few years – the diversify programme, Collections for the Future, and sustainability – have shown the strength of an organisation that not only has its own highly talented workforce but can rely on the contributions of those working in the sector as a whole.

Professional councillors at large

Two posts are available. The following candidates have been duly nominated in accordance with Article 50(a):

Isabel Churcher

Regional museum development network manager, Renaissance East Midlands

Nominated by: Nick Winterbotham

Seconded by: Nick Dodd

Biography

I have worked energetically and creatively in museums for over 20 years in a wide range of roles. I started as assistant curator in Much Wenlock Museum and then moved to Gloucestershire as museums development officer for eight years. In 1996, I became head of Hereford, and subsequently Herefordshire, museums where we won the Gulbenkian Award for best provision for visitors with disabilities. In 1999, I became head of museums services for Birmingham, managing a large team and regional Renaissance staff. Since February 2008, I have been providing interim management for the East Midlands Regional Museum Development team.

Policy statement

I passionately believe in good professional development and supporting the MA's membership schemes. I have significant experience at every level: I am a new style FMA, appraiser and reviewer, paid CPD assessor, mentor, participant in CPD Plus, and deputy chair of the professional development committee. I wish to play an active role in reviewing these schemes, including the AMA and FMA.

I also wish to support the wider museum community through the MDO network or service level agreements with hub museums. The MA should work with the MLA to achieve this through Renaissance, local area agreements and local authority services.

Statement

In accordance with Articles 47(b)(ii) and 46(e) the ballot referred to in Article 46(b) need not be held for professional vice president as the above candidate is the only candidate nominated and an announcement that she has been duly elected will be made at the Museums Association Annual General Meeting.

Matthew Stephens

East Lindsey district manager,
Lincolnshire County Council

Nominated by: Hannah Gould

Seconded by: Catherine Wilson

Biography

I've worked in many museums from small independents to nationals and am currently responsible for a small rural life museum in Lincolnshire. I'm an NVQ assessor, have my AMA, am a qualified teacher and have a postgraduate diploma in management, so I've had to put off my mid-life crisis until I've more time. I'm particularly interested in sustainability in museums in terms of green issues and our own survival. I regularly talk at conferences and am occasionally asked to as well. Areas of interest include social history, transport, agriculture and natural history. Areas of expertise is a much shorter list.

Policy statement

With a few notable exceptions I believe that recently museums have been expected to meet the agenda of everyone except their users. Finances are getting tighter and expectations higher. We need to campaign for a stable financial foundation and a bottom up approach to governance/policy development. As both a local authority employee and independent museum adviser I experience how hard museums are working, and what meaningful support they really need. I believe the MA is one of the best professional bodies there is and I think my understanding will help it to help you.

Rosalind Westwood

Museums manager,
Derbyshire County Council

Nominated by: Jonathan Wallis

Seconded by: Mary Kershaw

Biography

I started my career at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. After two years as archivist at Belton House, Lincolnshire, I moved to Kirklees MBC in 1987 as an assistant curator for the social history collections, before moving to Shibden Hall, Halifax. In 1998, I was appointed Derbyshire museums manager, curating fine-art and natural history collections. Derbyshire delivers an outward-facing, dynamic service in partnership with visitors and stakeholders, including Renaissance East Midlands. As chair of the museums' forum, I provide advocacy and support access to local museums and their collections, and opportunities to work with them, across the county.

Policy statement

To share our museums and their stories, we should balance the needs of our audiences and our collections. So the sector must be able to listen yet have a voice; it should provide leadership, yet benefit from other good practice. I am an advocate for all museums to communicate among themselves, and other sectors, regardless of size or management. The cultural contribution of the smaller local authority and independent museums must be recognised. I believe it is essential for museums to provide sustainable, accountable and ethical public service, and to understand the consequences of this commitment.

Statement

Individual members will receive a councillor at large ballot paper for the posts of councillors at large in accordance with Article 50(c).

National and regional professional councillors

The following candidates
have been duly nominated in
accordance with Article 51(a):

Rachel Rogers

Wales

Curator, Abergavenny Museum

Nominated by: Annie Rainsbury

Seconded by: Barbara Bartl

Biography

I have been curator of Abergavenny Museum since 2001. My interest in museums began when volunteering at Bristol Museum. I have a BA in ancient history and an MA in museum studies. At the National Waterways Museum I was museum assistant and then documentation coordinator. I am a committee member of the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales and an approved Collections Trust trainer. I am also a mentor on the Museum Association's AMA scheme. I have served as an MA councillor since 2005, during which time I have also been a member of the executive council.

