

AREA FELLOWSHIP COUNCILLOR ROLE DESCRIPTION 2026

We are the Royal Society of Arts.

Our Fellowship is a global network of creators, leaders, policymakers and entrepreneurs: united by a common goal to progress society.

From Benjamin Franklin to Vivienne Westwood, Fellows have sparked new ideas, forged powerful connections, and driven change for more than 270 years.

About the Fellowship Council

The Fellowship Council is a representative forum for Fellows who directly support the charity's work and have the time to invest in being part of our community. Fellowship Councillors play a key role in ensuring that Fellows are at the heart of the work the Royal Society of Arts undertakes.

Area Fellowship Councillors are elected by other Fellows in their area or nation. There are currently 11 areas defined: London (England), Southeast (England), Southwest (England), Central (England), North (England), Wales, Scotland and the Borders, Ireland, The Americas, Oceania & Asia and Europe & Africa. Each area is represented by two Fellowship Councillors, so 22 Area Fellowship Councillors in all.

The purpose of the Area Fellowship Councillor role is three-fold:

- Start, support and develop Fellowship activity in local areas that is aligned with the vision and values of the Royal Society of Arts. Working in partnership with our staff and local community leaders to form connections and deliver impactful activity.
- Support the ongoing development of key Royal Society of Arts programmes of work.
- Collectively act as a 'representative forum for the Fellowship' and as an informal conduit for Fellow's opinions and assist with governance of the Royal Society of Arts. Area Councillors work in partnership with their Area Fellowship Engagement Manager/Community Manager to plan and lead an overall annual programme of local activities, form and build local networks and provide guidance and assistance to other Fellows in their area.

Time required for the role

All new Fellowship Councillors commit to attending an induction meeting and at least three full Council meetings per year alongside short monthly (online) regional team meetings with their Fellowship Engagement Manager/Community Manager.

There are normally 4 Fellowship Council meetings each year convening either online or hybrid (with the option of being in person at RSA House) lasting just over 2 hours. There will also be some additional online meetings and interactions with local Fellows to

support specific activities, projects and programmes. Expenses up to £100 per meeting will be covered.

This volunteer role does therefore require a commitment of dedicated time to be effective, and the expectation is that you would be able to set aside at least 2-4 hours each week.

The Fellowship Council elects a Leadership Group consisting of the chair, deputy chair, Trustee Board and Nominations and Governance Panel representatives. These individuals play an important role in the governance of the Royal Society of Arts and are an optional additional opportunity and commitment.

The current term of a Fellowship Councillor is three years. It is possible to stand for a second term.

Expectations of the role are:

- Work closely with our staff (the Area/Nation/Global/Affiliate Colleagues) and Volunteer Community Leaders/Ambassadors to form connections and collaboratively build local activity.
- Plan, encourage and develop Fellowship activity in your local area acting as a key point of contact, advice and support. Lead and organise your local communities of Fellows.
- Be an effective advocate and ambassador for the Royal Society of Arts. Help to grow the Fellowship.
- Participate actively in the work of the Fellowship Council.
- Communicate and feedback regularly to Fellows and key staff colleagues.

Why join the Fellowship Council?

- Put your skills and experience to use to make a lasting difference to an organisation you care about. Support other Fellows to make an impact through their projects.
- Lead stimulating and rewarding events and activities locally that align with the values and vision of the Royal Society of Arts. And as a key conduit for establishing connections and communities.
- Contribute to what's happening in your geographic area or area of knowledge, whilst learning more about the Royal Society of Arts and the work we do.
- Be part of a core community of Fellows who drive Fellowship engagement activities and help inform the organisations direction.
- Work and network with interesting people from diverse backgrounds and professional experiences.

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