

Firstsite



WHY THIS MOMENT MATTERS

Firstsite stands at a pivotal point.

Over the past decade, the organisation has undergone significant transformation: establishing financial stability, building a distinctive national profile, and delivering an ambitious artistic programme that has earned critical and public recognition.

The next phase is different. It is not about recovery. It is about leverage.

The question now is how Firstsite evolves from a highly respected regional institution into one of the UK's most influential cultural organisations of its scale.

This requires Trustees of exceptional intelligence, influence, and commitment.



ABOUT FIRSITE

Firstsite is a contemporary art gallery in Colchester — Britain's first capital and a place of deep historical significance.

We welcome approximately 130,000-150,000 visitors annually and work with internationally recognised artists while maintaining deep civic relevance.

Firstsite operates simultaneously at multiple levels:

- As a civic institution serving its local communities
- As a national cultural organisation contributing to critical discourse
- As a platform for artists to develop ambitious work

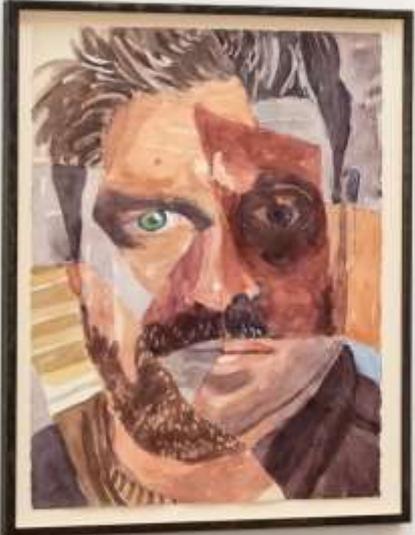
This combination is rare and powerful.

OUR AMBITION FOR THE NEXT 3-6 YEARS

Firstsite's ambition is clear:

- To strengthen its national and international artistic reputation
- To develop new funding and partnership models that increase independence and resilience
- To play a leading role in articulating the importance of creativity in contemporary society
- To ensure long-term organisational and financial sustainability

This ambition is realistic — and it requires the right Board



THE ROLE OF THE BOARD IN THIS NEXT PHASE

Firstsite's Board has successfully supported the organisation's transformation to date.

The next phase requires a Board that not only governs well, but actively increases what the organisation can do.

We are seeking Trustees who bring:

- Philanthropic networks and fundraising capability
- National and international cultural influence
- Commercial and entrepreneurial expertise
- Digital and technological insight
- Property, capital, or infrastructure experience
- Civic leadership with genuine agency and reach

These Trustees will help extend Firstsite's influence, resilience, and potential.



LEADERSHIP AND BOARD DYNAMIC

Firstsite operates with a culture of mutual respect, intellectual honesty, and shared purpose.

The relationship between Board and Executive is collaborative and rigorous.

Trustees are expected to:

- Provide strategic guidance and challenge
- Contribute their expertise and perspective
- Support the organisation's long-term sustainability
- Act as ambassadors for Firstsite

This is an engaged Board, not a ceremonial one.

Trustees join not simply to oversee, but to contribute meaningfully.



WHY PEOPLE JOIN FIRSTSITE

Trustees join Firstsite because they recognise the rare combination of:

- Serious artistic ambition
- Intellectual integrity
- Civic relevance
- Organisational credibility

They also join because they value the opportunity to:

- Help shape a nationally significant institution
- Work alongside thoughtful and capable peers
- Engage with artists and ideas at the forefront of contemporary culture
- Contribute to something that matters beyond themselves

For many Trustees, the experience is both intellectually and personally rewarding.



WHO SHOULD CONSIDER THIS ROLE

This role may be particularly relevant to individuals who:

- Are leaders in their field
Care deeply about culture and society
- Value thoughtful, serious governance
- Wish to contribute their expertise to a respected public institution