Policy statement

Wales is home to a range of diverse museums. I believe that through emphasis on collections management and visitor services, these museums can fulfil their potential as a community resource.

In Wales, museums have entered a new phase since the advent of CyMAL, a division of the Welsh Assembly for museums, archives and libraries. Through partnership with the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales and the MA, the profile of Wales has been raised throughout the UK. I would now like the opportunity to assist with continuing this work via a position on the MA council.

Alec Coles

North East

Director, Tyne & Wear Museums

Nominated by: Simrath Panesar

Seconded by: Bill Griffiths

Biography

Alec has been director of Tyne and Wear Museums for three years and has overseen the development of the North East Regional hub. He was previously principal keeper of natural sciences and then senior curator with TWM. He was formerly deputy curator at Woodspring Museum. His experience of the third sector includes a spell as former chief executive of Northumberland Wildlife Trust.

He has held a number of specialist and advisory posts and served on the minister's advisory panel for Understanding the Future. He is an expert adviser to the HLF and has been MA treasurer for two years.

Policy statement

I seek nomination as north east representative to the MA because it is important that the region has a strong voice in its professional association.

As a sector, museums and galleries are facing new challenges. Priorities for the MA must be to speak for the whole sector, to establish a vision that demonstrates and articulates the true social and economic importance of our work, and to ensure that our paid and voluntary workforce is adequately trained, developed and rewarded.

West Midlands

No nomination was received for councillor for West Midlands

Robin Hanley East of England

Area museums officer,
Norfolk Museums & Archaeology Service

Nominated by: Vanessa Trevelyan

Seconded by: Tom Hodgson

Biography

I am currently area museums officer with Norfolk Museums & Archaeology Service, with responsibility for managing sites in the west of the county including Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse, Kings Lynn and Thetford museums. Previously, I was curator of the independent Wisbech & Fenland Museum and I currently act as curatorial adviser to an independent museum in King's Lynn. I am an AMA professional reviewer for the Museums Association and serve as a mentor for AMA candidates. Until recently, I was secretary of the South Midlands Museums Federation. I have served as East of England councillor for the past three years.

Policy statement

I have a broad understanding of the challenges facing museums today. As organiser of the Fenland Partnership, I keep updated with issues affecting independent and volunteer-run museums, something also supported by my work as a curatorial adviser and with the South Midlands Federation. As MA councillor, I sit on the Renaissance East board and have supported briefing visits to the region by Mark Taylor. I am a member of the MA professional development committee. I have sought to represent the interests of members in the east and would welcome the opportunity to serve as councillor for a further three years.

Statement

In accordance with Article 51(f), the ballot referred to in Article 51(c) need not be held as the aforementioned candidates are the only candidates nominated and an announcement that they have been duly elected will be made at the Museums Association Annual General Meeting.

The post of councillor for West Midlands remains unfilled. In accordance with Article 51(d) the Museums Association council will consider this at its first meeting following the Annual General Meeting.

Part II
**Institutional Member
elections 2008**



President

The following candidates have been duly nominated in accordance with Article 46(a):

Stuart Davies

University College London

Nominated by: Sam Mullins

Seconded by: Caroline Reed

Biography

After being a social history curator and manager in Gloucester, Birmingham and Kirklees, I became a museums adviser to the HLF and then the director of strategy at Resource/MLA, where I authored the report Renaissance in the Regions and gained extensive experience of working within and with government. Disappointed by the direction of the MLA, I left in 2004 to combine consultancy with university teaching. I am a visiting professor at University College London and Bournemouth University. My governance experience includes being a past chair of SHCG, area museum councils, an independent museum trustee and six years on MA council.

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Policy statement

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I am very keen to help ensure that national museums and galleries, and other national bodies, work with the MA to build the strength of the sector as a whole. Over the next period it will be important to take the next steps on training and professional development, as well as pursuing work on sustainability, governance, leadership at all levels, access, learning, diversity and wider strategic thinking for the whole sector.

Statement

Institutional members will receive a Ballot Paper for the post of President in accordance with Article 46(b).

Institutional vice president

The post of institutional vice president remains unfilled as no nominations were received.

Statement

In accordance with Article 47(b) (iv) the Museums Association council will consider this at its first meeting following the Annual General Meeting.

National museum institutional councillor

One post is available. The following candidates have been duly nominated in accordance with Article 52(c)(j):

Paul G Davis

Registrar, Natural History Museum

Nominated by: Natural History Museum

Biography

Paul trained as a palaeontologist and gained a PhD in geology and zoology from the University of Bristol in 1994. He held several academic positions before becoming a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science fellow at the National Science Museum, Tokyo from 1996 to 1997. From 1997 to 2000 he worked for Surrey Museums Consultative Committee with a remit for 42 diverse museums and institutions from the full spectrum of the cultural heritage sector. Since 2000 he has worked at the Natural History Museum.

Policy statement

I have always felt strongly that the national museums should play an active role in the MA. This has never been truer than at present when the UK museum community is currently facing many challenges and opportunities, which, I believe, can only be properly addressed through a fully integrated museum community. I hope to use my experience of national and non-national museums to create a climate of co-operation between these museums so that the MA can act as a focus for a unified museum sector.

Statement

In accordance with Article 52(c)(vi) the ballot referred to in Article 52(c)(iii) for the national museums institutional councillor need not be held as the aforementioned candidate is the only candidate nominated and an announcement that he has been duly elected will be made at the Museums Association Annual General Meeting.

Independent museum institutional councillors

Three posts are available. The following candidate has been duly nominated in accordance with Article 52(b)(i):

Sarah Staniforth

Historic properties director, National Trust

Nominated by: The National Trust

Biography

Sarah Staniforth is historic properties director of the National Trust. She was previously head conservator, and adviser on paintings conservation and environmental control. From 1980-1985 she worked in the scientific department of the National Gallery.

She has been vice president of IIC from 1998-2005, chair of the UKIC PACR committee, member of ICOM conservation committee directory board and on the council of the Museums Association since 2005. She has lectured and published widely on conservation and sustainability in museums and heritage. She is currently chairing the national strategy for science and heritage steering group.

Policy statement

In the first three years that I have served on council I have worked to increase links between the museum and heritage sector and between conservators and other museum professionals. I have organised sessions at the Museums Association conference on sustainability and museums in historic places. I am committed to finding a sustainable future for museums and I hope that the experience I have in adaptation and mitigation of climate change, resolving conflicts between conservation and access and reducing the environmental footprint of museums and heritage sites will help the Museums Association with its work on sustainability.

Statement

In accordance with Article 52(b)(vi) the ballot referred to in Article 52(b)(iii) for the independent museums institutional councillor need not be held as the aforementioned candidate is the only candidate nominated and an announcement that she has been duly elected will be made at the Museums Association Annual General Meeting. Two posts remain unfilled. In accordance with Article 52(b)(iv) the Museums Association council will consider this at its first meeting following the Annual General Meeting.

Affiliated organisation councillor

One post is available. The following member has been duly nominated under Article 52(e)(i):

Nick Poole

Chief executive, Collections Trust

Nominated by: Culture 24

Biography

Nick Poole is chief executive of the Collections Trust. He is a passionate advocate of the power of collections to transform people's outlook on the world. His work across the cultural and creative industries spans collections management, new technology and law. He represents the interests of cultural organisations as the representative to the Member States Expert Group within European parliament. A member of the MA council since 2005, he also sits on the ethics committee as well as the executive of the Museums Copyright Group. Nick's previous roles include working with the MLA as national ICT adviser and regional policy adviser.

Policy statement

My three-year experience as an MA councillor has been tremendously positive. It is a vibrant, forward-looking organisation and I would welcome the opportunity to continue my involvement.

Great progress has been made in recent years. As the sector moves into tougher times, it is vital that the MA continues to reflect the needs and priorities of its members, to turn these into action and provide a voice for the whole professional community.

If re-elected I would use my experience to represent the interests of affiliated institutions in the development of the association, its services, and dialogue with the wider sector.

Statement

In accordance with Article 52(e)(vi) the ballot referred to in Article 52(e)(iii) for the affiliated institutional councillor need not be held as the aforementioned candidate is the only candidate nominated and an announcement that he has been duly elected will be made at the Museums Association Annual General Meeting.

Local authority institutional councillors

Seven posts are available. The following candidates have been duly nominated in accordance with Article 52(d)(i):

Councillor Ged Bell

Tyne & Wear Museums

Nominated by: Tyne & Wear Museums

Biography

Ged Bell has been an elected city councillor since 1996. During this time he has held the posts of cabinet member for culture, sport and tourism, and is currently chair of Tyne and Wear Museums joint committee and the North East Hub steering group.