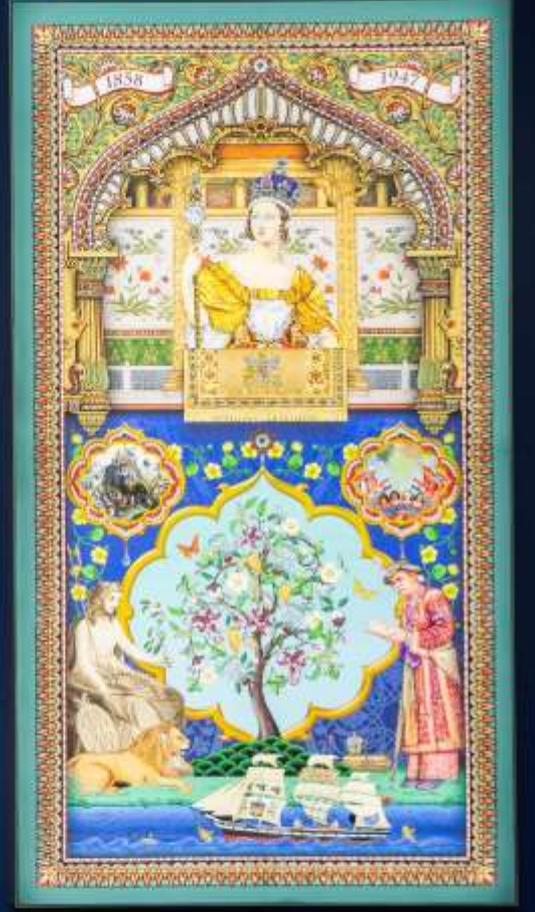
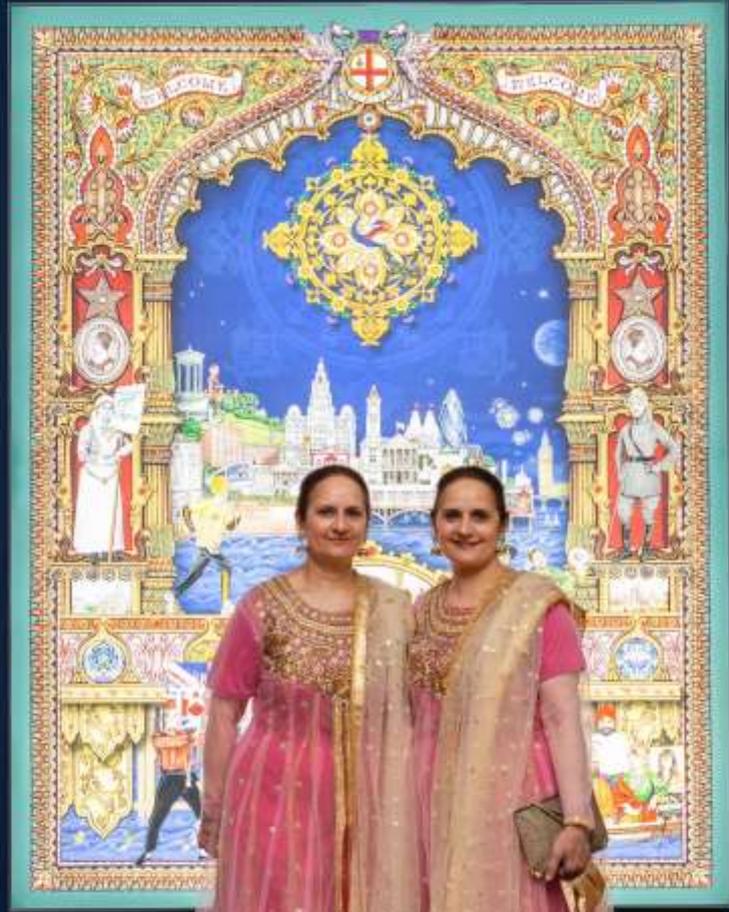
We are committed to building a diverse Board and welcome candidates from all backgrounds.

COMMITMENT

Trustees serve an initial three-year term.

The Board meets approximately four times per year, with additional opportunities for deeper engagement.

This is a voluntary role, undertaken with seriousness and purpose.



AN INVITATION

Firstsite is building for the future.

We are seeking Trustees who want to contribute to an organisation of ambition, integrity, and growing influence.

This is an opportunity to help shape what comes next.

We would welcome a conversation.

HOW TO APPLY

Please send us a letter of application and a CV with relevant experience

Deadline for Applications: Tuesday 14th April 2026

Interviews in person at Firstsite:
Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th April 2026

For information and application submissions email:
trustees@firstsite.uk