Policy statement

I have served on the Museums Association's council as a co-opted member for the past year. I am fully committed to the work of the association and support the great progress that has been made in the regional museums in England since the onset of Renaissance. As chair of a lead hub, I am committed to making museums accessible to all sides of the community.

Bailie Elizabeth Cameron

Glasgow City Council

Nominated by: Culture and Sport Glasgow

Biography

Since my election to Glasgow District Council in 1993, I have been involved with the development of the museum service. I served on the then arts and culture committee and as convener of the cultural and leisure services committee.

As Lord Provost of Glasgow from 2003-2007, I was involved in the refurbishment appeal fund for the completion of the Kelvingrove Project.

Since April, I have held office as the first chair of the new charitable company responsible for the delivery of cultural and leisure services in Glasgow: Culture and Sport Glasgow.

Policy statement

I support passionately museums as conservators of our heritage, storehouses of our treasures, educators of our people and testament to our history. I believe in free access, quality of exhibition and display and vibrancy and dynamism.

Glasgow has been a living example of how to achieve a balance in presenting our collections and in enhancing them. I believe my experience as an elected member who has been involved in change, in reviewing, improvement and transformation of a major museum service would be of great benefit to the MA at a time of change, financial constraints and the need to grow continually our potential audience.

Councillor David W Gemmell

Hull City Council

Nominated by: Hull City Council

Biography

Member of Kingston upon Hull City Council. First elected in 1988 and in 1990 appointed chair of the tourism committee. Following this I was cabinet member with portfolio of quality of life. Former member and chair of the YTB. Former member of the Yorkshire Cultural Consortium 2000 and MLA, Yorkshire and member of the board of Arts Council England, Yorkshire for three years. Was the instigator behind Hull's millennium project, The Deep. I am and have been the chair of its board from the start. Recipient of the OBE for services to tourism in the 2005 birthday honours list.

Policy statement

I am committed to demonstrating and developing the inherent value of culture and museums to society and to securing greater recognition, support and funding to ensure that this work continues and expands. Museums must be seen as an essential service, central to the well being of the communities and audiences they serve. A strong supporter of Renaissance I believe that the future lies in demonstrating how museums can support many social agendas including, learning, health, regeneration, tourism and citizenship. This approach coupled to sustained advocacy for the sector will bring tangible long-lasting benefits for us all.

Councillor Anne Hawkesworth

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Nominated by: City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Biography

Anne Hawkesworth was elected to Bradford Council in 1990 and is now portfolio holder for environment and culture. She is founder and organiser of the Ilkley summer festival, a month-long series of events within her ward of Ilkley. Her experience over 18 years has covered many areas of council responsibility. Her interest in the arts sector has been complemented by this official role. For the past ten years she has had a detailed interest in 18th- to 20th-century porcelain. She discovered a centrepiece from the William IV Davenport coronation service, most of which is held at Buckingham Palace.

Policy statement

If elected, I will promote the interests of the museum world as a whole, and local authority museums in particular. I believe that local authorities are the major providers and funders of museums in the UK and should have a strong voice.

Councillor David Smith

Brighton & Hove City Council

Nominated by: Brighton & Hove City Council

Biography

I was born in Hove but have lived most of my life in Brighton. I have been a Conservative councillor in Brighton since 1974 with a short break in 1995. I have been a member of all the major committees. I was chair of the tourism, museums and entertainments committee in 1978 and 1983-86 and chair of the British Resorts Association in 1987/9. I was made an honorary alderman in 1997 on the dissolution of the old borough council. I am the cabinet member for culture, recreation, tourism and sport for Brighton & Hove City Council.

Policy statement

My special interests include increasing/improving affordable sporting facilities for all residents regardless of age or disability and an expanding culture/tourist industry that will bring added wealth to the city and provide jobs and security for all our citizens.

Statement

In accordance with Article 52(d)(vi) the ballot referred to in Article 52(d)(iii) for local authority institutional councillors need not be held as the aforementioned candidates are the only candidates nominated and an announcement that they have been duly elected will be made at the Museums Association Annual General Meeting. Two posts remain unfilled. In accordance with Article 52(d)(iv) the Museums Association council will consider this at its first meeting following the Annual General Meeting.



MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

Images courtesy of :
York Museums Trust (cover)
Photographer: Joel Chester Fildes
Thackray Museum, Leeds
Royal Cornwall Museum
Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery

Museums Association
24 Calvin Street
London E1 6NW

T: 020 7426 6950

F: 020 7426 6962

www.museumsassociation.org